

Revision Notes

International Relations

This unit has the fewest questions asked. Only 2 questions since 2000.

Joining the EU

Advantages - grants to farmers, grants to industry, support for building roads/bridges etc, free movement of workers, no import/export duties on goods

Disadvantages – loss of power over own country, too many people move in, laws made in Brussels apply in your country, food prices are very high.

Indicators of Power

The best indicators of a powerful country are GNP because it tells you about the economy and wealth of the country, about factory/farm output and because they tell you about the main industries in the country,

percentage in education gives you a measure of the education of the workforce – more educated workforce are better able to deal with hi-tech jobs.

Others include size of country, political stability, population and health service

Enquiry Skills

This is a common topic for questions Processing questions always give data and ask you for other methods of processing and why you selected them

Gathering Information for an Urban Study

If you are doing a town study you can gather information by doing a shopping survey, by counting traffic, by interviewing shopkeepers, by doing a questionnaire of local residents, by classifying building types. These are good because they provide first hand information, which is accurate and is not available from any other source

Trade & Aid

This topic has appeared in every exam

Why is this a good indicator of a country's wealth

GNP is a very good indicator because it shows how wealthy the country has become, it gives a measure of output from factories and shows how industrialised the country is. Birth Rate/Death Rate is a good indicator because they show how population is changing. More developed countries have lower birth and death rate as the health improves.

Trade Pattern for Poor Country

Poor countries buy more than they sell – they have a deficit. Poor countries sell raw materials and buy manufactured goods. They often depend on just one export crop. Raw materials have very variable prices. Manufactured goods are always increasing in price. Poor countries have large debts to repay.

Poor Country affected by price changes

Poor countries are affected by price changes. They depend on raw material exports. These are very prone to large price changes. In general rich countries want to buy at the lowest possible prices. Poor countries may sell at low prices just to earn some

money. Many poor countries do not produce manufactured goods – they buy them from rich countries

Poor Country affected by debt

Debt has a very bad effect on poor countries. They borrowed large amounts of money, which they must repay with interest. As raw material prices fall they must sell more and more to repay the debt. They have no money left to fund investment in new school, hospitals, roads, houses, factories etc.

Long Term v Short Term

Neither one is better. It depends on the circumstances. After a disaster immediate short-term aid is better to deal with the emergency. But long-term aid is needed to allow the country to develop. With this kind of aid it will become economically independent. It will no longer have to get aid.

Self Help schemes are now important they are small scale schemes to benefit local people. These are low technology but are easy to repair. This will lead to a gradual improvement

Fair Trade

This means that farmers are paid a fair price for their products. People in rich countries are willing to pay extra to support the poor farmers. Fair Trade means the farmers make a reasonable profit, they have money to invest in new machines, seeds, fertilisers.

Landscape

This topic always appears

Match glacial features with OS map

You need to be able to identify the features below on an OS map

Explain glacial features

Corrie – a large hollow on the mountainside where a glacier started. Snow gathered in the hollow and was compressed to form ice. The ice eroded the rocks leaving steep back and side walls with a low lip at the entrance to the corrie

Arête A narrow jagged ridge separating two corries. It was formed when two corries were formed side-by-side or back-to-back.

Pyramid Peak A jagged peak formed if three corries surround a mountain

U shaped valley – As the ice moves downhill it occupies old river valleys. The ice erodes the sides and base of the valley. Ice cuts off (truncates) side hills called spurs. The valley is left with steep sides and a flat base. A small stream, which obviously could not cut this valley, is called a misfit stream. Long narrow deep lakes called ribbon lakes are found on the valley floor where soft rock was eroded.

Hanging Valley – when a small glacier meets a large glacier the two valleys are very different sizes. The small valley is left perched or hanging on the side of the main valley. Waterfalls may be formed at hanging valleys,

Moraine This is simply all the material carried by the glacier and later deposited. A terminal moraine marks the furthest extent of the glacier.

Erratic A large boulder carried hundreds of miles by the ice and dumped

Drumlin A mound of moraine deposited as the ice melts. Shaped like an egg. Found in groups called swarms.

Esker As the ice melted rivers formed in tunnels under the ice These tunnels were filled with sand, rock etc. When the ice all melted these were left as long narrow twisting ridges.

Man's Use of Glacial Areas

Glaciated areas are not suitable for settlement, farming, and industry. They are useful for ski-ing, walking, recreation, forestry, HEP, reservoirs.

River Features

Waterfalls are formed where hard and soft rock meet. The hard rock is not worn away quickly. A difference in height develops. This is gradually increased. A deep area of water called the plunge pool is found at the base of the fall. Eventually the rock is worn away and collapses so the waterfall moves upstream

Ox Bow lakes are formed at a meander. The meander becomes very tight and the water breaks through the narrow neck. Silt is deposited sealing the loop and a lake is formed.

There are 3 zones in most rivers.

Upper – steep land with fast flowing water. This erodes down or vertically very quickly. The valley is narrow and V shaped. Load is large and jagged

Middle – less steep so water is a little slower and less erosion occurs. Erosion is lateral. Meanders begin. The valley is more gentle, an open V shape with more flat land. Load is more smooth.

Lower is very flat so water is very slow. Deposition occurs not erosion .Ox bow lakes are found The valley is very flat and wide. Load is very small and very rounded

National Parks

You can be asked why a National Park is good for an area.

For National Park – Tourist Industry because it brings visitors who will spend money in shops, hotels etc. Conservationists because it is an attempt to preserve the natural beauty of the area.

Against Farmers because they are unable to make changes on their farm, Forestry because planting is limited, Water Board & HEP because they are prevented from building dams and flooding new areas.

Sometimes two users conflict with each other. This is usually because they want to use the same land for different purposes. The two users have different ideas about how the land can be used.

When asked if a certain area is good or bad for a National Park - good because it has spectacular scenery, it has attractions for visitors, it is quiet; bad because it is too remote, too difficult to get to, not enough for visitors to do.

Tourist Development

The same type of question could be asked about any tourist development

Population

This topic always appears

Population Pyramids

Poor countries have a wide based pyramid, which tapers quickly

. Rich countries have a narrow based pyramid with even sides, which tapers at the very top.

Problems associated with rich country – too many old people,

Not enough workers, too many people not contributing to the economy, old people need more health care.

Problems associated with poor country - too many children, more schools needed, population grows quickly so more houses and jobs are needed, young people do not pay tax.

Demographic Transition

Birth Rate is high because people send children to work, they make money out of their family, contraception is not used, and many babies die so people have large families.

Birth rate falls as people become better off and start using contraception.

Birth rate is very low because in rich countries, it is expensive to support children, peer pressure is important, contraception is widely used, and almost all children survive

Death Rate starts high because medical services are poor, diet is poor, disposal of sewage is poor, and housing is bad. Death rate falls and becomes very low in rich countries, as health services are excellent, people are well fed, housing is good quality, and sewage is safely disposed of.

Census

It is sometimes difficult to take a census because – the country is too big, access is poor, there are very few roads, the country is covered in rainforest or desert, there are many languages spoken, there is a war going on, people are nomadic, literacy problems.

Countries still take a census because it gives the government vital information needed for planning, it allows the government to work out how much tax to charge, it allows the government to know how many schools, hospitals, houses, etc are needed

Population Distribution

Describe the general pattern - use words like north, south, east west, inland, coast

Usually flat, accessible, coastal areas are crowded. High, inaccessible areas are empty

Migration

Usually you are given data about two areas and asked why the migration is good or bad – use the information you are given

Push Factors – low wages, poor opportunities, limited services, poor schools,

Pull Factors – better employment higher wages, better services, more things to do

Weather

This topic appears every year

Passage of Depression Low Pressure

Close isobars means it is windy. Under than 1000 is a low pressure or depression.

Winds circle anticlockwise in a depression

As a depression passes over there will be 5 different types of weather

1. Before the warm front arrives it is clear, dry, cold with few clouds

2. Under the warm front the temperature rises, there is prolonged rain, it is cloudy

3 Between the fronts is the warm sector it is dry, clear, warm sunny.

4 Under the cold front is cloudy, temperatures start to fall there is a short period of rain

5 After the cold front passes is the same as No 1

Anticyclone High Pressure

In summer an anticyclone has hot, clear settled, dry weather with no clouds

In winter an anticyclone has cold, frosty, clear dry settled weather with morning fog

Isobars far apart means little wind circle clockwise in an anticyclone

Industry

This topic appears often

Location of factory

Location factors are – flat stable land available, nearby workforce, nearby raw materials good transport in and out, source of power, local market, government grants

Modern hi-tech industry has similar requirements but often wants an attractive out of town location with pleasant environment near a college or university to supply trained staff

Consequences of Factory Closure

When a large factory closes it has good and bad consequences

Good – pollution is reduced, traffic is reduced, and land is available for housing, more modern industry may appear to take its place

Bad – unemployment rises, knock on affects other industries, local shops suffer, house prices fall, people move away, vandalism of old buildings, rise in depression/suicide/debt etc, loss of community spirit.

Farms

This is a popular topic

Changes in farm 1950 – 2000

Changes include - larger more regular fields for modern machines to work, hedgerows removed to save time and money, farm buildings converted to holiday homes as there are fewer workers, more machines fewer workers and horses, new buildings to house machines, land changed to non farming use to make money, marshland drained to make more room.

Those for the changes are usually farmers who will produce more and make more money. Machines are more efficient than workers

Against will be environmentalist who thinks habitats are destroyed and pesticides might enter the human food chain

Workers who lost their job and home

Local community who have lost their community spirit, shops, schools etc closed

Factors which affect land use

When you are asked how a farmer decides the way he will use each field you should say

Low flat land has better weather and soil. It is easy for machines to work there so it is used for crops

Middle slopes have slightly worse weather and soil. Machines do not work so well here. It is used for pasture.

Steep high land has bad weather and soil. It is impossible for machines to work in this area. Only sheep can survive

Given Data – why are farms different

When you are given data it is usually obvious which type of farm it represents.

I know that A is a sheep farm because it is very large, it is on steep ground, it is a wet/cold/windy area, it is covered in rough grazing, it has few workers.

I know that B is a dairy farm because it is small, it is low and flat, it has mild/wet weather, it is covered in improved grass

I know that C is an arable farm because it is low and flat, it has warm/dry/sunny weather, it has lots of machines.

Settlement

Very common topic

Function of Towns

You are sometimes asked to use a map to decide the function of a town. Likely answers are a) Tourist Resort b) Industrial Town c) Market Town.

Tourist Town will have lots of tourist facilities shown- things like campsites, caravan parks, other tourist facilities shown with blue background

For industrial towns look for factories usually marked on the map as 'works'.

Industrial towns need good road/rail access. Count the number of main roads and give their names. eg the A75

Market Towns are most difficult to identify. They are usually surrounded by countryside often at the bridging point of a river with roads meeting there.

Building by-pass

Two sides to this argument

For – faster journeys, less traffic in town, less pollution, less accidents.

Against – uses farmland, destroys forest, damages animal habitats, destroys historic buildings, creates noise in another area.

Urban Zones

This is the most common topic.

CBD is the city centre. It will be very busy. It has many high order shops, offices and banks. It is the centre of transport with principal railway stations and bus stations. It has few houses or factories and little open space. To identify CBD on a map look for main railway station, bus station, cathedral, Town Hall, Tourist Information Centre Inner City. this is a ring of poor quality housing and old factories built around the city centre. It often has grid iron street plan. There is little open space. People were housed close to factories so they could walk to work. This area will have poor quality housing, many social problems, higher unemployment Identify it on the map by looking for factories or works.

Suburbs Towards the edge of the city will be more expensive houses. The street plan is irregular with many cul-de-sacs. Larger private houses with more open space. It is generally a better off area.

Commuter Towns or Dormitory Towns these towns are within travelling distance of the city. People from the city have bought the houses making it difficult for locals to afford a house. These towns need good transport links to the city. They have no industries.

Site of Town

Sometimes asked why a certain town is built in this site – likely answers are – land is dry, land is easy to defend, near a bridge on river,

Natural Regions

Surprisingly this topic does not appear very often

Desertification

Deserts are spreading because

The climate of Africa is much drier, too many animals have overgrazed the land destroying all vegetation, people have cut all the trees (deforestation) allowing sand to spread,

Solutions are replanting drought resistant trees, fencing animals into certain areas, ploughing across the slope to reduce run off (contour ploughing), building low walls across the slopes to slow down run off

Rainforest Development

For cutting the forest – valuable wood like mahogany can be sold, build new roads like the Trans Amazon Highway, give free land to poor families, mining valuable minerals like bauxite, building dams to make HEP

Against – it destroys animal's habitats, native tribes lose their homes, soil erosion is increased, build up of CO₂, changes to global climate.

Mediterranean Changes

In the last 50 years there have been lots of changes like

Roads built to improve transport in and out, marshes drained to give new farmland, rivers dammed to give all year water, new holiday resorts built giving many jobs, large estates broken up to improve output, fields put together in one block to reduce travel time

Tundra Development

It is difficult to develop the tundra because – intense cold affects people and machines, long dark periods make it difficult to work outside, permafrost makes it difficult to build, marshy surface makes transport difficult

Maps

There is always a map question

Tourism

This is a good site for an outdoor centre/ski centre because the land is steep it is sheltered, it will get snow, there are roads nearby, It has good scenery.

Wind Farms

This is a good site for a wind farm because it is high, it is exposed, it is close to roads so it is accessible, the ground is not used for anything else..

Airport

This is a good site for an airport because it is flat, the land is not marshy, there is plenty of room it is accessible it is close (but not too close) to the town

HEP

This area is good for HEP because it is steep, it is easy to build a dam, the land is not used for anything else, the land is not marshy.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of X for the area?

This depends on what X is but usually the advantages are employment, helps local economy, keeps shops busy, stops people moving away, keeps property prices high. Disadvantages are damage to environment, pollution, noise, and increased traffic.

Connecting Land Use to physical landscape

In this type of question you are asked how physical factors influence land use. Likely answers are that Steep land or high ground is not very useful for building or for farming. Only sheep farming is possible. Forestry is found on poorer land. Land which is flat and near a river is liable to flood and is not suitable for housing. It may be used as pasture for cattle. It can be embanked to prevent flooding.

Others

Environmental Issues

These questions usually ask about pollution or damage to the environment. For instance why the Mediterranean Sea or the River Rhine suffer badly from pollution. The answer is found by studying the data given. Things like industrial waste from oil refineries, chemical factories or steel works being pumped into the sea or domestic sewage from large towns being dumped are important. These problems need international cooperation to solve as there are many different countries involved and everyone must play a part to solve the overall problem