



4.7 Sustainable development (includes HL only sub-topic)

Learning objectives

4.7 Sustainable development (includes HL only sub-topic)	Depth	Diagrams and calculations
The meaning of sustainable development	AO2	
Sustainable Development Goals	AO2	
Relationship between sustainability and poverty (HL only)	AO2	



Real world example – Are you ignorant about the world?

Hans Rosling stated that most people have an incorrect view of the state of human development, regardless of where they live or what education level they have.

Take the [Gapminder Kahoot](#) to test your worldview!



Gapminder

[Gapminder Resources](#) includes a variety of teaching and learning resources on the topic of economic development which could be used throughout units 4.7 to 4.10.



Economic Development

Economic development refers to the improvement in the **standards of living** and the **quality of life** for an economy as a whole.

Standard of Living

Standard of living refers to quantifiable metrics measuring the level of wealth, comfort, goods and services available to an economic area. These include:

- Income per person
- Employment opportunities
- Cost of goods and services
- Poverty rates
- Economic inequality
- Accessibility to basic goods and services
- Quality of healthcare, education, housing
- Economic and political stability
- Political and religious freedom
- Environmental quality
- Safety and security

Quality of Life

Quality of life refers to a subjective concept which measures the level of happiness in an economic area. Factors contributing to this may include:

- Freedom from slavery and torture
- Equal protection under the law
- Freedom from discrimination
- Freedom of movement
- Right to marry and to have a family
- Right to privacy
- Freedom of thought
- Freedom of religion
- Free choice of employment
- Right to fair pay
- Right to vote
- Right to education



Sustainable development

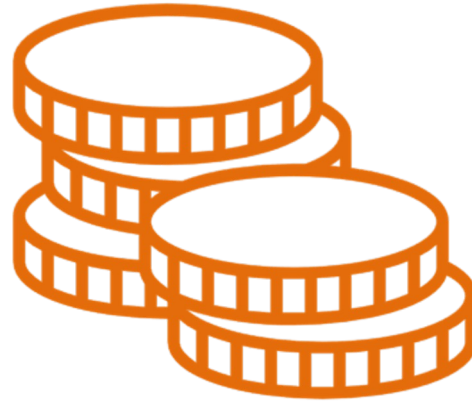
Sustainable development is economic development that meets the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Types of Sustainability

There are three interrelated types of sustainable development:



Social



Economic



Environmental



Social Sustainability

Social sustainability refers to the ability of an economy to develop social processes and structures that enable a better standard of living and quality of life through better access to shelter, healthcare, and education.

Social Sustainability

Factors contributing towards social sustainability:

- Ensuring equitable opportunities
- Ensuring basic needs are met e.g., healthcare, employment, shelter and education
- Members of society should be able to have a voice to facilitate a better functioning and impartial government.
- Society should promote and support diversity for improved prosperity and sustained well-being.





Economic Sustainability

Economic sustainability refers to the responsible use of scarce resources in a way to ensure future generations are not disadvantaged in favour of today's generation.

Economic Sustainability

Economic sustainability involves:

- Sustained and equitable growth
- Poverty alleviation
- Universal access to education
- An equitable distribution of income and wealth
- Widespread access to credit and finance.





Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability refers to the responsible use of the natural resources so that future generations have access to the same resources.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability involves:

- Encouraging the use of renewable energy resources
- Preventing climate change
- Protection of ecosystems to ensure sufficient agricultural food supplies
- Environmental sustainability laws that protect common access resources from exploitation.





Real world example – Post-2015 Consensus

The Copenhagen Consensus revealed the value of social, economic and environmental benefit per dollar spent on pursuing different targets for global development 2016-2030. Read the [infographic](#) and answer the following questions.

Real world example - data analysis

Source: <https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/post-2015-consensus/economist>

Data Analysis Questions

1. What do you notice from the data?
2. What questions do you wonder about the data?
3. Research information that may help you answer your questions from Q2.
4. What conclusions can you make from Q1, Q2, and Q3?



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) contain 17 international development targets to be achieved by 2030. They are aimed at achieving peace and prosperity for all life.



Overview of UN Sustainable Development Goals

Real world example - data analysis

Source: [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)

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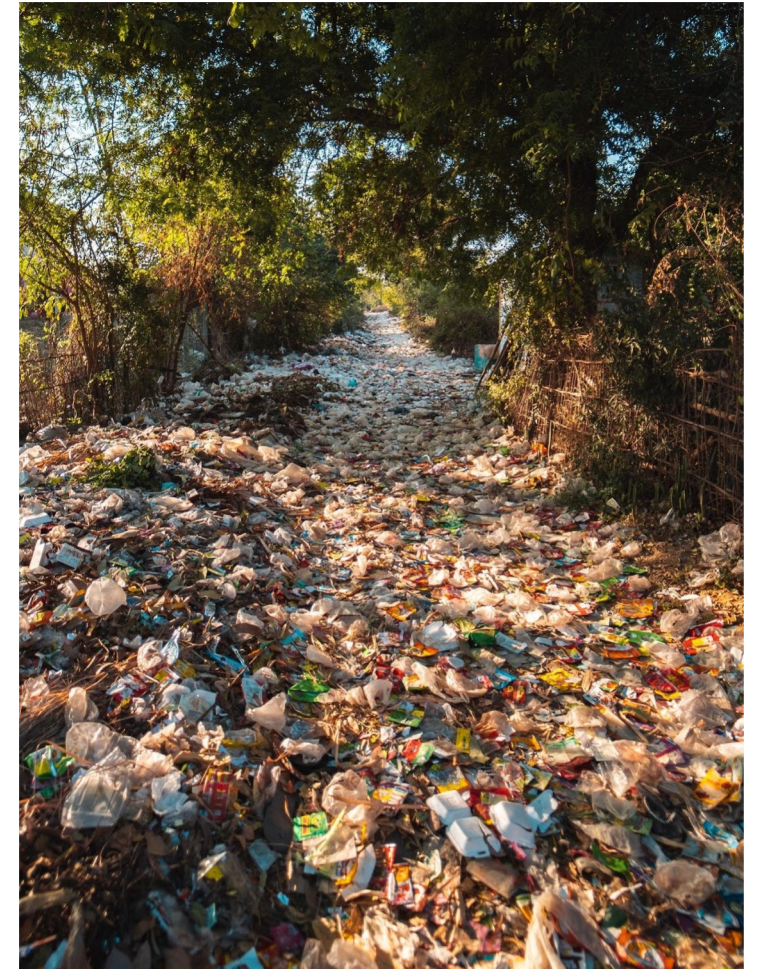
Relationship between sustainability and poverty (HL only)



What do you think is the relationship between sustainable development and poverty?

Poverty can result in unsustainable behaviour such as resource depletion, land degradation and pollution. Low-income countries often have poor institutions, public resource management, and waste management systems.

While high-income countries use and dispose of more plastic per person, up to 80–90% of plastic is not adequately disposed of in low-income countries (Jambeck et. al., 2015).



Poverty and the Environment

Low-income countries often have a large primary sector and underdeveloped secondary and tertiary sectors.

These countries tend to be heavily reliant on agriculture, forestry, and the mineral industries. The growth of these sectors is largely dependent on soil conditions, land availability, and climate conditions.

As a result, sustainable growth is vital for the development of these countries.



Poverty and Education

Education leads to greater growth in human capital, that in turn leads to an increase in household income and a reduction in poverty. It also facilitates research and development and innovation.

However, in many countries, children do not have widespread access to schooling.





Test your knowledge on this unit: [Kahoot!](#)