

The Story of Development

Long Answer Type Questions

Development



LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIN (4 MARKS)

Previous Years' Questions

1. Explain the main achievements of the Government of India in the improvement of health status of the people after 1947. [Foreign 2005, AI 04]

Ans. Efforts made by the Government in the field of health :

- (i) The life expectancy at birth in India has more than doubled in the last fifty years. It has reached nearly 62 years.
- (ii) In the plan-period, the mortality rate declined to nearly 9 per thousand and infant mortality has come down to 70 per thousand live births. Similarly maternal mortality rate has also declined.
- (iii) Efforts have been made to overcome the nutritional problems in the country and considerable progress has been achieved.
- (iv) Small pox has been completely eradicated and malaria, T.B., leprosy, filarial, etc. have also been controlled to a large extent.

(v) There has been a large increase in the number of hospitals, doctors, nurses and compounders and the extension of health facilities in the country.

(vi) Special attention is being given to the extension of health facilities in the rural areas and some progress has also been made in this direction.

In spite of this progress, the health facilities in India are quite low keeping in view the requirements of the country and their standard is also very low. Speedy and effective measures are required for its improvement.

2. Explain the meaning of Human Development Index. Mention three main components of measuring Human Development Index according to UNDP Report of 1990. [Foreign 2005]

Ans. According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Human Development is the cumulative measurement of

(i) Longevity showing long and healthy life. It is measured by 'life expectancy at birth' indicating the number of years a newborn is expected to live.

(ii) Knowledge is a choice to acquire literacy information. It is measured by educational attainment percentage, which is combined gross enrolment ratio in primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

(iii) Decent standard of living is a choice to enjoy a quality and standard life. It is measured by national income or per capita income.

The rank of a country is determined by the overall achievements in these three basic dimensions of human development.

HDI is indicative of the levels of human development and not the complete measurement of development.

3. Why do we use averages ? Are there any limitations to their use ? Illustrate with your own examples related to development.

Ans. World Bank follows the following criterion to categories rich countries and low-income countries.

Rich Countries. Countries which had per capita income of \$10,066 per annum and above in 2004 (According to World Development Report 2006).

Low-income countries. Countries which have per capita income of \$825 or less in 2004 (According to WDR 2006).

Limitation of this criterion is that average income or per capita income is not the only factor important for development, This factor hides the other important factor—'Distribution of Income' which also affects development. Higher average income along with equitable distribution of income is considered favorable for development.

4. The following table shows the proportion of undernourished adults in India. It is based on a survey of various states in the country for the year 2001. Look at the table and answer the questions :

State	Males %	Females %
Kerala	22	19

Karnataka	36	38
Madhya Pradesh	43	42
All States	37	36

- (i) Compare the nutritional level of people in Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.
- (ii) Can you guess why around 40 per cent of people in the country are undernourished even though it is argued that there is enough food in the country? Describe in your own words.

Ans. (i) According to this table Madhya Pradesh has the higher proportion of undernourished adults in comparison to Kerala. In Madhya Pradesh there are 43% Males and 42% females undernourished as compared to 22% males and 19% females in Kerala.

(ii) 40% of people in a country are undernourished due to inequality in income distribution which leads to higher percentage of poor people who can not afford sufficient food.

5. Explain how Human Development Index is calculated ?

Ans. Human development Index is a composite index prepared by the United Nations Development Programme on a scale 0 – 1 measured on the basis of three indicators.

- (a) Longevity – It implies how long a newborn is expected to live.
- (b) Knowledge or Educational Attainment – It implies the status of education of the people. It includes Adult Literacy Rate – It refers to percentage of people above 15 years of age who can read and write.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio – It refers to estimation of number of students enrolled for different levels of education such as primary, secondary and tertiary levels is estimated.

$$\frac{\text{Gross domestic product at constant prices}}{\text{Total Population}}$$

- (ii) Income (Per capita Real GDP). It implies purchasing power of people or their capacity to buy goods and services.
- Per capita Real GDP =

$$\frac{\text{Gross domestic product at constant prices}}{\text{Total Population}}$$

Human Development Index is estimated by taking the simple average of the here indices. Different 0 to 1.177 Countries have been covered for this index. HDI measures the economic welfare in a particular country. In 2004 India ranked 126 in the world.

6. Assume that there are only four families each in two countries. Study the given table below carefully and answer the questions that follow :

	Monthly Income of Families (Rs.)				Average Income
	A	B	C	D	
Country X	12,000	11,000		13,000	

Country Y	5,000	4,000	6,000	35,000	
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- (a) **Fill in the blanks in a way that both country X and country Y have same average income.**
(b) **Now say, which country is better off any why.**

Ans. (a) Country Y's average income

$$= \frac{\text{Rs. } 5000 + 4000 + 6000 + 35000}{4}$$

$$= \frac{50,000}{4} = 12,500.$$

To maintain average income of country Y to be same as country X.

Family C's monthly income in country X be Rs. 14,000 which is calculated as follows – If

$$\frac{12,000 + 11,000 + \text{Family C's income} + 13,000}{4}$$

$$= \text{Rs. } 12,500$$

$$\frac{\text{Rs. } 36,000 + \text{Family C's income}}{4}$$

$$= \text{Rs. } 12,500$$

$$36,000 + \text{Family C's income} = \text{Rs. } 50,000$$

∴ Family C's income = Rs. 14,000

- (b) Country X is better off than country Y in spite of the fact that both countries have the same average income because country X has equitable distribution of income among people in a country (i.e., people are neither very rich nor extremely poor). While most citizens in country Y are poor and one family D is extremely rich.

7. 'Do the two terms – 'Economic Growth' and 'Economic Development' mean the same thing' Discuss.

Ans. No, Economic growth and Economic development are distinct and different in terms of their contents and coverage.

Economic growth can be defined as a process whereby a country's real national income increases over a long period of time.

In other world it is concerned with increase in national income.

Economic development however not only concerns itself with increase in distribution as well. It covers the process of long-term increase in income, as well s distribution and poverty alleviation.

Thus, economic development is a wider concept than economic growth.

$$\text{Economic development} = \text{Economic growth} + \text{change}$$

8. What are the limitations of per capita income as an adequate index of economic development ?

Ans. Limitations of per capita income are :

- (i) A rise in per capita income is due to rise in prices and not due to increase in physical output, it is not a reliable index of economic development.
- (ii) National income rises but its distribution makes the rich richer and the poor poorer.
- (iii) It excludes all non-marketed goods and services, even though they may be important for human happiness and better quality of life.
- (iv) Rise in per capita income may be due to use of modern capital intensive technology in production which may be labour displacing in nature thus adversely affecting the poor masses.
- (v) If rate of population growth, is higher than the rate of growth of national income, this will lead to fall in per capita availability of goods and services and economic welfare.
- (vi) Contribution of commodity to economic welfare may be higher than its money value e.g., money value of salt, needle, thread, etc. included in national income is very low than their contribution to economic welfare.

9. What measures should be adopted by the underdeveloped countries to protect environmental degradation and promote sustainable development

- Ans.**
- (i) Property rights must be assigned to individual or groups of people on natural resources.
 - (ii) Government should impose cost on the users in the form of fee or taxes. e.g., income from tree felling in the forests.
 - (iii) Efforts should be made to replenish renewable resources such as forests and water resources.
 - (iv) Stricter regulations must be enforced to ensure pollution under control.

10. List the economic and non-economic factors determining development

Ans. Economic Factors:

- (i) Availability of national resources in abundance.
- (ii) Adequate availability of capital.
- (iii) Progress in science and technology.
- (iv) Entrepreneurial ability.
- (v) Human resource development.
- (vi) Growth of population.

Non-Economic factors:

- (i) Spread of education.
- (ii) Desire for material betterment.
- (iii) Social institutions like caste system, joint family system.
- (iv) Political conditions of a country.