



GSOC.AL33 Global Development: Theories of Development, Underdevelopment and World Systems

AQA 7192 · Calculators not allowed · about 90 minutes

Total Marks

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Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for questions worth 4 marks or more. Spend about 90 minutes in total.

- 1** Which one of the following best summarises Rostow's stages of economic growth model as applied to national development policy?

- ☐ A) Development is caused by external exploitation and cannot be achieved internally
- ☐ B) Societies pass through linear stages from traditional to high mass consumption
- ☐ C) The world economy is divided into unchanging core and periphery zones
- ☐ D) Free markets always produce equal development outcomes

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** Define what dependency theorists mean by the term 'underdevelopment' in the context of global economic history.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

- 3** Outline one way neo-liberal structural adjustment policies are intended to promote development in poorer countries.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

- 4** Outline one distinctive claim of world-systems theory about how the global economy organizes development.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

- 5** Item A: "Recent comparative indicators show that many former colonies still have lower GDP per head and greater income inequality than countries that were never colonised. These same former colonies often supply raw materials and primary commodities to rich countries." Using Item A, identify one piece of evidence that supports the world-systems perspective.

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

- 6** Explain two criticisms often levelled at Rostow's stages of economic growth model, focusing on theoretical limitations.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

7 Explain three ways dependency theory uses historical evidence to argue that colonialism produced long-term underdevelopment in formerly colonised countries.

(Total for Question 7 is 6 marks)

8 Outline one empirical example a critic might use to argue neo-liberal structural adjustment has negative social consequences in some countries.

(Total for Question 8 is 4 marks)

9 Which one of the following is a central claim of neo-Marxist dependency explanations such as Frank's?

- ☐ A) All developing countries will inevitably industrialise if they open markets
- ☐ B) Development of wealthy countries was often built on the underdevelopment of colonies
- ☐ C) Market liberalisation automatically reduces inequality
- ☐ D) World development is driven by cultural values alone

(Total for Question 9 is 1 mark)

10 Item B: "A study comparing two countries found that Country X, which liberalised trade and privatised large state firms in the 1990s under advice from international lenders, experienced faster GDP growth but rising inequality and cuts to public services. Country Y pursued state-led industrial policy, protected some strategic industries and invested in education; its growth was slower but poverty rates fell and schooling participation rose." Using Item B and your knowledge, explain two ways these contrasting development strategies illustrate the debate between neo-liberal and structural state-led approaches.

(Total for Question 10 is 4 marks)

11 State one strength of using a world-systems approach to explain long-term patterns of global inequality.

(Total for Question 11 is 2 marks)

12 Outline two policy implications that follow from a dependency theory analysis of underdevelopment.

(Total for Question 12 is 3 marks)

13 Explain two ways in which the semi-periphery concept adds nuance to a strict core-periphery picture of the world economy.

(Total for Question 13 is 4 marks)

- 14** Explain two methodological challenges researchers face when trying to test whether colonial history causes present-day underdevelopment.

(Total for Question 14 is 4 marks)

- 15** Using Item A and your own knowledge, explain two ways dependency theory and world-systems theory offer similar explanations for persistent inequality between countries.

(Total for Question 15 is 4 marks)

- 16** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that neo-liberal policies are the main cause of rising inequality in many developing countries today. Refer to relevant theories and use material from the items where appropriate.

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(Total for Question 16 is 12 marks)

Mark scheme · GSOC.AL33 Global Development: Theories of Development, Underdevelopment and World Systems

Question 1

- **B1 B** (Rostow's model argues societies pass through linear stages to reach mass consumption)
- **Answer: B**

Question 2

- **B1** identifies underdevelopment as a condition produced by external relations, not simply internal backwardness
- **B1** development, e.g. underdevelopment results from historical and ongoing economic exploitation and unequal exchange between rich and poor countries
- **Answer: Underdevelopment is seen as a condition produced by external relations rather than internal backwardness; dependency theorists argue it results from historical and ongoing exploitation and unequal exchange between rich and poor countries.**

Question 3

- **B1** identifies a policy, e.g. privatisation of state enterprises or removal of trade barriers
- **B1** development, e.g. intended to increase efficiency, reduce public spending and attract foreign investment
- **Answer: Structural adjustment policies promote privatisation and removal of trade barriers to increase efficiency, reduce public spending and attract foreign investment as routes to development.**

Question 4

- **B1** identifies a core claim, e.g. the world economy is structured into core, semi-periphery and periphery zones
- **B1** development, e.g. core zones extract surplus from peripheral zones so development and underdevelopment are linked processes in one system
- **Answer: World-systems theory claims the global economy is structured into core, semi-periphery and periphery zones, with core zones extracting surplus from periphery zones so development and underdevelopment are linked within one system.**

Question 5

- **B1** identifies that the pattern of former colonies supplying raw materials and having lower GDP fits the periphery role in world-systems theory
- **Answer: The pattern that former colonies supply raw materials and have lower GDP per head fits the periphery role described in world-systems theory.**

Question 6

- **B1** identifies criticism one, e.g. assumes all societies follow the same linear path, ignoring diverse historical paths
- **B1** develops criticism one, e.g. this eurocentric assumption ignores how colonial history or global power relations constrain options
- **B1** identifies criticism two, e.g. treats development as primarily technical and economic, downplaying social and political structures
- **B1** develops criticism two, e.g. modernisation prescriptions may ignore how elites or institutions block equitable development
- **Answer: Rostow is criticised for assuming a single linear path to development, ignoring diverse historical and colonial constraints, and for treating development as mainly technical and economic, downplaying social and political structures that can block equitable progress.**

Question 7

- **B1** identifies point one, e.g. extraction of wealth and resources during colonialism reduced the capacity of colonies to develop local industry
- **B1** develops point one, e.g. colonies became specialised in primary commodities, making economies vulnerable to price swings and dependent on exports
- **B1** identifies point two, e.g. colonial infrastructure was often oriented towards extraction and export rather than domestic development
- **B1** develops point two, e.g. this left weak domestic markets and limited industrial diversification after independence
- **B1** identifies point three, e.g. colonial institutions often entrenched elite rule and unequal landholding patterns
- **B1** develops point three, e.g. these political and social legacies constrained redistributive policies and broad-based development
- **Answer: Dependency theorists point to colonial extraction of wealth which blocked local industry and led to commodity dependence; to colonial infrastructure built for export rather than domestic markets leaving little industrial diversification; and to institutional legacies of elite rule and unequal landholding that constrained redistributive policies and broad-based development.**

Question 8

- **B1** identifies an empirical consequence, e.g. cuts to public spending on health or education following adjustment loans
- **B1** develops this, e.g. reduced access to services can worsen poverty and human development indicators
- **B1** identifies a second linked consequence, e.g. privatisation can raise costs for essential services
- **B1** develops this, e.g. increased user fees can exclude the poorest from health or water services, harming development outcomes
- **Answer: A critic might point to structural adjustment leading to cuts in public spending on health and education, reducing access and worsening human development indicators, and to privatisation raising costs for essential services so that the poorest are excluded from water or health services.**

Question 9

- **B1** B (dependency theorists argue wealthy countries' development was linked to exploitation of colonies)
- **Answer: B**

Question 10

- **B1** identifies a relevant way, e.g. neo-liberal policies in Country X produced faster GDP growth
- **B1** develops that way with link, e.g. but growth was unequal, with rising inequality and weakened public services, showing critics' concerns
- **B1** identifies a second relevant way, e.g. Country Y's state-led approach prioritised social investment such as education
- **B1** develops second way with link, e.g. this shows how state intervention can promote human development and reduce poverty even if GDP growth is slower
- **Answer: Country X illustrates neo-liberal claims that liberalisation and privatisation can raise GDP quickly, but also shows critics are right that such growth can be unequal and come with cuts to public services. Country Y shows state-led policies can prioritise education and reduce poverty, supporting the view that targeted state intervention can improve social indicators even if headline growth is slower.**

Question 11

- **B1** identifies a strength, e.g. it links local outcomes to global structures, showing how unequal exchange benefits cores
- **B1** brief development, e.g. helps explain persistent patterns across many countries that simple internal explanations cannot
- **Answer: A strength is that world-systems theory links local outcomes to global structures by showing how unequal exchange benefits core countries, which helps explain persistent patterns of inequality across many countries beyond internal factors alone.**

Question 12

- **B1** identifies implication one, e.g. need for import substitution industrialisation or protection of domestic industry
- **B1** develops implication one, e.g. to reduce dependence on commodity exports and build local manufacturing
- **B1** identifies implication two, e.g. call for political and economic autonomy, including land reform or control of foreign capital
- **Answer: Policy implications include pursuing import substitution and protecting domestic industry to reduce dependence on commodity exports and build manufacturing, and seeking greater political and economic autonomy such as land reform or tighter control over foreign capital.**

Question 13

- **B1** identifies point one, e.g. semi-periphery countries occupy an intermediate position, sometimes exploiting periphery states while being exploited by cores
- **B1** develops point one, e.g. this shows mobility and gradations in the system rather than a rigid two-tier structure
- **B1** identifies point two, e.g. semi-periphery can stabilise the system by absorbing surplus capital and labour
- **B1** develops point two, e.g. this explains why power relations are dynamic and why some countries can move up or down the hierarchy
- **Answer: The semi-periphery occupies an intermediate role, exploiting periphery states while being exploited by cores, indicating mobility and gradations rather than a rigid two-tier system. Semi-periphery countries can also absorb surplus capital and labour, stabilising the global system and explaining dynamic shifts in countries' positions.**

Question 14

- **B1** identifies challenge one, e.g. isolating causal effects given many intervening variables over long historical periods
- **B1** develops challenge one, e.g. factors like institutions, geography and post-independence policy also influence outcomes making causality hard to establish
- **B1** identifies challenge two, e.g. limited or biased historical data and difficulties measuring concepts like exploitation
- **B1** develops challenge two, e.g. incomplete records and differing metrics across countries reduce comparability and inference strength
- **Answer: Researchers struggle to isolate causal effects because many intervening variables such as institutions, geography and post-independence policy influence outcomes, and they face limited or biased historical data and difficulties measuring concepts like exploitation, reducing comparability and inference strength.**

Question 15

- **B1** identifies similarity one, e.g. both see current inequality as rooted in historical patterns of unequal exchange and exploitation
- **B1** develops similarity one with reference to Item A, e.g. Item A's link between colonial history and low GDP fits both accounts of extraction and unequal trade
- **B1** identifies similarity two, e.g. both emphasise external, systemic causes rather than solely internal cultural or entrepreneurial failings
- **B1** develops similarity two with reference to Item A, e.g. Item A's pattern of raw material supply to rich countries illustrates a systemic external relationship
- **Answer: Both theories see persistent inequality as rooted in historical unequal exchange and exploitation, and Item A's correlation between colonial history and low GDP fits this view. They also emphasise external systemic causes rather than internal cultural failings, and Item A's note that former colonies supply raw materials to rich countries illustrates this external relationship.**

Question 16

- **Level 1** (1-3): Basic and generalised points, limited knowledge of theories. Little or no use of the item. Conclusions are undeveloped or absent.
- **Level 2** (4-6): Clear knowledge of one or two relevant theories such as neo-liberalism and dependency, some attempt to apply Item A or B. Analysis is present but may be partial. Conclusion is tentative.
- **Level 3** (7-9): Good range of knowledge and understanding of competing perspectives, including neo-liberal critiques and dependency/world-systems explanations. Applies the items to support arguments and shows analytical balance. Conclusion is supported.
- **Level 4** (10-12): Excellent analysis and evaluation of multiple theoretical perspectives. Uses Item A and Item B where relevant to support both sides. Considers empirical and theoretical counter-arguments, methodological issues and reaches a well-supported, balanced conclusion about the extent to which neo-liberal policies are the main cause of rising inequality.
- **Indicative content:**
 - AO1 content: Neo-liberal claim that market liberalisation, privatisation and reduced state intervention increase efficiency, attract investment and can raise GDP; structural adjustment as an example of neo-liberal policy prescriptions.
 - AO1 content: Dependency and world-systems criticisms arguing inequality stems from historical colonial exploitation, unequal exchange and ongoing asymmetric power relations between core and periphery.
 - AO2 application: Item B shows an empirical example where liberalisation raised GDP but increased inequality and cut public services; Item A links colonial history to low GDP and commodity supply roles consistent with dependency/world-systems accounts.
 - AO3 analysis: Evaluate the strength of neo-liberal explanations, noting evidence of faster GDP growth but rising inequality in some countries and the mechanisms by which privatisation and reduced welfare can widen income gaps.
 - AO3 analysis: Consider counter-arguments from dependency/world-systems perspectives that place primary causal weight on long-term historical structures, and show how neo-liberal policies may interact with these structures rather than being wholly explanatory.
 - AO3 evaluation: Consider alternative causes such as domestic political choices, elite capture, institutional weakness, geography, and methodological challenges in attributing causation, including time lags and selection effects in which countries adopt neo-liberal reforms.
 - AO3 synthesis: Conclude with a balanced judgement that neo-liberal policies can be a significant proximate cause of rising inequality in particular contexts, especially where weak institutions and unequal power exist, but many sociologists would argue they operate alongside and interact with deeper historical and structural causes identified by dependency and world-systems theories.