



Economic Inequalities
Geography – Junior Cert
Quick Notes

Economic Inequalities

In terms of global distribution, the world can be divided into three categories – developed (richest countries, first world), quickly developing (poor countries, third world) and slowly developing (poorest countries, third world). The human suffering index uses ten yard sticks to measure the quality of life in different countries, maximum points indicate the maximum amount of suffering e.g. Ireland has 11 points according to the index. Certain things divided countries into rich and poor – colonialism (system where one country controls another), trade (poor countries were exploited to become sources of cheap raw materials), debt (poor countries have little money for health and education), corruption (some corrupt leaders or dictators spend money on military hardware rather than on basic necessities such as education). Cash crops are crops that are grown for sale rather than as food for the grower's family. Most African countries are heavily dependent on one crop creating many problems. Aid to the developing world comes from NGOs (non-governmental organisations such as Goal), bilateral aid (from one government to another), Multilateral aid (through international institutions such as the Red Cross). Development Aid helps to improve agriculture, health and education over a period of time. Emergency Aid is given to people in times of crisis to prevent them from dying e.g. food. There are two main types of aid programmes in Ireland- Ireland Aid (run by Department of Foreign Affairs) and voluntary aid (run by NGOs). Certain factors may hinder economic development in poor countries, such as climate, rapid population growth, economy and arms expenditure and war. Within developed countries, economic differences may exist between regions e.g. Ireland can be divided into two distinct regions 1- The Eastern and Southern region which is prosperous and 2- The Border, Midlands and Western (BMW) region which is less prosperous. There have to be sacrifices made in both the developed countries and the developing countries if a successful solution s to be achieved. This may be done through Aid and Fair trade.