

International Relations

Content and concepts:

For this part of the exam you need to know:

- Reasons why countries benefit from membership of the E_____n Union
- Reasons why countries benefit from membership of the United Nations
- Reasons why countries benefit from membership of N___O
- The changing sec_____y situation in Europe and other parts of the world
- The ways in which European st____s, members of NATO, the United Nations and the European Union react to the changing security situation in Europe and other parts of the world
- Reasons why Af_____ needs aid.
- Forms of aid
- Reasons why r____h countries and organisations give aid

Before the exam you should revise each of these topics.

Knowledge and Understanding questions for this Syllabus Area will be based on two different concepts -

- **N__d**
- **P_____r**

Questions could be based on Alliances and Security or on the Politics of Aid to Africa.

You need to revise why many European countries have become members of organisations such as the United Nations, N___ and the E_____ Union.

Countries choose to join these organisations because of the ad_____s they see from membership.

THE POLITICS OF AID

What are the needs of poor people in Africa?

- A g___d diet and good farm land to g___ crops
- Hea___
- Ed_____



- Controlled pop_____ growth
- A stable ec_____y

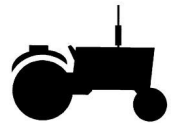


How can these needs be met?

- **A good diet** - aid includes traj_____g in improved farming methods so that local people can learn how to look after their crops and farm land and so meet their own food needs. In extreme cases of famine, em_____ncy food aid must be supplied.
- **Health** - aid includes improving the health services in a country by building h_____s and local medical centres, and also by providing training for workers. Local disasters such as w_r, floo___g and earthquakes require emergency relief aid with m_____ne, clo_____g and h_____h workers.
- **Education** - aid can provide some children with full-time education to reduce illiteracy (i.e. unable to r_____ or w_____). This is especially true for g_____s who are often less likely to receive a full education
- **Controlled population growth** - countries that have high infant mortality (i.e. young children dying) and large numbers relying on subsistence farming (i.e. growing food to feed yourself and your f_____y rather than to sell), often have high birth rates and therefore rapidly gr_____g populations. Some aid programmes try to control population growth through family planning and education about contraception.
- **Stable economies** - this comes with good government and fair trading along with the training and education of people who can run bus_____sses.

What types of aid are given to Africa?

- Emergency relief aid (food, medicine, etc.) after a natural d_____, famine or another type of emergency.
- Financial Aid - e.g. loans which have to be p____ back, or g____nts which don't need to be repaid
- Expert workers e.g agri____al specialists who help farmers produce more f_____.
- Military aid, with guns, t____ks and other equipment; this is only given to friendly countries that the donor country wants to infl_____.
- Equipment for engineering projects such as dams, sc____s and hospitals, as well as agricultural machinery for farming



How do United Nation (UN) agencies try to meet the needs of African Countries?

- The Food and Agricultural Org____ion (FAO) aims to provide help in training, research and development so that local people can produce more food. This should improve nutrition and health
- The United Nations Edu____al, Sci____fic and Cult____al Organisation (UNESCO) aims to promote education and culture by advising governments, colleges and schools
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) aims to help children and their parents. It does this by organising emergency aid, and helping with m____cal and educational needs
- The World H____ Organisation (WHO) aims to help governments look after by the health needs of their populations. It does this by t____g health workers, organising immu____ion campaigns, and helping set up local health centres
- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) aims to improve working con____ns by improving health and safety. It also concerns itself with ending ch__d labour – a terrible practice which still takes place in some countries.

How do European Countries benefit by providing aid to African countries?

- They give aid for humanitarian reasons – it also improves their image in the world
- A developed and richer Africa will buy more goods & services from Europe
- When the aid is **tied aid** the donor (giving) country gets benefits in return e.g. aid to build a dam from Britain may require experts and equipment to build it – so Britain may insist the aid money is spent on British experts and British equipment
- European countries want to maintain good links with and influence African countries
- Europe depends on raw materials from Africa so need stable & reliable supplies
- Food surpluses caused by the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU have been sent to Africa – it is cheaper for the EU to give this food away than store it – however large amounts of free food can ruin the local market for farmers and shops who cannot charge enough to earn a proper living

What social factors do developed countries take into account when deciding which African countries should receive aid?

- Birth rates, death rates and rates of population increase
- Infant mortality (how many children die) and life expectancy (average life-span)
- Other health indicators, e.g. the nutrition levels – how good the diet is
- Education levels including literacy rates (the percentage who can read and write)



What economic factors do developed countries take into account when deciding which African countries should receive aid?

- The level of poverty in the country. This is usually measured by the country's Gross National Product (GNP)
- How many goods will the receiving country be able to buy from the donor country
- The amount of raw materials (e.g. oil) that the African country is able to produce, and therefore sell to the developed country



What political factors do developed countries take into account when deciding which African countries should receive aid?

- What is the African country's record on human rights
- Is the country a political ally (friend) to the developed country
- Is it a democracy or will it become one - dictatorships get little help from USA or UK

This section is from the excellent BBC Bitesize (check if site has any short videos to support this topic. Also Check 'BBC Classroom Clips' by typing in Politics of Aid or just Aid.

Needs of developing countries in Africa

Developing countries such as Sudan & Chad experience many problems. These problems include over-population, lack of food, po__rty and d_bt, lack of h_____h care, illiteracy and w_r. Often these problems prevent people in developing countries from meeting their basic n____ds. The people who live in these countries need -

- Enough food
- Clean w_____r
- Sh_____er
- Health care professionals and m_____e
- E_____tion programmes
- Emp_____nt

Types of aid

There are 3 main types of aid -

Bilateral aid

This is given from one country direct to an_____r e.g. (Britain sends aid to a number of countries in Africa such as Ethiopia and Tanz_____ and Scotland sends aid to Malawi). This is sometimes known as 'tied aid' since it may be given with strings and conditions attached. Often it benefits the donor country m_____ than the recipient country. The UK has stopped the practice of tied aid.

Multi-lateral aid

This is when a group of countries such as the EU or UN send aid to a country like Moz_____ or Darfur in Sudan.

Voluntary aid

This is when aid is sent through charities such as Ox____, Save The Ch_____ or Christian Aid to a country such as Kenya or Mozambique. Voluntary aid is usually on a smaller scale than bilateral or multilateral aid because governments are much richer.

Why countries give aid

The reasons why countries give aid can be divided up into social, economic and political factors.

Social factors

- Countries may give aid for humanitarian reasons - this means they want to relieve the suffering experienced by those in the recipient country.
- They may want to improve the living standards of the people in the developing country by, for example, increasing the literacy rate.

Economic factors

- Countries may give aid in order to benefit financially as a result of interest being repaid on a loan.
- The donor country might get a better price for the produce it buys from the recipient country, for example better terms of trade on coffee.

Political factors

- A donor country will look closely at the political system of the opening country before deciding whether or not to give aid. It may decide not to send any aid to a country which is not a democracy for example.
- Giving aid to a developing country may give the donor country prestige within the international community. It may also win support at home for the government of the donor country.
- The donor country may want to make an ally of the recipient country which may be useful in a future conflict.



How the UN helps people in developing countries

The UN established specialised agencies in order to tackle problems faced by countries in crisis. Four of these agencies are FAO, WFP, UNICEF and WHO.

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation



The FAO's main concern is to increase the amount and quality of food which people in developing countries receive. FAO tries to do this by working with local farmers in order to improve the methods they use. FAO will introduce new farming techniques and teach farmers about the benefits of using fertilisers and irrigation.

In Namibia, FAO is helping farmers to grow wild fruit trees to benefit their local economy. The farmers have been taught how to harvest, store and market the fruit products. Local women now take part in this project and have learned how to make and sell jam and juice from the fruit. This has increased the income of local people in this area.

WFP - World Food Programme



The World Food Programme was established by the FAO and United Nations General Assembly in the 1960s. WFP is the United Nations frontline agency in the fight against hunger. It responds to emergencies, aiming to save lives by getting food to the hungry fast. It also works to help prevent hunger. It does this through programmes that use food as a basis for building assets, spreading knowledge and encouraging stronger communities that are more food secure. In 2008, WFP food assistance reached over 102 million people in 78 countries. This amounted to over 3.5 million tons of food.

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund



UNICEF works to improve the lives of c_____n in developing countries. UNICEF funds programmes to provide s_____, teachers and equ_____t in order that children can grow up able to read and write and be able to provide for themselves. UNICEF also funds health care projects so that infants can be v_____d against killer diseases such as m_____s or TB. ORT (Oral Rehydration Therapy) is another of UNICEF's initiatives which tackles the deh_____n caused by severe diarrhoea.

WHO - World Health Organisation



WHO aims to improve the h_____h of people in developing countries. For example, WHO trains local people to become n_____s and health care workers in their own country.

WHO also works to eli_____te diseases such as mal_____ by making people aware of how to av____ contracting it.

The European Union

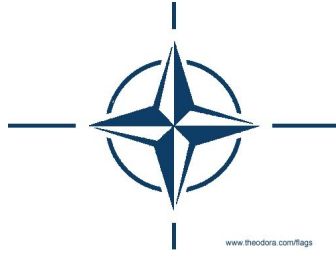


The E_____ Union is an eco_____ic and mon_____ary union. Originally, it had six members but today it has grown to _____-seven. There are still countries wishing to join but so far they have not been accepted and remain as 'candidate' countries.

Advantages of European Union membership include -

- a large m_____t for businesses to sell their products
- Access to EU fun____g for projects, through the Structural Funds
- Access to the Common Ag_____al Pol____y which helps farmers and ensures supplies of f____d
- The option to join the Single European C_____cy (the EURO)
-
- Opportunities for people to w____k and st____y in other European countries
- Improved standards of l_____ in all member countries
- Help to promote dem_____y in newly joined countries

NATO



NATO is a military organisation which combines the armed forces of the USA, Canada and Western Europe. Many Eastern European countries have either joined or want to become members of NATO.

There are several advantages of NATO membership -

- Shared defence costs – no one country has to finance a complete defence system of its own. Each one can specialise in particular aspects of defence, without having to have all aspects themselves
- Since NATO is the most powerful group in the world, members feel secure
- Should a member country be attacked, it is guaranteed help from the other member countries, including the USA which has the most powerful forces in the world.
- Greater co-operation between the growing number of members makes conflict less likely

In recent years, NATO has been involved in peace keeping both in Europe, eg former Yugoslavia (i.e. Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia) and elsewhere, eg Afghanistan.

NATO helped bring an end to the vicious fighting which broke out in the former Yugoslavia in the mid 1990s. NATO troops played a key role in ending the fighting and stabilising the region so that steps could be taken towards reconstruction, securing peace and encouraging democracy. NATO enjoyed a large amount of success and the operation ended in 2004 with the EU taking on the role of stabilising the area.

NATO has also tried to bring peace to Afghanistan ...

After September 11th 2001

The 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks by Al-Qaeda on New York and Washington involved not only the United States but also the entire NATO alliance in the "fight against terrorism.

Less than 24 hours after the attacks, NATO invoked Article 5 of the Washington Treaty which declares that an attack on one member is an attack against all NATO members.

NATO claims it is contributing to the fight against terrorism through military operations in Afghanistan. NATO is involved there because of evidence that Al-Qaeda is based in the country and it has also has strong links with the Taliban, a fundamentalist Islamic group which has controlled much of Afghanistan in recent years.

NATO's main role in Afghanistan is to help the Afghan Government regain control and influence across the country, paving the way for reconstruction and effective government. It does this predominately through the UN-mandated (i.e UN approved) 'International Security Assistance Force' (ISAF).

Since NATO took command of ISAF in 2003, the Alliance has gradually expanded the reach of its mission, originally limited to the central city Kabul, to cover Afghanistan's whole territory. The number of ISAF troops has grown accordingly from the initial 5,000 to around 80,000 troops coming from 46 countries, including all 28 NATO members.

The troops conduct security operations and also support and train the Afghan national army and police. They also disarm bombs, take part in reconstruction projects, and help democratic elections run smoothly, all in an effort to help bring the country back to normal after many years of fighting and violence.

Many people in Britain hold strong opinions about the war in Afghanistan, particularly as over 200 British troops have now been killed in the fighting there.

Individual countries ... /

Individual countries have also had to strengthen their defences against the threat of terrorist attacks. Bombings in Madrid and London and an unsuccessful attack on Gatwick Airport have led to measures being introduced at airports and ferry terminals in order to lessen the chances of attacks or of terrorists arriving or departing the country.

Amongst the measures introduced have been restrictions on liquids taken on to planes, whilst scissors are not allowed in hand luggage in the cabin. Richard Reid, the British-born shoe bomber, who tried to blow up an airliner with chemicals packed into the heel of his shoes has ensured that footwear are now checked by security staff prior to boarding a plane.

Meanwhile, the Security Services in the UK depend on collecting a lot of intelligence and evidence on people they believe may be planning terrorist attacks. They do this through following or observing targets, listening to telephone calls and intercepting emails, and acting on evidence provided by agents who report on targets.

N.B.

IRAQ

The invasion of Iraq in 2003 also took place in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. The attack was launched because some Western countries, notably the USA and the UK claimed the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) which he refused to give up. However, no such arms were found during the invasion. Eventually, Saddam was arrested and executed by the Iraqi government which took over when Saddam's forces were defeated.

The invasion was **not** a NATO operation although some NATO members led it. The leaders of these countries cited resolutions passed by the UN against Iraq to justify the invasion. However, countries do not accept this justification and still claim the war was illegal under international law.