

Compare Development Evidence

Use multiple indicators without treating one clue as a complete country label.

WG.12 The student will apply social science skills to understand the distribution, growth rates, and characteristics of human population by examining the relationship between demographic data to determine the level of economic development; distinguishing between developed and developing countries; and comparing and contrasting the level of economic development to the standard of living, quality of life, form of government, personal freedom, and economic opportunity.

NAME _____ DATE _____

Read the fictional profiles

These three societies and all numbers are invented. “Developed” and “developing” are broad course terms; there is no single universal threshold, and each can conceal substantial variation. Compare several indicators before making a provisional judgment. Government and freedom need their own evidence.

Indicator	A	B	C
GDP/person	\$45,000	\$3,000	\$18,000
Life expectancy	80 years	64 years	76 years
Adult literacy	99%	78%	95%
Infant deaths /1,000 births	4	35	8
Population growth /year	0.3%	2.4%	0.8%
Government	One-party state	Elected multiparty	Elected multiparty
Speech/association	Restricted	Legally protected	Protected; uneven enforcement
Opportunity	Skilled jobs; unequal access	Limited formal jobs	Growing formal jobs; regional gaps

1. Compare A and B using at least three numerical indicators. Which profile is more consistent with higher economic development in this simplified model? Explain the limits of the course labels.

Test claims and explain differences

2. A student says, "The highest GDP per person always means the greatest personal freedom." Test the claim using the profiles. Distinguish economic conditions from government and legal rights.

3. Compare A and C. Which indicators concern material living conditions, health/education, political freedom and economic opportunity? Explain one tradeoff the table reveals and one important missing measure.

4. For each clue below, explain why it may be relevant but is insufficient alone to classify a whole society.

Clue	Additional evidence needed
Slow population growth	
Widespread electricity	
Many agricultural workers	

5. Write a careful conclusion about one profile, supported by two indicators and qualified by one limitation.

Teacher Key

A versus B: A has higher per-person output 45,000 versus 3,000, longer life 80 versus 64, higher literacy 99% versus 78%, and lower infant mortality 4 versus 35. A fits the course's higher-development/developed pattern more closely; B faces more development challenges. These are provisional summaries, not fixed judgments of people or cultures.

The freedom claim is contradicted by A's higher output and restricted speech versus B/C's multiparty systems and protected rights. Do not infer freedom from income, and do not infer every person's living conditions from an average.

A/C: A has higher output and health/education averages; C has broader stated political protections, though enforcement and opportunities vary. Relevant missing measures include inequality, access by region/group, housing affordability or how data were gathered.

Slow growth has several possible causes and does not establish income or services. Electricity is one infrastructure indicator, not a full profile. Agricultural employment alone does not measure productivity, income or well-being. Accept well-supported alternative comparisons and qualified conclusions.