



## Assignment-2 - Task of the assignment was to plan your own blog about the difficulty to define

Development Studies (University of South Africa)



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## ASSIGNMENT 2

You decided to start your own blog in which you discuss how difficult it is to define the concept “development”.

Plan your blog in this assignment by doing the following:

- Discuss the classification of countries in terms of development status (North, South and Third World stereotypes) (one page) (15 marks)
- Say what it means to define development as
  - economic growth (two paragraphs) (5 marks)
  - modernisation (two paragraphs) (5 marks)
  - dependency (two paragraphs) (5 marks)
  - human well-being (two paragraphs) (5 marks)
  - international sustainable development goals (two paragraphs) (5 marks)
  - positive change in a democracy (two paragraphs) (5 marks)
  - Are these ideas still relevant? Why do you say so? (two paragraphs) (5 marks)

Reading: Study Guide, study unit 1

### HOW TO APPROACH THE QUESTION:

This question is divided into three parts. The best way to approach your answer, is to use a similar structure of scaffolding. This answer is an essay on the problem in defining ‘development’ and you were requested to present it in the form of a blog. To write your blog (essay), it would be logical to divide it into the following parts:

- Section 1 – “The classification of countries in terms of development status”
- Section 2 – “Explanations of the different terms of ‘development...’”. This must be further subdivided into sections such as 2.1. “Economic growth”, 2.2. “Modernisation” etc.
- Section 3 – The contemporary relevance of the ideas you have outlined in the previous two sections. In terms of mark allocation, this should form the smallest section of your answer. Therefore, the bulk of your discussion should be contained within sections 1 and 2.
- You must then conclude with a brief summary of all the important points made in your essay. You should refer to this summary as “Conclusion”. A paragraph for the conclusion will suffice.

To answer Section 1, you may even want to include a map to illustrate what you mean by ‘North’ and ‘South’. We do not penalise students who did not do so. The map below is merely an example of what you can use.

Nevertheless, you must remember that when you use information from somewhere, you must cite the source i.e. you need to provide a reference. For instance, if you used the following map from Wikipedia, you would reference it under the figure and in your list of references. The citation below the map provides you with an example of how to reference.

### THE NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE

Wikipedia Commons, File: North South Divide 3.PNG

In the bibliography, you must provide the website address and the date on which you downloaded the map. In this way, you acknowledge the source of information, thus avoiding plagiarism. You must follow this principle throughout essay writing at university. However, you are not expected to provide references for the exams or to draw a map.

When discussing the classification of countries in terms of concepts such as ‘developed’, ‘undeveloped’, ‘rich’ and ‘poor’, you should point out that although such terms may seem commonplace, or logical, or may be precisely defined, they may lead to stereotyping of people. For example, the term ‘poverty’ is relative and not everybody views ‘development’ in the same way.

In your second section, you must discuss the concepts economic growth, modernisation, dependency, human well-being, international sustainable development goals and positive change in a democracy. By reading the Study Guide attentively, you will see that views of development have evolved and have thus changed over time. At first, ‘development’ was seen as industrial economic growth coupled with modernisation. This view was later criticised by the ‘Dependency’ school. They argued that poorer countries were at a disadvantage within the international political economy and that there were structural impediments to the national development of these countries. Later, scholars such as Sen and Sachs made the world aware that development was not just about economics, but also about the things that constrain people to move out of poverty. Eventually, the impact of big scale industrial development and its effect on the environment was also noted. Contemporary ‘development’ is about all three dimensions – the economy, human-orientated upliftment and preserving nature for future generations. It is also about social justice, the upholding of human rights and real democracy.

In the third part of your essay, you should mention which view of development you think has the most meaning for yourself as an individual and why.

DVA1501/202

Indicators for marks allocated:

50% - 59%: You will receive this mark if you show a basic understanding of the topic, but reflects a poorly constructed blog that does not entice future readership.

60% - 74%: You will receive this mark if you show a good understanding of each topic and can discuss it logically to create a clear picture in the mind of the reader, and attract followers to your future blogs.

75% and above: You will receive this mark if you do the above and can create a blog that reflects critical and coherent arguments with the use of examples, as well as your own insights.

LIST OF REFERENCES:

Wikipedia Commons, File: North South Divide 3.PNG. Available at:

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/North\\_South\\_Divide\\_3.PNG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/North_South_Divide_3.PNG)

NB: There is a map that is attached to this feedback in Tutorial letter 202 on the main course side.  
(Accessed on 22 February, 2018).

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