Causes of uneven development

Starter

1. A population pyramid shows the population of a country split into gender and age

3 causes of uneven development:

* Historical
* Physical
* Economic

Historical

From 1650 to 1900, over 10 million people were transported from Africa to North America to work as slaves. Almost all the wealth produced during this period went to European powers.

By the end of the 19th century most of Africa and parts of South America had been divided up between European superpowers.

These were countries like:

* UK
* Germany
* Spain
* France

Since 1950, former European colonies have gained independence. In many cases this has been difficult for the country, resulting in civil wars and political struggles for power. Money has been spent on weapons and some governments have been corrupt.

**This political instability has held back development**

Physical causes

Most **landlocked countries** on Earth are in Africa. **A landlocked country is a country which is only bordered by land.** With no access to the sea, a country is cut off from seaborne trade, which is important for economic growth.

**Extreme weather** such as droughts and floods, often hits tropical regions and slows development as it can be costly to repair damaged infrastructure.

The lack of adequate supplies of **safe water** is a barriers to economic development

Tropical Africa and Asia have more **climate-related diseases** and pests such as mosquitos which can spread malaria. Disease affects the ability of the population to stay healthy enough to work.

Economic causes

Poverty causes poverty. Low life expectancy, frequent illness and the lack of a nutritious diet make economic development hard to achieve.

Trade – North America and Europe dominate the world trade. The importance of Asia is growing as it includes Japan and the emerging economies of India and China. Most of the world’s trade is between richer countries. Rich countries and large international companies have a lot of power. The want to pay as little as possible for their raw materials, many of which come from LICs.

I think the biggest cause of uneven development is economic causes because trade polarises different countries as it allows the rich to gain more wealth as the poorer countries are still undeveloped.