



PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR VCE

# HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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**Unit 4: Area of Study 1**  
Health and wellbeing  
in a global context

SET 2

**Question 1** (6 marks)

The table below shows the level of human development and the Human Development Index (HDI) of several countries.

Country	Level of human development	Human Development Index
Australia	very high	0.938
China	high	0.758
India	medium	0.647
Papua New Guinea	low	0.543

Data: United Nations Development Programme:  
International Human Development Indicators,  
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries>

Using your understanding of the concept of human development and the data above, evaluate the use of the Human Development Index in measuring and comparing countries.

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**Question 2** (5 marks)

**a.** Identify **two** characteristics of a low-income country.

2 marks

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**b.** Explain how **one** of the characteristics outlined in **part a.** would affect a country's burden of disease.

3 marks

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# ANSWERS

## Question 1

### Sample response

The Human Development Index (HDI) uses three dimensions and four indicators to measure human development. It measures:

- 'knowledge' through the mean and expected years of schooling
- 'long and healthy life' through life expectancy at birth
- 'a decent standard of living' through gross national income (GNI) per capita.

These measurements provide some insight into the human development of a country.

For example, Australia is likely to have high mean and expected years of schooling, contributing to a high HDI, which would suggest a high level of skills and knowledge.

Papua New Guinea is likely to have low GNI per capita, contributing to a low HDI, which may suggest a lower standard of living.

The HDI provides a good indication of a country's human development. However, not all aspects are measured, as some, such as leading creative and productive lives, are very hard to measure. It also fails to measure community participation and the freedoms and choices they may have.

So while it can be used to measure and compare countries on some aspects of development, it cannot compare all aspects.

### **Mark allocation: 6 marks**

- 6 marks for a detailed evaluation (including positives and negatives) of the HDI in measuring and comparing countries' human development, with effective use of data
- 4–5 marks for a response that demonstrates an understanding of how HDI (including dimensions and indicators) aims to measure human development
- 2–3 marks for a response that demonstrates an understanding of human development and HDI (including dimensions and indicators)
- 1 mark for a response that demonstrates a very basic understanding of human development or HDI



### **Tip**

- *When evaluating positives and negatives, you should refer to strengths and weaknesses and make a judgement.*

### Question 2a.

#### Sample response

Low-income countries generally have poor quality water and sanitation.

Low-income countries generally have limited access to health care.

**Note:** Other possible answers include low levels of education, low food security, poor quality of housing and high unemployment.

#### **Mark allocation: 2 marks**

- 1 mark for each characteristic identified (up to 2 marks)

### Question 2b.

#### Sample response

Having poor quality of water and sanitation can lead to an increased risk of water-borne diseases such as cholera. This can lead to ill health (YLD) but can also lead to increased risk of premature death (YLL) due to dehydration. Increased morbidity and mortality would increase a country's burden of disease.

#### **Mark allocation: 3 marks**

- 1 mark for showing that a low-income country is likely to have a higher burden of disease
- 2 marks for a detailed description of how the chosen characteristic would affect a low-income country's burden of disease



#### **Tip**

- *When discussing burden of disease, you should show an understanding that this includes both ill health and premature death.*