



PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR VCE

HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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

SET 4

Question 1 (11 marks)

2016 Human Development Index – Highest rankings

HDI ranking	Country	Human Development Index (HDI)	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	Gross national income (GNI) per capita
1	Norway	0.949	81.7	17.7	12.7	67,614
2	Australia	0.939	82.5	20.4	13.2	42,822
2	Switzerland	0.939	83.1	16.0	13.4	56,364
4	Germany	0.926	81.1	17.1	13.2	45,000
5	Singapore	0.925	83.2	15.4	11.6	78,162
5	Denmark	0.925	80.4	19.2	12.7	44,519
7	Netherlands	0.924	81.7	18.1	11.9	46,326
8	Ireland	0.923	81.1	18.6	12.3	43,798
9	Iceland	0.921	82.7	19.0	12.2	37,065
10	Canada	0.920	82.2	16.3	13.1	42,582
10	United States	0.920	79.2	16.5	13.2	53,245
12	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.917	84.2	15.7	11.6	54,265
13	New Zealand	0.915	82.0	19.2	12.5	32,870
14	Sweden	0.913	82.3	16.1	12.3	46,251
15	Liechtenstein	0.912	80.2	14.6	12.4	75,065
16	United Kingdom	0.909	80.8	16.3	13.3	37,931

Source: <https://www.tutor2u.net/economics/reference/human-development-index>

The table above depicts the four indicators used to measure a country's Human Development Index (HDI).

a. What are the dimensions of the HDI?

3 marks

b. Who is responsible for the HDI index?

1 mark

ANSWERS

Question 1a.

Sample response

long and healthy life, knowledge and decent standard of living

Mark allocation: 3 marks

- 1 mark for each correct answer (up to 3 marks)



Tip

- *You should know all three Human Development Index (HDI) dimensions and the four indicators word perfect.*

Question 1b.

Sample response

the United Nations

Mark allocation: 1 mark

- 1 mark for the correct answer

Question 1c.

Sample response

The HDI takes into account all four indicators, not just life expectancy. The US has higher values than Hong Kong on two other indicators: mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling.

Mark allocation: 2 marks

- 1 mark for showing that the HDI comprises four indicators, not just life expectancy
- 1 mark for clearly showing that the US must be higher in one or more of the other indicators

Question 1d.**Sample response**

I somewhat agree with the above statement. Because Norway is ranked number one on the HDI, it is likely to have higher life expectancy, mean and expected years of schooling and gross national income (GNI) compared with other countries.

This is likely to mean that, through having higher mean and expected years of schooling than other countries, people in Norway have greater access to knowledge to increase their capabilities.

Through having the highest GNI per capita, people in Norway are likely to be able to access more health care (such as preventive care) than people in other countries. The high GNI per capita is also likely to allow people in Norway to experience a higher standard of living (through better housing and access to safe water) than people in other countries.

The higher life expectancy in Norway compared with most countries is also likely to reflect that they are able to live a longer, healthier life in Norway than in other countries.

These indicators contribute significantly to a higher level of human development, but the HDI does not measure all aspects of human development.

For example, the HDI does not provide much insight into the freedoms and choices one may have, nor does it reflect participation in the community. These are just as important to human development as the measured components.

So while there could be a strong correlation between a country's HDI rank and its level of human development (the closer the rank is to one, the higher the level of human development), the HDI does not measure all aspects of human development.

Mark allocation: 5 marks

5 marks	Response shows an in-depth understanding of human development and the HDI's ability to measure this. (This includes its limitations in doing so.) Response clearly indicates the strength of agreement to the statement. Response clearly links back to stem of the question: Norway.
3–4 marks	Response shows an understanding of human development and the HDI. There is an indication of the strength of agreement to the statement.
1–2 marks	Response shows a limited link between human development and the HDI.
0 marks	Question not attempted, or answer supplied is not relevant to the question