



HL IB Economics



Your notes

4.7 Sustainable Development

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4.7.1 The Sustainable Development Goals



Defining Sustainable Development

- **Sustainable development** is **economic development** that meets the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of **future generations** to meet their own needs
- In 2015 the United Nations Member States committed to a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future
 - This blueprint is called *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
- Integral to the blueprint are the 17 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** which recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and generate economic growth – while tackling climate change and working to preserve oceans and forests
 - The SDGs build on more than fifty years of work by countries and the United Nations

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

- The SDGs provide both a target for sustainable development and also a **metric to measure and gauge the progress** made

An Explanation of the 17 SDGs (Source: UN SDGs)

2030 Goal	Explanation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ End all forms of poverty by 2030, including absolute and relative poverty
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture









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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce inequality within and among countries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

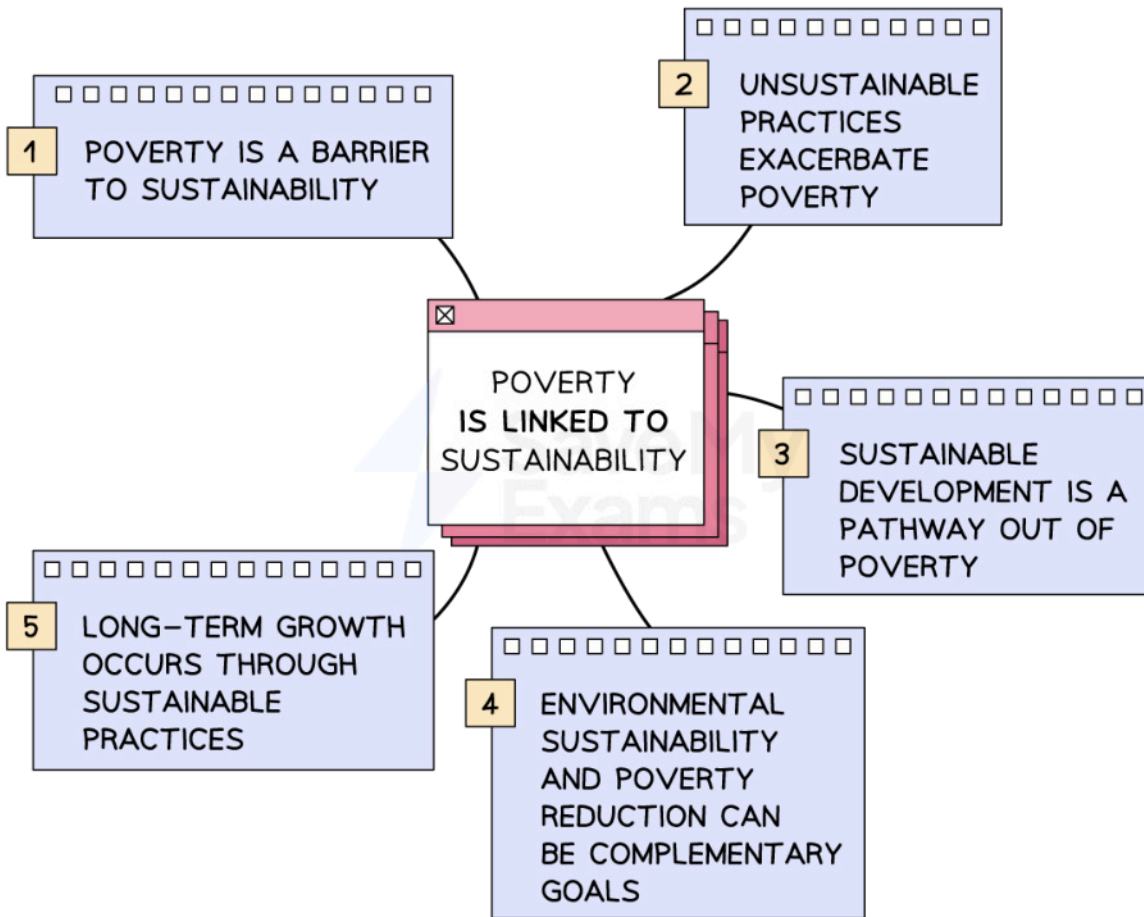


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4.7.2 The Relationship Between Sustainability & Poverty

The Relationship Between Sustainability & Poverty

- The **interdependent relationship** between sustainability and poverty emphasises the importance of **integrated approaches** to address both **environmental and social challenges**



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Poverty and sustainability are not separate concepts but have an interdependent relationship

- By pursuing sustainable development, societies can **break the poverty cycle**, protect the environment, and build a more **inclusive and prosperous future**
- The interdependent relationship between sustainability and poverty in economics can be understood as follows

An Explanation of the Interdependent Relationship Between Poverty & Sustainability



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The Link	Explanation
Poverty as a barrier to sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When people are trapped in poverty, they may resort to unsustainable practices, such as overexploitation of natural resources to meet their immediate needs E.g. Illegal deforestation in Brazil so as to allow greater stock farming
Unsustainable practices exacerbate poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsustainable economic activities, such as deforestation, pollution, and overfishing deplete natural resources, degrade ecosystems, and disrupt livelihoods that depend on them Impoverished communities bear the brunt of the negative consequences, leading to increased vulnerability and deepening poverty levels
Sustainable development is a pathway out of poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By integrating economic, social, and environmental considerations, sustainable development aims to address poverty alleviation alongside environmental conservation and social equity It promotes inclusive growth, access to education and healthcare, and the development of sustainable livelihoods, contributing to poverty reduction
Environmental sustainability and poverty reduction as complementary goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and restoring ecosystems, managing natural resources sustainably, and mitigating climate change can create opportunities for poverty reduction E.g. Investments in renewable energy, eco-tourism, and sustainable agriculture can generate income, create jobs, and enhance the well-being of communities living in poverty
Long-term economic growth through sustainable practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embracing sustainability can lead to long-term growth by protecting natural resources and promoting innovation Sustainable business practices, responsible consumption and green technologies can drive economic growth while reducing environmental impacts

- By adopting sustainable practices, societies can secure their future well-being, reduce poverty, and **ensure the availability of resources for future generations**



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