

Human gross national  
income (gni). you can  
also

[Art & Culture](#), [Artists](#)



Human geography can be defined as 'The branch of geography dealing with how human activity affects or is influenced by the earth's surface.' (Oxford Dictionary, 2017) At this moment in time there are many human issues and events are happening all around the world for example, rapid population growth as well as globalisation and mass migration. Events like this need to be studied so we can comprehend the world around us.

Moreover, if we understand it we can move forward in reducing these issues around the everchanging world. This is why it is a distinctive subject compared to physical geography as it studies the behaviours, events and lives of people. This is different to physical geography which is studying landscapes and formations. There is no other subject that allows a summary of the spatial effects of human behaviour and interaction.

Human Geography can be observed at many stages, from local to international and has practical applications in strategic planning. Development is a contested term; it can be a goal but also a process. Development geography focuses on how quality of life and wealth of individuals varies around the world.

This allows us to identify problems in communities and therefore work to improve the living quality of the people worst affected. This makes human geography unique as it positively identifies areas which are in need of support, they do this using economic measurement tools like Gross National Product (GNP) and Gross National Income (GNI). You can also use human indicators to measure development such as life expectancy, infant mortality and literacy rate. One of the main actors in development is the

World Bank, they have to maintain focus, firstly to end extreme poverty and secondly promoting shared prosperity. The World Bank was set up in the 1940s due to the Bretton Woods conference which was aimed to maintain stability and develop world trade. This is distinctive as there are very little large scale organisations dedicated to providing finance to LEDCs to improve economic activity, because the World Bank is so large it can access a larger group of people benefiting them permanently.

Being able to measure wealth and quality of life allows us to subsequently split the world using GNI and GNP per person. The Brent line divides the world into two categories More Economically Developed (MEDC) in the north and the Less Economically Developed (LEDC) in the south. However, this is out of date as countries have developed largely from 1980 such as China which has seen exponential growth in the past 20 years. If you know which areas are less economically developed then you can address and focus on those areas more than MEDCs and subsequently allows us to prepare for the future. Another way to measure development could be through Gross National Happiness, this is being done in Bhutan. This makes human geography extremely unique as there is no other happiness test to work out development. This is an index which the collective happiness in any specification. It has nine factors including physiological well-being and good governance.

There are two main theory's first is the modernisation theory, this is the process of becoming more modern this is largely infrastructure focused. It says that that countries go through five interconnected stages of

development, which culminate in an economic state of self-sustained economic growth and high levels of mass consumption. However this large scale growth can cause serious negative externalities such as environment problems, pollution and deforestation. This is best presented in Rostow's five stages of growth. This is unique as it clearly displays an accurate timeline of countries' developments.

However, the model presumes all countries start with the same fundamentals "Several development decades have not measured up to expectations, especially in Africa and parts of South America" (Pieterse, J2010), plus the model is based on European countries, it doesn't include the developing world. The second theory is postcolonial theory this is an academic control that analyses, enlightens, and reacts to the cultural legacy of colonialism and imperialism. Post colonialism is about the human consequences of jurisdiction and economic corruption of a native people and their assets. Rostow's five stages is important because it allows us to identify trends in developing allowing us to prepare for the future and giving us a greater understanding of our country. (<https://developmentthinking.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/rostows.jpg>)

Urban geography is the study of urban spaces and urban ways of being.

"Urban geography seeks to explain the distribution of towns and cities and the socio-spatial similarities and contrasts that exist between and within them" (Pacione 2009: 3) In urban geography there are two main approaches, firstly the study of systems in the city (intermetropolitan) this considers the relationship among a group of cities. Secondly study of the city as a

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system (intrametropolitan) this highlights internal arrangements of humans, activates and institutions. The study of urban cities has shown there has been an exponential rise in the amount of people moving to urban areas and away from rural areas. This increase in density of people in a small city area comes with serious overpopulation issues. The study of human geography allows us to predict issues like this and it allows us to prepare and try and rectify the problem. As more people want to move to urban areas the demand increases, as a result of this rents and prices of accommodation and housing increase. This can lead to gentrification; this is the transformation of poor urban neighbourhoods into more affluent neighbourhoods. As the rents increase the original residents are forced to move away.

An example of this is seen in London, Shoreditch in East London.

Shoreditch is known as a creative unique area in London full of artists and designers. However, as it is so close to the financial district it is becoming more upscale and financial based, forcing residents out of their homes creating them into offices. This led to rioting by locals and the "Cereal killer café" was vandalized.

The way we experience cities is unique for everyone, some people usually experience others view it differently. 'we find alternative maps and views of the city, and can connect a range of senses to urban life and to an unconventional conception of policies' (Cloke, P Crang, P Goodwin, M. 2005).

Urban geography can benefit us it can give us a better appreciation of the economic of urban cities and this allows us to identify the structure involved in local, national, and international financial growth in a world where

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globalization is increasingly important. It can provide us with a framework for conceptualizing urbanism in conjunction with an appreciation of history and the relationships among art, culture, and society. Urban geography can help us understand, analyze, and interpret the landscapes and communities of cities and metropolitan areas around the world. In fact, urban geography is arguably one of the most important subdisciplines within geography, and especially within human geography. 'Leisure is ... best seen as time over which an individual exercises choice and in which that individual undertakes activities in a free, voluntary way.

' (C. Michael Hall and Page. S 2014) Freetime when you are not in work, education or carrying out necessary domestic behaviours and compulsory activities, for example sleeping and eating. There are three basic ways of thinking about leisure. Firstly, as (non-work) time, this means you are relating leisure to work. It is a specific measure of time that you are free from other obligations such as work. However, you can 'side hustle' when you enjoy a activity so you do it in your free time for economic benefit. This brings me onto the next form of leisure which is as an activity which are specific activities which an individual chose to do in their free time.

These can be beneficial such as going to the gym or playing football this improves health. However, you could be taking drugs or drinking which reduces your health. Thirdly there is leisure as an experience, this is the idea of choice. Leisure is something we chose to do during which we can make a choice in how to spend it, its self-determined. However, no leisure

experience is ever really free from communal, environmental or resource constraints.

This is unique as leisure is always changing as we are having more holidays and more leisure time than we use to, plus the types of activities we do have change for example 30 years ago for leisure you would read a book, nowadays people watch TV or play video games. There is also more opportunity for leisure activities because of the increase in availability of sports clubs and attractions. Moreover, we are more connected to leisure due to online and transport links so individuals