

Specimen Response for Study Theme 3E (Exemplar 2)

STUDY THEME 3E: THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (With the exception of the Republic of South Africa)

Question

Assess the effectiveness of aid in promoting development.

(15 marks)

Response

There are many factors that affect development in African countries such as natural disasters, debt, bad government, social problems and inappropriate aid. This essay will examine the role of Aid and its impact.

There are different types of aid. The most effective aid can either be short term to meet a sudden emergency e.g drought or long term where a country needs massive support to survive. When a country such as part of Sudan is in a terrible state then this is the best help for development.

Multilateral Aid is provided by many groups such as the European Union, African Union or United Nation. The African Union (AU) was set up in 1999 and tried to deal with the social, economic and political problems facing many African countries. Its aim is to get faster economic development. The AU has tried to set up armed forces to help countries. In 2005 AU sent over 1000 troops to Darfur in Sudan to try to protect people being attacked by armed groups. So this type of Aid can be important.

Another form of aid is Bilateral, this is when one government gives direct aid to another. However, this aid can be bad if it is in the form of Tied Aid. The poor country receiving the aid must spend the goods and services it receives in the donor country and not aid that is appropriate. They might be given money to build a dam which is built by the donor country and makes them richer. While the dam could destroy the way of life of the villagers and make them poor. This Aid can not only be not effective but can be bad for a country.

Good Aid can be effective if it involves local people and their needs. This aid can tackle issues that prevent development and so improve their education and health needs. Road building projects in Ethiopia have allowed farmers to reach markets to sell their crops and for remote villagers to receive medical help such as immunisation of children. This type of Aid is effective because it improves the social welfare of a country and makes it less dependent.

At present we give £13 billion a year to Africa and if this were to be doubled along with ending debt and the proper kind of aid, then aid would be an effective factor in development.

Another good example of effective aid is the help Britain gives to Ghana. By 2005 260 wells had been drilled in rural areas to give year round access to clean drinking water. People no longer have to queue for hours for water and suffer from water borne diseases. Children are healthier and can be well enough to learn at school.

Others argue that aid is not the answer and that many African countries become dependent on aid. Some argue that only Africans can bring progress to their countries. African countries need to be more democratic and to spend money on their people. We should not sell arms to African countries that are dictatorships.

The Make Poverty History campaign of 2005 should be put into action. Its aims are that all unpayable debts be cancelled and that all developed countries should spend 0.7% of their wealth on aid. And give most of it to the poorest countries in the world. If this happened then aid would be a major factor in achieving development.

However good aid can bring down the social and economic barriers to development and as such can be very effective.

In conclusion inappropriate aid can be damaging and therefore can be ineffective in development.

Marking Instructions for Study Theme 3E (Exemplar 2)

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Developed, exemplified, balanced and analytical answers may refer to:

- ◆ different forms of aid: multilateral, bilateral
- ◆ the role of the African Union, the EU, NGOs and UNO
- ◆ ways in which aid can achieve the eight millenium goals: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; reduce child mortality; universal primary education; combat AIDS, malaria and other diseases; promote gender equality and empower women; improve maternal health; ensure environmental sustainability; develop a global partnership for development.
- ◆ inappropriate and ineffective aid, the role of tied aid
- ◆ other factors that effect development including: government corruption, agricultural policies and land distribution, natural disasters, internatiomnally imposed restructuring programmes, social factors
- ◆ other relevant points.

‘Achieve’ answers must feature both knowledge and understanding (with reference to specific African countries) and analysis.

Comments on Specimen Answer to Study Theme 3E (Exemplar 2)

This candidate shows awareness of the different forms of aid and has good, recent exemplification. Sometimes the language and the approach is slightly simplistic but the knowledge and understanding and assessment are good.

Some points are crying out for development e.g. ‘This type of aid is important because it improves the social welfare of a country....’ and ‘...only Africans can bring progress to their countries’. There is a failure to explain the meaning of development.

However, this is a good answer which links the knowledge and understanding and analysis to the question and is an A pass.

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