C/W - Qu: What is the development continuum?

- Aim: To know there is a continuum of development from 'highly developed' countries to those with a 'low level' of development and that countries can move up and down this.

- Starter: Correct the following:

I need to be able to describe and explain what development means. I need to know the economic, demographic, social, political and cultural changes that are associated with development. The changes that take place as a county develops.

The level of development of a country can be placed on a continuum. A continuum is a continuous line or such session where no part can be distinguished from neighbouring parts except by arbitrary division. Rostow's model was similar to this but cannot be seen as a true continuum. Y?
Development and globalisation

Development – economic, demographic, social, political and cultural changes associated with development; the development continuum.

Globalisation – factors and dimensions: flows of capital, labour, products and services; global marketing; patterns of production, distribution and consumption.

Patterns and processes

Newly industrialised countries (NICs): their initial growth, with particular reference to the ‘Asian Tiger’ economies.

Further growth of NICs, with particular reference to China.

Globalisation of services, with particular reference to India.

Growth in the 21st century – the impact of new markets and new technologies (for example in Brazil, Russia and oil-producing countries).

Countries at very low levels of economic development

Characteristics and issues – quality of life, debt, social problems.

Global social and economic groupings

The concept of the North/South divide, and its relationship to the development continuum.

Reasons for the social and economic groupings of nations, with particular reference to the European Union.

The consequences of the groupings of nations.

Aspects of globalisation

Transnational corporations (TNCs): characteristics and spatial organisation.

Reasons for the growth and the spatial organisation of transnational corporations (TNCs).

Case study of one TNC should be undertaken.

Social, economic and environmental impacts of TNCs on their host countries, and their countries of origin.

Development issues within the world (each to be studied with reference to contrasting areas of the world)

‘Trade versus aid’.

‘Economic sustainability versus environmental sustainability’.

‘Sustainable tourism, myth or reality’.
One of the earliest attempts to model the economic changes associated with development was of course Rostow’s Model.

- **Stage 1**: vast majority
- **Stage 2**: vast majority
- **Stage 3**: declining
- **Stage 4**: few
- **Stage 5**: very few

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Tertiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>vast majority</td>
<td>very few</td>
<td>very few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>vast majority</td>
<td>few</td>
<td>very few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>declining</td>
<td>rapid growth</td>
<td>few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>few</td>
<td>stable</td>
<td>growing rapidly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>very few</td>
<td>declining</td>
<td>vast majority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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But can we say that Rostow’s model is a continuum? It has stages after all!

e.g. as a country develops, it changes!
Associated with these **economic** changes are usually changes to the:

- demographic structure of a country (declining birth rate and increased life expectancy)

- nature of society e.g. more equal distribution of wealth, education, health care etc

- political structure (increasing participation/democracy??)

- culture - with more education, greater literacy, equality for women etc
And of course in society (and Geography) we like to label things as it helps us to talk about the world and different places.

Your names for example. We don't just say "Oi Blondy" or "Oi stupid"….we say Josie or Jake!

The names of countries

LEDCs

MEDCs

NICS

Imagine saying "oh yes, India is a country that is three quarters of the way along the development continuum" instead of just being able to say "India is an NIC". Ridiculous!
- **Least developed country** (LDC) is the name given to a country which according to the United Nations exhibit the lowest indicators of socioeconomic development with the lowest Human Development Index ratings of all countries in the world.

- **Emerging or Developing country** (EDCs) describes a nation with a low level of material well being that is above the LDCs and is in the early stages of developing industry.

- **Rapidly Industrialising Countries** (RICs) are countries which have moved beyond EDCs as they begin to industrialise rapidly but are not yet at the stage of NICs.

- **Newly Industrialised Countries** (NICs) are countries whose economies have not yet reached 'First World' status but have, in a macroeconomic sense, outpaced their developing counterparts.

- **More Developed Country** (MDC or MEDC) is the name given to a country which according to the United Nations exhibit the highest indicators of socioeconomic development with the lowest Human Development Index ratings of all countries in the world.
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In 2007, the United Nations graduated Cape Verde from the category of Least Developed Countries. This is only the second time it has happened to a country. The first country to graduate from LDC status was Botswana in 1994. Samoa may become the third country to graduate in this manner.

- **But note:** all these classifications are dynamic and also dependent on the variables being used to measure development.

So the level of development of countries changes!

(it is called development after all)
So far we have discussed how at one time it was common to define countries as developed, less developed and least developed. Then the terms MEDC and LEDC were used because countries can be economically poor but culturally/socially/environmentally very highly developed countries. There was an emphasis on developing 'economically'.

We also looked at the Brandt commission and how it divided the world into a rich north and poor south and the subsequent problems with this. The fall of the Soviet Bloc countries and their further poverty weakened the expression 'North-South' divide, as did the fact many 'southern', 'developing' countries such as the Asian Tigers are now developed, and other NICs are crossing over the divide.

We then discussed how all these terms have one common fault: not all countries can be neatly categorised like this.

The North South divide has now been re-named the 'Development Gap'. This better illustrates the fact that while there are differences between countries, where they are in 'developmental terms' can change because the gap can 'narrow'. It reminds us development is a process. It is dynamic. It also places greater emphasis on closing the gap between rich and poor countries.

Instead of putting countries in categories, they are now thought of as being on a continuum from highly developed countries to those with a very low level of development. There are no real definite stages along this continuum. India, for example, is not exactly the same as Malaysia yet they are both NICs. Countries can and have also moved up and down this continuum as shown by the Asian Tigers and now by NICs such as India and China.

One thing that is clear is that the further up the continuum you go, the larger the development gap is: the difference between richer and poorer countries. This is a gap that the development process aims to close.
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The Continuum of Development

[Diagram showing the Continuum of Development with countries placed along the spectrum, including Least Developed Countries, Emerging and developing countries, Rapidly Industrialising Countries, Newly Industrialised Countries, and More Economically Developed Countries.]

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*but they are not stages!*
How does this method of presenting the data help us understand the main themes of the development continuum? Hand out sheet.
A2 Blog Homework 2

Due:

http://beechencliffschoolgeography.edublogs.org/
2. Take a copy of the development continuum hand out. Read it again carefully.

3. What is the development continuum? Write your own definition in under 50 words.

4. Why is the idea of the 'development continuum' and the 'development gap' starting to replace old classifications of development?

5. Why doesn’t it have any clear stages?

6. What might happen to a country's place on the continuum if it starts to industrialise rapidly and it pumps money in to education and health care?

7. What might happen to a country if it goes through a prolonged period of war or famine or drought or corrupt government?

8. - As one country moves up the continuum, what is (generally) happening to other countries on it as well?
   - What does this mean for the country?
   - What will it probably never do?
   - If one country stays still, and others move up the continuum, what will happen to the development gap?
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Write a ‘what if?’ question for someone else to answer based on the development continuum.
Handouts
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