

Comparing Economic Systems

Directions: You will analyze several aspects of five (5) nations in order to evaluate some of the differences between their economic systems.

Using the [CIA World Factbook](#), look through the main category tabs. Compile data for each question for each of the five countries. The first four (4) countries have been selected for you. You must also choose a fifth country to research.

Once you have compiled the data for each country, you will analyze that data in order to draw conclusions and/or make inferences to help you answer the assignment's final questions.

Completion Method: To compile your data, you may use any number of presentation methods including (but not limited to): Google Docs/Word, PowerPoint/Slides, Excel/Sheets, etc. Credit will only be issued if the student clearly labels the data, and restates each question. So, be sure to clearly label ALL category headings AND include the questions to differentiate the data in each category and/or question.

Required Countries: United States, North Korea, Chad, China, and one (1) additional country of your choice.

Categories and Questions: Read through each category and compile the necessary data listed for each section.

Geography

- What natural resources are available? (List them all.)
- What percentage of the land is considered agricultural?
- What percentage of the land is arable?

People and Society

- What is the total population?
- What are the birth and death rates (usually listed per 1,000 people)?
- What is the net migration rate (per 1,000 people)?
- What is the life expectancy of the total population?
- What is the total fertility rate?
- What percentage of GDP is spent on healthcare?
- What is the literacy rate (i.e. the percentage of the population that is able to read)?

Government

- What system of government does the country have?

Economy

- What is the GDP (purchasing power parity figure)?
- What is the per capita GDP?
- What agricultural products does the nation produce?
- What are the nation's primary industries?
- What is the unemployment rate?
- What percentage of the population lives below the poverty line?
- What is the percentage of GDP by sector origin?
- Provide a breakdown of the labor force by population (as a percentage for each category).
- What is the dollar amount value of exports? Imports?

Communications

- What is the total number of fixed lines and mobile cellular in the country?
- What percentage of the population uses the internet?

Military

- Is military service required or voluntary?
- What percentage of the GDP is military expenditures?

Directions: The student will answer the following questions after having gathered ALL data from the CIA World Fact Book in each category for each country.

NOTE: To accurately answer these questions, the student must analyze ALL the information gathered by comparing the data in each separate category for each country being studied. If it is necessary to go back and do a more thorough collection, and presentation, of the data in each category for each county, then do it.

Use complete sentences to answer each question.

1. Look back at the system of government each country has. Now, look at the GDP for each country. From what you have previously learned about the different types of economic systems (capitalist, mixed, command, etc.) what conclusion(s) may be made about a nation's economic output in relation to the system of government that nation has?
2. Look back at the following categories for each country researched: Total Population; Birth and Death Rates; and Life Expectancy. Now, look at the Percentage of GDP that is spent on healthcare expenditures. Does the amount of money spent on health care appear to directly relate to longer life expectancy, population, and birth and death rates? Explain why you think there may, or may not, be a direct relationship between those things.
3. Compare the list of each nation's natural resources. Now, look at the total GDP, and per capita GDP, of each nation. Is it reasonable to say that the more resources a country has readily available (naturally occurring not imported) directly correlates with each country's GDP? In other words, does having more natural resources mean that a nation will automatically produce more wealth?
4. Look at each country's military expenditures (in terms of total GDP spent on the military). Next, look at the terms in which people serve in the military: is military service mandatory or voluntary? Now, compare each country's total GDP. Is there any correlation between how much money a nation spends on its military and the total GDP? Explain your answer (yes or no answers are not enough - put some thought into your answer).