

Case Study Name:	Greenland - Environmental risks of economic development		Key Terms: • Mineral (oil) exploitation • environmental impact assessments	
Section of the Specification:	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
Location: Greenland, East of Canada West of Iceland	Town/City/Region: All over Greenland		Country: GREENLAND	Continent: MULTI-CONTINENTAL/ UNCLAIMED
Key Information:			Causes/Theory:	
What? • Increased exploitation of natural resources • Increased tourism • oil exploit pumping • mineral mining	When? • There have been major changes to the traditional pattern of fishing, fish processing and seal hunting in the last 10 years			
Why? • melting icecaps have caused more land and minerals to be left free • Greenland advertises for ecotourism because of it's (untouched nature)	Facts and Figures: • Greenland is a 'cold desert' as no rainfall exists here • In the winter you can have up to 24 hrs of darkness • world's largest island • 95% covered in ice • 55000 inhabitants all live on the coast • 1% is suitable for agriculture			
Effects:			Solutions:	
<u>Political</u> • international problems as Greenland is using water that it claims to be it's own but which Russia, Denmark, Canada, etc. claim to be theirs. • more trade due to oil and mineral mining	<u>Economic</u> - valuable minerals may bring ^{riches/wealth} • has created jobs for local people in tourism and mining • mining has brought money into the economy • entry into the oil and mineral industry, especially oil may bring great riches in the face of ^{oil shortages} world	<u>What has/could be done? By whom?</u> • Companies (especially mining) have to prepare detailed social and environmental impact assessments to show the impacts of their projects • Exploitation of resources closely monitored • companies have to make plans on how to ensure minimal damage of their project to natural landscape • subsonic-low fuel is available for aircraft	<u>Are they Sustainable? Why/Why not?</u> • sustainable due to Greenland being and MEDC and laws for natural preservation being capable of being enforced properly by the government • Ecotourism already exists and is working well	
<u>Environmental</u> - preservation of environment • icecaps melting takes away habitat of many animals • increased tourism will lead to increased air pollution as aeroplanes pump gas into the air • oil and mineral mining may destroy landscape and ground water.	<u>Social</u> • more jobs for local people, outside of the fishing industry • more cultural diversity due to tourism and migration due to more job opportunity			
Possible Exam Question:	Describe an area where economic development has had impacts on the environment and solutions to these problems.			