

The
Management
University
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POST GRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP
DEGREE OF MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**MDS 509: DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND POLICY
FORMULATION IN AFRICA**

DATE: 1ST APRIL 2026

DURATION: 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 60

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **FOUR (4)** questions.
4. Question **ONE is compulsory.**
5. Answer any other **TWO** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **30 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Development planning can be either physical or spatial in the context of town, country and rural planning, or conceptual, outlining strategies and priorities aimed at ensuring the optimal allocation and use of resources. In the conceptual context, development planning has been used in peacetime as well as in wartime (for example, in the post-World War II Marshall Plan), and has been applied under all systems of government, be they socialist, totalitarian, democratic or capitalist. The scope of this study is confined to conceptual planning. Furthermore, this study distinguishes between the use of planning as a stabilization mechanism and planning as a tool for socioeconomic transformation. Stabilization planning, often referred to as anti-cyclical planning, aims to stimulate growth in periods of recession or slow growth. Unlike anti-cyclical planning, development planning goes beyond merely promoting growth by facilitating economic and social progress and unlocking the binding constraints that stand in the way of such progress. This often requires promoting institutional and structural reforms.

The distinction between anti-cyclical and development planning was aptly captured by the Vice Chairman of Indonesia's Supreme Advisory Council: "Countries such as Indonesia should be fully aware of the difference in nature between planning as a feature of society, where the "target" is to build a new society, and the planning of development projects, where the "target" is a specific item of development." The second objective of planning should be subservient to the first which is primary" (Waterston, 1969). Anti-cyclical planning is often undertaken in more developed societies where institutions and markets function reasonably well. By contrast, transformative measures are required in developing countries where institutional and market failures are pervasive, savings are low, infrastructure is weak, and foreign investments are concentrated in

extractive sectors which are of limited benefit to the bulk of the population. The structural adjustment programmes imposed on African countries in the early 1980s can be described as an example of the application of anti-cyclical planning measures to address the structural challenges of developing countries, albeit with limited success.

There is no single definition of development planning. However, broadly speaking development planning involves the formulation of a national programme of action for achieving development objectives. Waterston defines planning as an organized, conscious and continual attempt to select the best available alternatives to achieve specific goals (Waterston, 1969). Todaro defines it as: "... a deliberate governmental attempt to coordinate economic decision making over the long run and to influence the level of growth of a nation's principal socioeconomic variables to achieve a predetermined set of development objectives" (Todaro and Smith, 2006). Other scholars define economic development planning as an ideal way for a Government to set out its development objectives and to demonstrate initiative in tackling the country's development problems.

According to this view, development plans must: have predetermined and well-defined objectives; be controlled by a central authority (i.e. the State or Government); strive for optimal utilization of factors of production; and achieve their objectives within a given interval of time. Development planning is most justified in an economy when it corrects market failures, contributes to the good use of all resources, supports effective resource mobilization and allocation and contributes to market integration. Planning can be undertaken at the national, sub-national or multinational levels. Multinational plans straddle more than one country or national jurisdiction, and may include a whole regional bloc (e.g. the African Union Agenda 2063). Sub-national plans, on the other hand, refer to the development plans of provinces, localities and other decentralized bodies within a nation.

Required:

a) Using the case study explain the distinction between anti-cyclical and development planning as aptly captured by the Vice Chairman of Indonesia's Supreme Advisory Council. **(10 Marks)**

b) From the case above, expound on conceptual planning using five ideologies from the case above. **(10 Marks)**

c) Describe five views of the development plan as indicated in the case above. **(10 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO

a) Discuss why development planning is said to be imperative for developing countries. **(10 Marks)**

b) Discuss Ownership as an element of development planning. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

a) Techniques and instruments of planning make economic planning essential. Analyse the following techniques.

i) Mixed Medium **(3 Marks)**

ii) Indication **(3 Marks)**

b) A national government wants to reduce overcrowding in a few major cities and encourage development in lagging regions. Which spatial policy instrument most directly targets this goal?

(9 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a)** Distinguish between procedural and substantive spatial policy instruments, using examples from European or African urban contexts. Assess their effectiveness in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). **(4 Marks)**
- b)** Development plan preparation in Africa involves structured processes aligned with continental frameworks like Agenda 2063. Execution relies on multi-stakeholder coordination, while monitoring and evaluation ensure adaptive implementation. Discuss the preparation process. **(11 Marks)**