



Infrastructure: A Bridge Out of Poverty

Major Field of National Security	Module	Unit	Topic
Economic Security	The Individual and Society	Human Rights	Infrastructure: A Bridge Out of Poverty

Suggested Levels: S4-6

Summary of the Learning Topic:

The learning topic aims to guide students to understand the importance of safeguarding our country's economic security, and how this can be achieved through infrastructure development and poverty alleviation.

Learning Objectives:

Content

To explore and develop understanding of the following:

- the importance of safeguarding the economic security of our country;
- the strategies implemented to safeguard economic security in our country; and
- how students can raise their schoolmates' awareness of economic security at school.

Language

To develop English language knowledge and skills, e.g.

- the use of passive voice to place emphasis on the action and/or result; and
- the use of a variety of sentence patterns to explain reasons and consequences and compare different scenarios or outcomes.

Learning Tasks:

- **Part 1 – Warm-up Activities:** Students understand through a video the importance of infrastructure development to economic security.
- **Part 2 – Group Interaction:** Students participate in a group discussion about the issue of safeguarding economic security in our country.
- **Part 3 – Individual Presentation:** Students respond to a question relating to enhancing competitiveness and success in the high-quality economic development of the country.

Part 1 – Warm-up Activities

- i. Before exploring the topic, write down in the box below what you know about economic security.

You may refer to the webpage on “Major Fields of National Security” (https://www.nsed.gov.hk/national_security/index.php?l=en&a=national_security_main_focus&d=economic_security) for some ideas.



A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed blue border, intended for students to write their initial thoughts on economic security.

- ii. Watch the following video from *The China Current* and answer the questions that follow.

Poverty is in the Past for this Asian Community



<https://chinacurrent.com/story/23944/poverty-is-in-the-past-for-this-asian-community>

1. What role do infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges and railways play in alleviating poverty?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. How has the Beipanjiang Bridge impacted travel between Liupanshui and Xuanwei?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. How has Guizhou Province been impacted by public infrastructure projects?

- (A) They have made Guizhou the most populated province in China.
- (B) They have transformed the living and economic environment of the province.
- (C) They have ensured that all travel between cities takes under one hour.
- (D) They have resulted in the province becoming entirely independent of trade.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. How did China contribute to the global reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty? Name the three “pivot points” that help make this change happen.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Part 2 – Group Interaction

Situation: Your class is going to discuss the issue of safeguarding economic security. Your group has found some relevant information online about maintaining sustained, rapid, and healthy economic development in rural areas of China. Read the article and **conduct a discussion of 10-15 minutes in groups of 3-4**. You may make use of information from the video in Part 1 and the text below.

Poverty alleviation in China, up close

In 2018, I visited a village in Yunnan province. At the time of my visit, the village looked very modern, with paved roads, electricity, street lights and other public utilities. During my trip, the villagers showed a picture of their home from two years before. **Compared to** the half-ruined dwellings, the current infrastructure was significantly more extensive, **resulting in** improved living conditions and greater economic viability. The source of this remarkable transformation was an unlikely one: Cactus! **Due to** support from a government poverty fighting team, microcredits were given to the locals, and several greenhouses were built to raise cacti.

Living far from large cities where potential customers could be found, the villagers faced two issues: How to keep the business growing, and how to deliver the products to customers. A solution to the first problem was in the fast-developing e-commerce sector. The farmers created an account on the e-commerce platform Taobao, where they posted pictures and product listings. Customer inquiries were replied to by the farmers in turns, and their marketing strategy was structured through collaborative effort. **As a result of** their hard work and consistency, their cacti became popular among plant-lovers throughout China.

To make extreme poverty a thing of the past, the first step the Chinese government took was to build roads, bridges, railways and stations. **While** infrastructure does not directly target poverty, it offers a more sustainable solution than short-term aid by facilitating easier access to markets. The latter stages of poverty alleviation, which is called targeted poverty alleviation, was even more complicated. Officials were assigned to live in poor villages for one to three years. These working team members had to live in the villages for a long time to understand local problems and to gain trust. The Chinese model includes providing microcredit and sending specialists so that their knowledge, information and skills could be shared.

My encounter with poverty alleviation and socioeconomic development in China led me to appreciate China's unique methods of governance, which required a great deal of courage to find developmental model that works for itself. I believe countries all over the world should focus on their internal issues and build their own models to govern according to their specific characteristics and history.

(Adapted from <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202309/01/WS64f12f66a310d2dce4bb3483.html>)

Discussion Topic:

Your group is going to discuss the issue of safeguarding economic security in our country. You may want to talk about:

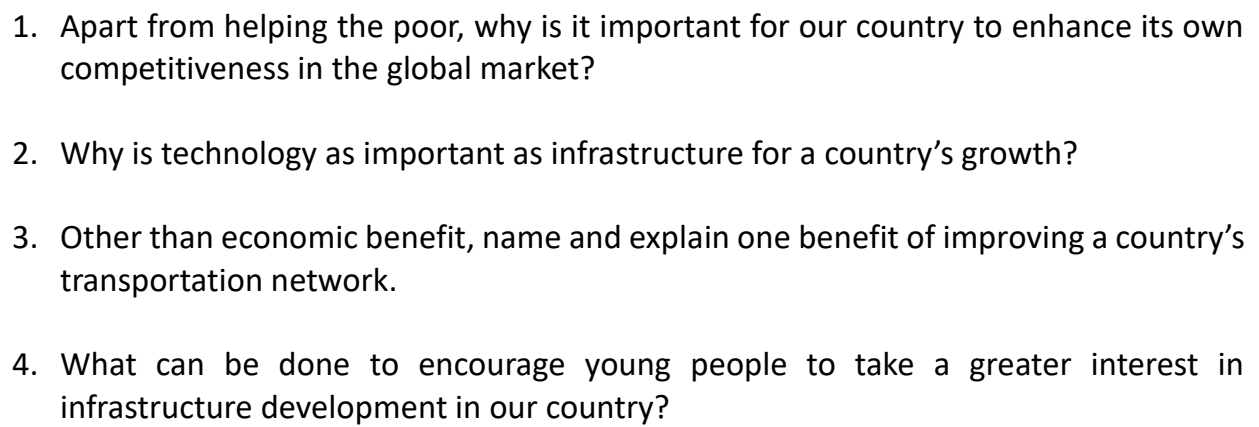
- the importance of economic security to our country
- how infrastructure development (physical and digital) contributes to safeguarding economic security
- what can be done to prevent poverty from returning
- how students can better prepare themselves to contribute to the economic security and development of our country
- anything else you think is important

Notes



Part 3 – Individual Response

In this part, each of the group members will take turns to **give a short speech of about one minute** on one of the following questions.

- 
1. Apart from helping the poor, why is it important for our country to enhance its own competitiveness in the global market?
 2. Why is technology as important as infrastructure for a country's growth?
 3. Other than economic benefit, name and explain one benefit of improving a country's transportation network.
 4. What can be done to encourage young people to take a greater interest in infrastructure development in our country?

