

Econ Club - Levelling Up (Ben Gardiner) Resources

Questions for Further Discussion/Debate

1. How do you think we can best measure the degree of spatial inequality around the UK?
2. How can economic theory help us to understand why these imbalances have evolved?
3. Should we even try to level up/reduce the UK spatial inequalities?
4. Even if we wanted to, can we really solve the issue without more fundamental changes?
5. Do you think the recently announced policies of fiscal relaxation (the 'mini-budget') will help to reduce spatial inequalities in the UK?

Source Based Questions

The questions below are all linked to the sources above them. Read through the sources prior to answering the questions.

[IMF – What is Keynesian Economics](#)

[The Open University – The Neoclassical School of Thought and Its Rivals](#)

1. Using the sources above, explain 3-4 core tenets of neoclassical economics and Keynesian economics.
2. Explain how each school of thought would approach the idea of levelling up.

[The Telegraph – Doncaster Sheffield Airport to Close in Blow for Levelling Up Agenda](#)

1. "Regional airports are crucial to her economic growth plans". Explain the likely economic effect of protecting regional airports.

[The Guardian – The Rocky Road to Regeneration of Post-Industrial Areas](#)

1. "The thinktank Centre for Cities recently analysed a century of data about urban Britain, and found that it's not enough just to find relatively low-skilled jobs to replace those lost when a steel plant or a coal mine closes." Explain the consequences of replacing industrial jobs with low skilled jobs.
2. Explain how agglomeration affects help to spur economic growth.
3. When trying to address regional inequalities, is it more important to focus attention on human capital, or physical capital? Explain your answer.

[LSE – Bridging the Productivity Gap Between Different Areas in the UK](#)

1. Explain how the UK's reliance on the services sector has helped to embed regional disparities in productivity.
2. "As the UK's specialism in high-value tradable services has grown so too has the importance of size and skills and the role of intangibles (such as research and development capital) and information and communications technologies (ICT) equipment." Explain the likely impact that intangibles and ICT equipment may have on productivity.
3. "For a more-or-less fully employed economy like the UK's, increasing investment at anything more than a glacial pace will mean less consumption, or more overseas borrowing." Using a PPF diagram, explain the quote above.

Further Reading

- [Levelling Up White Paper – UK Government](#)
- [Levelling Up: Five questions about what the government means by the phrase – Institute for Government](#)
- [Levelling Up: An Anthology – The Bennett Institute for Public Policy, Cambridge](#)

- [People, Places and Politics: the challenge of 'levelling up' the UK – Centre for Economic Performance, LSE](#)
- [The elusive quest for balanced regional growth from Barlow to Brexit: Lessons from partitioning regional employment growth in Great Britain](#)