The level of a country's development shows how economically, socially, culturally, or technologically advanced it is.

How successfully a country develops is influenced by environmental, economic, and social factors. Environmental factors include physical geography. Mountainous terrain, for example, can make trade and communications difficult.

Coastlines and rivers allow a country to trade through the export and import of goods, helping it to make money.

Natural hazards, such as tropical storms and floods, are environmental factors which might make development difficult. Having large reserves of a natural resource such as oil can benefit economic development. If a country is able to harness these, as Saudi Arabia has done, for example.

Economic factors which affect development include poor infrastructure for services such as energy, transport, communications, and the internet, which may all hinder a country's economy from growing.

If a country's economy is highly dependent on the primary or secondary sector, then it will often be less prosperous than a country with a greater proportion of tertiary and quaternary employment.

Social factors affecting development may include historical and political factors too. Historical factors include the legacy of colonialism.

From the early 14th century, countries, including Britain, began colonising large areas of the world. These colonising countries benefited economically from the empire, especially through exploiting the colonised countries' resources, removing their governments, and enslaving their people.

Political factors include government instability, which can result in violence and civil war. These contribute to falling standards of living and contracting economies. We can see it's not just one factor that influences a country's ability to develop.

Environmental, economic, and social elements all play a part. They are often intertwined with each other, so it's important to take a broad view when looking to explain any country's development.