# **As a group, pick any two prompts and compose a 250-500-word response to each. Grading will be based off the rubric found in the syllabus.**

1. Development tends to be slower the stronger a nation’s barriers to the fundamental structural changes.
   1. For your own country, or for a less-developed nation about which you know something, list three specific obstacles that you think may be acting to slow the pace of economic development. Indicate whether each is an internal or an external barrier.
   2. Explain how each obstacle acts to retard economic progress.
2. Transnational corporations (TNCs) often are the target of criticism for their alleged detrimental impact on the economic welfare of less-developed nations. Their operations in the less-developed world are often controversial and evoke strong emotional responses. In actuality, the operations of TNCs can be either positive or negative in their consequences.

List and explain

* 1. two possible advantages that TNCs might provide to the less-developed nations where they operate
  2. two possible disadvantages that might result in those nations from the operations of TNCs within their borders.
  3. how a country might go about attempting to maximize the net benefits from the location of foreign TNCs within its economy.

1. Being a former colony has no impact on the path of development a country takes. Discuss
2. Income per capita is the best measure of development. Discuss
3. [The Better Life Index](https://tinyco.re/2887644), was created by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It lets you design a measure of the quality of life in a country by deciding how much weight to put on each component of the index.
   1. Should a better life index include the following elements: income, housing, jobs, community, education, environment, civic engagement, health, life satisfaction, safety, and work-life balance? For each of these elements, explain why or why not.
   2. Use the Better Life Index tool to create your own better life index for the country where you are living. How does this country score on the topics that are important to you?
   3. Rank the countries in the database using your own newly created better life index and compare it with a ranking based exclusively on income.
   4. For both of these indices, choose two countries with contrasting rankings and briefly suggest why this may be the case.
4. All countries are subject to path dependence. This simply means that past decisions, and past history, affect the present conditions and possibilities for the future.
   1. What is meant by adverse path dependence?
   2. What role did colonialism play in creating adverse path dependence?
   3. How can countries that were former colonies overcome adverse path dependence?
   4. What specific changes would you suggest be undertaken by now-independent countries with economic structures shaped by colonialism?