

## A2 / IB essay assignment

Specification	Case study connections
<p><b>AQA (Unit 3 option)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The geographical basis of conflict</li> <li>• Conflict resolution</li> </ul>	<p>Multiple geographical factors can be explored as causes of the Congo Wars - and efforts at conflict resolution must be explicitly examined.</p>
<p><b>IB Geography (Paper 1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Populations in transition</li> <li>• Disparities in wealth and development</li> </ul>	<p>The Congo Wars have impacted on human welfare and resulted in forced migration. The conflict has interfered with MDG progress.</p>
<p><b>Edexcel Geography (Unit 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consequences of the 'development gap'</li> <li>• The development gap often has an ethnic and/or religious dimension ... and can be associated with migrations, social unrest and new political movements</li> </ul>	<p>Poverty in DR Congo has multiple and complex causes. Ethnicity – and the diaspora status of many groups spread across central African states – is an important dimension to the development gap in this conflict and a major cause of unrest.</p>

**Discuss the role that poverty and natural resource availability play in the outbreak of armed conflicts. (10 marks)**

### Examiner tips

- This AQA-style question is asking for a focus on two possible causes of conflict – poverty and natural resources.
- A good answer will consider the role of both factors in turn, perhaps weighing up whether poverty is indeed the stronger influence of the two in a variety of contexts.
- The best answers may show that the two factors are in fact interlinked. Where extreme poverty is found, such as in many African states, people may be more likely to take desperate measures to seize control of resources in the hope that wealth will follow.
- Of course, there are other factors to consider too: poverty does not automatically make people lawless! Corrupt politicians, failed governance structures and ethnic rivalries may be amongst the possible triggers needed to additionally bring about resource conflicts (as a group of people may become militarized if they lose faith in the state's ability to deliver any alternative way out of poverty for them and their families). The role of these additional factors may be discussed.