2° OIB D.N.L. Geography: Theme 2
Case study of development and inequalities in Russia

PART TWO

1. A continent spanning State, rich in resources

Hydrocarbon reserves

Uranium

Gold, diamonds

Iron and non-ferrous metals

Cultivated land (cereals)

Taiga and conifer forests

Towns (enabling resource exploitation)

Polar Tundra and mountains

Permanent Ice banks

Permafrost limit

2. Photograph of the city of Norilsk, a degraded environmental inheritance from the Soviet Union:

Norilsk is an industrial town expanded by Stalin in 1935 to exploit minerals. Today the Norilsk Nickel Company produces 20% of all nickel in the world. Life expectancy for the workers is 10 years less than the Russian average.

Learn more about the closed city of Norilsk here:
http://theprotocity.com/norilsk_closed_cit/

Watch this excellent, sad, moving video about Norilsk here: (11m):
https://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/545228/my-deadly-beautiful-city-norilsk/

3. Demographic and socio-economic challenges facing Russia

- Lack of manpower -

Russia, which currently has a population of 146.9 million, has lost more than five million inhabitants since 1991, a consequence of the serious demographic crisis that followed the fall of the Soviet Union.
The first generation born in the post-Soviet years, which were marked by a declining birth rate, is now entering the labour market, which is likely to see a shortage of qualified manpower and a resultant curb on economic growth.

- Retirement age -

The retirement age in Russia -- 55 for women and 60 for men -- is among the lowest in the world.
While state pensions are very low, with the demographic decline the system still represents a growing burden for the federal budget…. tampering with this Soviet-era social benefit may prove unpopular in a country where retirees often have trouble making ends meet with their meagre pensions.

- Diversified economy

Rich in vast reserves of hydrocarbons, Russia is at the mercy of fluctuations in their prices, as shown by the 2015-2016 crisis. The "economy remains structurally dependent on the commodities sector, which is clearly negative for the growth outlook," according to Alfa Bank.

To wean itself off this dependence, Weafer (former finance minister) suggests investing in entrepreneurs and small businesses by making "money for investment and consumption more affordable and more easily available". He also said Russia should encourage investment into "robotics, smart technologies, artificial intelligence".

https://www.france24.com/en/20180319-russia-five-economic-challenges-facing-putin

PART TWO: ACTIVITIES

1. (Using document 1) To what extent is Russia a resource rich state (your paragraph length response should describe the range and location of different resources and comment on their varying locations)?

2. Read the article and watch the video about Norilsk (identify it's location from the map in document 1). What is your reaction to what you have learnt about this closed city (you should aim to give a **thoughtful insight** of around 8-10 lines)?

3. Using information from all documents, examine the map entitled '**Map showing development and Inequalities in Russia'** very carefully.

You will need to create 10 symbols for the legend and a title for the first six symbols next to (1), the last four symbols already have the title **(2) Russia in development**.

4 of the symbols will be **areas**
1 will be a **point**
5 symbols will be **arrows / lines**

(See OIB Methodology document booklet Part One, (on Google Drive) for a reminder about how information is categorized on a map).

Map showing development and Inequalities in Russia

Legend

1) _____

Central economic motor: high population density and diversified activities

Integrated periphery: unequally populated and with highly exploited resources

Moscow: fragmented global city

Major Hydrocarbon reserves: basis of primary export economic model

Hydrocarbon exports

Principal communication axes

2) Russia in development

Marginal periphery: low population density (extremely cold and isolated)

Internal migration flows

Northern Maritime routes which are becoming navigable due to climate change

Arctic exploration paths (potential hydrocarbon reserves)