UNIT 2 GEOGRAPHIES OF HUMAN WELLBEING

TOPIC 12
Trapped by conflict

12.1 Overview

Numerous videos and interactivities are embedded just where you need them, at the point of learning, in your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. They will help you to learn the content and concepts covered in this topic.

12.1.1 Introduction

People’s wellbeing is put under stress when a country’s development is threatened by pressures on society, economies, politics and the environment. Sometimes the tension results in outbreaks of conflict.

Societies pressure governments for change. Improvements are sought in living conditions, and freedoms may be demanded. Tension can spill over into conflict. People can find themselves forced to fight or flee.

Over time, countries change, but always somewhere in the world there are people trapped by conflict.

Conflicts in Libya
Starter questions
1. Make a list of the best things in your life — those things that make you content.
2. List some conflicts that affect you. Are these personal conflicts that affect your wellbeing, or related to the wellbeing of your community?
3. In the media there is often reference to people whose wellbeing has been affected. In the past month, recall those places and people that you have heard about or seen mentioned.
4. Conflicts in places on the other side of the world can affect you. How do some of these conflicts connect with your life?

INQUIRY SEQUENCE
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12.3 Why is there conflict over land?
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12.2 Where is wellbeing affected by conflict?

12.2.1 Global conflicts

Figure 1 shows an uneven distribution of conflict affecting wellbeing across the world in the early twenty-first century. By 2016 there were 31 active armed and numerous other conflicts of varying degrees of intensity. Most conflicts are civil wars, where the victims are mostly the residents of the country. In World War I, less than 5 per cent of the casualties were civilians; however, in today’s conflicts the figure is nearer 80 per cent.

12.2.2 Three ways to identify conflicts

Cause of conflict

- Religious and cultural conflicts are based predominantly on characteristics of people or society. The breakup of Yugoslavia (1992–95) into Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia saw the mass movement of ethnic groups to areas of safety.
- Economic conflicts involve monetary value. Securing the supply of oil from the Middle East, including shipping routes, has been important to the wellbeing of Americans. Large-scale deforestation and mining across Asia has destroyed the environment, forced people off the land and brought conflict between users of the land.
- Resource conflicts are those where resource distribution and use are the issue. A river crossing national borders is prone to manipulation of river flows, such as along the Nile River.
- Political conflicts can arise where people speak their opinions. The search for democracy across the Arab world (ongoing) signifies a break from dictatorships.
• Land conflicts, or territorial disputes, are often ongoing issues or revivals of past situations; for example, the consequence of colonialism. Conflict in the Middle East between Palestine and Israel, for instance, is an ongoing issue with British and French colonialism a key factor in its development.

**FIGURE 1** World conflicts, 2015

Length of conflict

Short-term conflicts are those that last a limited time and have reduced ongoing impact on people. Long-term conflicts are those in which months or years are taken for a resolution to be achieved, and where even then there are ongoing tensions.

Scale of conflict

International conflicts about the power to control land and civil conflict can destroy a nation. Conflict at this scale may become war. Small-scale or local conflicts are disagreements, generally over planning issues, which enter a dispute phase. The establishment of wind farms across southern Australia triggered conflict in local communities. Coal seam gas explorations in New South Wales and Queensland have had protest groups on the march.

Conflicts are very expensive for both the countries where conflict occurs (see figure 2) and for the countries supplying military equipment for the conflict (see figure 3). Money is often drawn away from basic essential services, such as education and health, affecting wellbeing across the world.
12.2.3 Diplomacy and conflict

Diplomats across the world strive to prevent conflict. They endeavour to negotiate successful outcomes between opposing groups to deter conflict from breaking out. Everyone would prefer stability. Soldiers in the field, as in figure 4, work with civilians to return to cooperation and peace, and improve the wellbeing of a country’s population.

12.2 Activities

To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Remember
1. Outline three classification systems (or ways) used to identify conflicts.

Explain
2. (a) What classification is used on the figure 1 world map of conflicts in 2015?
(b) Which places have experienced most deaths by armed conflict?
(c) Which continent has the greatest number of deaths from armed conflict?
(d) Which countries have fought in wars only outside their own borders in the twenty-first century?
12.3 Why is there conflict over land?

12.3.1 The Gaza Strip
Families have a strong bond with their homelands. Conflicts over land are about who the land belongs to. These conflicts stretch over long time periods, from time to time erupting into hostilities. The question is: who has the right to the land?

12.3.2 How long has there been conflict in the Gaza Strip?
The Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated places in the world — more than 5000 people per square kilometre in an area 40 kilometres long and eight kilometres wide. This strip of land on the south-eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea lies between the borders of Egypt to the south-west and Israel, defined by the ceasefire lines following the 1948 Arab–Israeli War. Palestinians came to this area as refugees when part of their traditional homeland was incorporated into the new state of Israel. Over 50 years later hostilities between the Palestinians and Israelis are ongoing.

12.3.3 Conflict has fragmented lives
Figure 2 shows how people’s lives have been affected by the hostilities in the Gaza Strip.
- Since 2007 GDP per capita has been reduced by 50 per cent.
- Forty-three per cent of Gaza’s workforce, including more than 60 per cent of its youth, is unemployed.
- Ninety per cent of schools in Gaza run on double shifts, with class sizes averaging 38 students.
- Forced labour is estimated at about 104000 children, some as young as six years, working collecting building rubble, in factories, in garages or street selling.
FIGURE 2 Impacts of the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, which has been in place since 2007

THE GAZA STRIP: The Humanitarian Impact of the blockade

Gaza is to recover from the damage wrought by multiple rounds of hostility and a shattered economy, the blockade must be lifted. The people deserve help and realisation of their human rights, not collective punishment.

Gaza Strip Key Facts

Total Area: 365 km²
Population: 1.8 Million
Palestinian Refugees: 1.24 Million

Erez Crossing: Daily average of travelers out of Gaza

Imports into Gaza via Israel (Truckloads)

Gaza Strip Exports (Truckloads)

Access to Fishing Areas (Bottles)

Exit of Goods from the Gaza Strip (Truckloads)

Rafah Crossing: Daily average of travelers out of Gaza

TOPIC 12 Trapped by conflict
• Only 45 per cent of the electricity demand is met; there are blackouts of 12 to 16 hours per day.
• Medical services relying on electricity for surgical equipment are greatly affected; it can take 18 months to receive elective surgery.
• More than 60 per cent of Gazan homes are supplied with piped water for six to eight hours once every two to four days.
• Up to 90 million litres of partially treated sewage is pumped into the Mediterranean Sea every day.
• Farmland within the No-Go Zone is inaccessible, and within the Risk Zone (1.5 kilometres from the barrier) farmers can be fired on by the Israeli army.
• It is estimated that 75,000 metric tonnes of food cannot be produced due to the limited access to land.
• Forty-four per cent of Gazans are food insecure, and about 80 per cent are aid recipients.
• Less than one per cent of materials required for housing repairs after conflict, and for population growth, have entered Gaza.

12.3.4 What does the future hold?
During 2012, the Rafah Crossing from Gaza into Egypt was opened by Egypt’s new government. No longer did the people of Gaza need the cross-border tunnels as their supply line for goods. But in 2014 a change in the Egyptian Government saw the crossing closed again. Community spirit remains high as tensions continue (see figure 3).

![Figure 3: Families visit the beach on weekends in the Gaza Strip.](image)

12.3 Activities
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Remember
1. Claiming territory (land) as a resource is at the heart of the conflict in the Gaza Strip. Why do you think this strip of land that is 40 kilometres long and 8 kilometres wide is so important?
2. Outline the significance of border crossings for the Gazans.
12.4 How can conflict change regions?

12.4.1 The Arab Awakening on the move

The year 2011 saw an increased level of global conflict, particularly across the Arab region, where life had changed little for over 40 years. Internet access made Arabs realise that people across the world were more interconnected than them. Arabs wanted work, a future for their children and to be able to live with freedom.

Tunisia was the starting place for change (see figure 1). Across the region tensions grew. Modern technology, particularly the internet, had shown Arabs how the rest of the world lived; in particular, that people could have freedom of speech, choice with their lives, and expectations of the government to provide basic services. In Egypt, Cairo youth gathered at the beginning of 2011 (see figure 2). This massing of youth included not just the poor, but also the politically connected, educated middle class. Mobile phones and social media spread the word. Egypt and Tunisia experienced mass civil revolts. Libya watched and clamped down heavily on its people. Violence broke out in the cities along its Mediterranean coastline and Libya was thrust into civil war (see figure 1).
In many of the Arabian Peninsula countries, wealth from oil exports was used by the governments to bring a halt to protests. Salaries were increased, public services such as health care were provided, education became accessible and reform was promised. However, in Syria the government resisted the rebels, playing on time to wear down the internal revolt. Syria does not export oil, and oil forms only 20 per cent of its GDP. Civil war broke out and is ongoing today.
12.4.2 Impacts on places

Figure 1 shows the negative impacts of conflict on places in the region. There are positives too. In Tunisia people are proud to have stood up and made a change. The leadership has changed and political debate is heard in the streets, cafes and in the media. Egypt has new political players and elections have been held, but unrest continues. The shops of Libya are well-stocked and media outlets have appeared, but there are many opposing viewpoints on the way forward. For Syria, rebel-controlled communities are sustaining themselves.

How was tourism affected?

In Tunisia, tourism fell 31 per cent over a few months (see figure 3). Tour companies evacuated tourists from Cairo and along the Nile River, and dropped Egypt from tour programs. The companies feared lawlessness and confrontations at major tourist sites. Jordan, free of upheaval, lost 22.2 per cent of its tourists. Tour packages of which it was a part were dropped. Other stable economies, such as Dubai (11 per cent) gained tourists. Tunisia is working with European tourism companies to win back its share of the market. Egypt is keen to increase tourism to environmental sites outside Cairo. The GDP of countries reliant on tourism was sharply affected.

Pirates ahoy!

The oil reserves of this region supported change. Rebels, however, threatened the oil shipping routes, especially through the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Aden. Unemployed youth of Somalia, hard hit by economic conditions, civil war and drought, turned to piracy off their country’s long coastline (see figure 1). International governments sent naval forces to the region to ensure an ongoing oil supply to Europe and the United States. Ships travelled in convoy with armed guards (even the tourist ships). Shipping is now returning to normal.

**12.4 Activities**

To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

**Remember**

1. Over what time periods did conflict occur in each of the countries involved in the Arab Awakening?
2. Use the Timeline weblink in the Resources tab to find out in what ways the type and scale of conflict changed across the region.

**Explain**

3. Using figure 1 and the text under the heading ‘Impacts on places’, rank from highest to lowest the level of impact of conflict on countries in the region. Justify your ranking.
4. Using the data in figure 3, describe the trend in tourism seen with the change in conflicts across the region.
Discover
5. Using the internet, explore in greater detail piracy on the seas in the Middle East. Why is Somalia a suitable place to launch pirate attacks from?

Predict
6. Tourism plays a significant role in the region’s economy. What part will tourism play in the region’s economy in the future?

Think
7. For a region so rich in oil, conflict seems unusual. Choose two countries from the region and research their living condition indicators for wellbeing. Did these living conditions lead to conflict? Support your answer with evidence.

12.5 How does conflict affect people?
12.5.1 People on the move
Global conflict saw more than 60 million people flee their homes in 2015 (see figure 1), according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) report; many have fled more than once. These people feel they have no choice but to move. Each year the number of people on the move is different. Each year different places are in conflict. In 2015 one in every 122 people were forced to flee their home.

FIGURE 1 Who is hosting the world’s refugees?

Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
12.5.2 Who moves?

In 2015, the largest group of people on the move was the 38.2 million internally displaced persons (IDP). In addition, some 20 million refugees left their country of origin, and 80 per cent of these arrived in a neighbouring country. Afghans make up one in every four of the world’s refugees, 95 per cent of whom are in Pakistan and Iran. More than 10 million remain stateless people for long periods of time.

Most of those who flee have experienced conflict, although some are ‘environmental refugees’, especially those escaping prolonged drought. Others flee as ‘economic refugees’, finding the living conditions of their country unacceptable and choosing to seek a better lifestyle.

12.5.3 Life as a refugee

People who flee often are forced to make the decision quickly. These people are distressed by the situation that they find themselves in and simply take with them possessions that can be carried — every family member carries something (see figure 3). People walk to safety or cram into vehicles. Families and friends are torn apart.

The UNHCR is the international organisation charged with leading and coordinating international action for the worldwide protection of refugees. The UNHCR monitors the movement of refugees. As the need arises, the UNHCR, NGOs and governments respond and establish camps across the borders from the conflict to accommodate people in the short term.

People of concern to the UNHCR are predominantly women (48 per cent of refugees) and children (46 per cent are under the age of 18). Camp life is basic. Women and children are at risk.
The Dadaab refugee camp (see figure 4) in north-east Kenya is the largest complex in the world, and is home to more than 330,000 mostly Somali refugees. Life is no longer ‘normal’ for them. In 2015, fewer than 100,000 refugees returned home voluntarily (less than 1 per cent of the refugees), the lowest number in 30 years. Many refugees spend more than 4–5 years in camps awaiting resettlement or for peace to return in their homelands.

**FIGURE 4 Dadaab refugee camp, Kenya**

- Space is restricted.
- Privacy is lacking.
- Essential food items only are provided.
- Cooking facilities are basic.
- Water is provided at a central location.
- Sanitation can be limited.
- Medical support is stretched to its limits.
- Education facilities are lacking.
- Time is on everyone’s hands; there is no work.
- Family values need to be maintained.
- Violence against women and children can spread in the camp.

### 12.5 Activities

To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

**Remember**

1. What is the difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker?
2. What is the role of the UNHCR?

**Explain**

3. Figure 1 shows the global distribution of people on the move. Summarise the places in the world generating most refugees.
4. Using figure 2 (a) and (b) answer the following questions:
   (a) Which region of the world provides most refugees?
   (b) Will the number of refugees from Africa increase? Explain your answer.
   (c) How have these graphs changed over the years 2013–2015?

**Discover**

5. Research the Za’atari refugee camp established in 2012 in the desert of Jordan. Write an extended paragraph on how it has evolved into a ‘new city’, and include two images to illustrate your comments.

**Think**

6. A mother in a refugee camp speaks to the media about the plight of her family. Working with a partner, create the interview questions and responses. Present the ideas using technology.

**learnON RESOURCES — ONLINE ONLY**

- Try out this interactivity: Leaving home: Use this interactivity to discover where refugees are coming from and going to.
  - Searchlight ID: int-3314
12.6 A case study: How is wellbeing affected in the Syrian Arab Republic?

12.6.1 Introduction

The civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic is becoming a long-term event. It began in 2011 as part of the uprising of its people against the government in the Arab Awakening. Civil war does not mean that everyone living in the country is involved in the war, but everyone living in the country is affected by the war. Life and wellbeing is changed.

12.6.2 How has the Syrian population been affected?

The Syrian people had four choices when government hostilities broke out against their protests in the Arab Awakening: join the Syrian Arab Republic’s army, join the rebels, leave the fighting zones, or stay in their homes.

By 2015, 7.6 million Syrian people — especially women, children and young men — had fled areas of conflict to somewhere else within the Syrian Arab Republic as a first option, becoming internally displaced persons (IDPs) in their own country (see figure 1). These people make up one in five of all IDPs globally — this is the largest displaced population worldwide.

In 2013, the Assad-led government declared ‘surrender or starve’ to its people and began sieges on key cities, particularly the capital city, Damascus, and large populations to the north of the country. Sieges ‘lock’ people within a city’s boundaries, preventing easy movement out and denying entry to the city. In early 2016 it was estimated that between 390,000 and 1.9 million people were trapped in cities.

Multiple opposition groups formed in a wider context throughout the region and began to have a presence in the Syrian Arab Republic. Some of these groups have a religious base and others are terrorist cells. Since then the pressures of conflict in different areas have seen many IDPs flee again, often at night to avoid detection. Some of these people achieved a border crossing into surrounding countries to become refugees (see figure 2), massing in ‘tent cities’ on the border with Turkey. The level of liveability for the Syrian people declined.
12.6.3 Are homes safe places in the Syrian Arab Republic?

In figure 3, Damascus shows the greatest change in liveability from 2010 to 2015. Living conditions have changed: safety in homes is at risk, there is food insecurity and children are traumatised. Global relief organisations estimate that 13.5 million Syrians need humanitarian aid.

The street-to-street fighting that is a key element of civil war has destroyed buildings, including houses, in major cities of the Syrian Arab Republic such as Aleppo and Homs. Public services such as electricity, running water and gas supplies no longer operate. There is no transport system. Without oil, people rely on wood fires for heating and cooking, but this has brought about local deforestation. War continues to injure and kill more than 320,000 local people who have remained in their homes. In late 2014 the United States, UK and France began airborne bombing of cities to reduce the threat of rebel groups; Russia began air strikes in late 2015. These bombing raids further destroyed buildings.
12.6.4 Is there enough food?
Food insecurity is a daily issue for the war-torn areas of the Syrian Arab Republic. It is not safe to be outside for too long tending plants. Transport cannot get to the besieged cities with tinned and fresh foods. Only about one per cent of the people requiring food aid received food in 2015. Reports of malnourishment surfaced in 2016 at besieged Madaya (where 40,000 people are trapped) when social media began reporting that families were stripping the trees of leaves and boiling these to provide one meal a day. Aid organisations negotiated with the Assad government to be allowed to enter the city — and be protected from attack — with a convoy of trucks bringing food, but this is only a short-term solution.

12.6.5 How are children affected?
Children in any war-torn zone have their lives dramatically changed. The streets are no longer playgrounds. Education is disrupted or abandoned for months or years. Fear enters their lives — the sounds of aircraft, bombing and shooting punctuate their days and nights. Deafness in children becomes a problem. Families are torn apart, with some people fleeing and others staying.
Children miss their friends. Young males and men are recruited for the fight by both sides of the conflict with blackmail, threats, fear and propaganda. Life is insecure, confusing and scary; children ‘literally’ grow old before their time.

12.6.6 How have Syrians adapted to life in besieged cities?

The resilience of people is evident in these besieged cities as people acclimatise to a basic lifestyle. Innovation is required — static bicycles are pedalled to generate power for mobile phones; medicines are produced from home remedies; plastic is burnt to extract oil derivatives; and rooftop gardens produce small amounts of vegetables.

12.6.7 What are the costs to the Syrian Arab Republic?

International peace talks have brought ceasefires in the fighting, but will peace ever be achieved? The costs to the Syrian Arab Republic are immense. The soul of the country has been changed forever. So many of its people have fled — more than 4.6 million are refugees and 6.6 million are IDPs. Some of those who fled will return to the Syrian Arab Republic, but they too have changed as a result of the experiences they have been through. And how will those who remained perceive the returnees and those who stay away? Families have been forever changed. The cities will take years to rebuild; more than 50 per cent of some cities has been destroyed. Services and food supplies will need to be re-established. Children will have years of schooling to catch up on. The Syrian Arab Republic has been changed.

12.6 Activities

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Remember
1. Who are the sides in the civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic?
2. What was the government policy that forced great hardship on the Syrians? Explain its implications.

Explain
3. Using figure 1:
   (a) Describe the movement of IDPs within the Syrian Arab Republic.
   (b) Explain why the flows are both to and from some cities.
4. Figure 2 shows the cross-border movement of Syrian refugees.
   (a) Rank the neighbouring countries from highest to lowest in the number of Syrian refugees registered in each country in February 2016.
   (b) Is the distribution of Syrian refugees even across the neighbouring countries? In particular, refer to the situation in Turkey.
   (c) Suggest why the refugee camps are found along the borders.

Discover
5. (a) Copy and complete the following table using data from the current Human Development Report.
   (b) Using the indicators in the completed table, describe life in Syria.
   (c) From the table, is there an indication of why refugees opt to go to Turkey and Lebanon in preference to other cross-border countries? Support your answer using statistics.
6. Use the Children’s stories weblink in the Resources tab to listen to some children describe their life in Syria during conflict. Which parts of their secure, pre-conflict life do the children miss?
12.7 What is the impact of people moving through Europe?

12.7.1 Who are asylum seekers?
Refugees flee conflict and cross a border into another country to seek relief from the trauma of war and make a home elsewhere. All refugees (those who cannot return home due to a fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality or membership of a social group) have been asylum seekers, but not all asylum seekers are found to be refugees. Asylum seekers have either not satisfied the UNHCR criteria to be a refugee or have gone outside of the process to seek a place to live.

12.7.2 Where are these people coming from to Europe?
Most of those arriving in Europe are fleeing the civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic, with other significant numbers arriving from the ongoing chaos in northern Africa since the Arab Awakening. The Syrians have fled through Turkey to reach the shores of the Aegean Sea, from which on a clear day the Greek islands of Lesbos and Kos can be seen a mere 4 kilometres away (figure 1). The Africans come across the Mediterranean Sea, particularly from Libya. However, movement across these waters is treacherous in small boats and dinghies; loss of life by drowning is high (there were more than 3770 deaths in 2015).

Greece’s islands are the first point of arrival, where the refugees are fingerprinted, photographed and given a document allowing legal residency for 30 days in Greece. Greece does not accommodate the mass of people arriving on its shores. It is costly for the already poor country to rescue people from the seas and process their movement.
12.7.3 Who helps the people move?

It is estimated that 90 per cent of refugees have their journeys organised by criminal gangs, including individual people smugglers and migrant smuggling networks across Europe. Money is extorted for the risky sea crossings (it probably costs more than A$3000 to cross from Turkey to Greece) and on trains within Europe. High prices are paid for accommodation and fake documents such as passports that allow refugees to apply for asylum elsewhere in Europe, especially in Germany and Sweden. People smugglers often instruct that when a coast guard ship is in sight the boat or dinghy should be destroyed to ensure the refugees’ rescue, a meal and health checks before arriving on European soil. Figure 3 shows the movement of refugees throughout Europe.
12.7.4 Where are the places that refugees and asylum seekers go?

Figure 4 shows that in 2015 Europe hosted 3.1 million refugees (22 per cent of the world’s total), predominantly from the Syrian Arab Republic (1.7 million refugees). Of these numbers, more than one million refugees arrived in 2015.
12.7.5 How has the European region been affected?

In 2015, four times as many refugees arrived in Europe as in 2014. Germany, with its developed economy, high living standards and political compassion has been targeted as a place to go. The German community initially showed open-minded goodwill and generosity (see figure 5a), but in 2016 attitudes began to change; the numbers of migrants became overwhelming. By early 2016, 1.1 million people had sought asylum in Germany. Concerns about the impact on the German way of life began to grow, with issues such
as housing availability and infrastructure pressure, as well as how people with different languages and cultures would live together being raised.

Sweden had a very open approach to asylum seekers, providing safety for people in need of protection (see figure 5b). Permanent residency permits were offered to those with appropriate documents. Accommodation, a small daily allowance, health care and schooling were provided. Early in 2016, Sweden announced tougher rules as it felt that it had reached its limit regarding the numbers of asylum seekers that it could take. Some scenes of violence and criminal activity had changed Swedish attitudes and expulsion of asylum seekers began.

Hungary saw itself as a stepping stone for those moving north, but the sheer number of people moving through the country along disused railway lines, on roads and across paddocks struck fear within the government. In late 2015, a 4-metre-high wire fence was erected along the border with Serbia and patrolled by police with tear gas and water cannons (see figure 5c), but refugees found gaps and cut holes to continue their movement north-west, or changed their path to go through Croatia.

Italy, with its influx of refugees from northern Africa, has given the task of caring for the refugees to charities, companies, cooperatives and individuals; the government pays for food, health checks and psychology appointments and provides approximately A$3.85 per day as living expenses. Shelters are often
substandard and overcrowded (see figure 5d). Italy hopes that the people will move on from the southern regions, through Milan and on to other European countries.

France has settled many of the northern African refugees within its cities. Most are French speaking from France’s colonial dominance of northern Africa in the nineteenth century. Some refugees aim to reach Britain and strive to board ferries via the trucks transporting goods through the tunnel under the English Channel. Refugees have established a tent camp city near Calais (see figure 5e) while they wait to attempt a crossing; authorities do not approve and intend to destroy the camp. Friction is anticipated.

12.7.6 Will the asylum seekers find a better life?
The European countries have tried to find a regional solution to the flood of migrants and now find themselves bickering with each other over decisions made within one country that affect a neighbouring country — a domino effect. Greece and Italy, as major entry points, feel the pressure as countries close their borders and restrict the on-flow of migrants. Some countries feel they have taken their ‘fair share’ of the numbers of asylum seekers and are turning away those that can’t prove their status. Economies are stretched with the level of support required to provide basic needs for the refugees. In 2016 Europol set up a European Migrant Smuggling Centre to try to stem the tide of refugees. And yet the refugees keep coming.

12.7 Activities
To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Remember
1. What is the difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker?
2. What is the role of people smugglers in the mass movement of people across Europe?

Explain
3. Using figures 3 and 4, describe the scale of the journeys and direction of movement along the major routes taken by the refugees. Use country names in your answer.
4. Figure 4 shows the numbers seeking asylum (blue bars) and the number of asylum seekers per 10,000 residents of the host country (pink tones) in Europe for a six month period in 2015.
   (a) Which country had the highest number of applicants for asylum in that six month period?
   (b) Name five other countries that had a considerable number of asylum applicants.
   (c) Which countries have the highest ratio of asylum seekers to the population of their country?
   (d) Using the line graph, describe the change in trend of the number of asylum seekers per month from 2008–2015.

Discover
5. (a) Using the current Human Development Report, find the HDI ranking for each country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Hungary</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDI Ranking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   (b) How does the HDI ranking for the ‘first ports-of-call’ of the refugees compare to the other countries listed?
   (c) How might the HDI rankings help to explain the movement of the asylum seekers through Europe?
   (d) According to the HDI rankings, which countries might be best placed to cater for the wellbeing of large numbers of people on the move?
6. Research the meaning of the European Union and the Schengen areas as shown in figure 3. In what ways may these organisations have contributed to the mass movement of people?

Think
7. Imagine you are a refugee moving from place to place on your journey across Europe seeking asylum. In small groups, write a series of ‘tweets’ for the social media site Twitter that describe your wellbeing in a number of countries.
12.8 How does Australia contribute to global human wellbeing?

12.8.1 Australia’s international assistance to global wellbeing

After World War II Australia welcomed many European migrants, especially from Italy and Greece, who were hoping to improve their wellbeing after the traumas of war and the decline of their economic and social structures. In the 1970s, refugees and ‘boat people’ (asylum seekers), fearing conflict and persecution within Vietnam, fled to Australia. With the break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, eastern European nationalities sought visas for Australia. Over time, Australia has become a multicultural society.

12.8.2 Who comes to Australia seeking asylum in the twenty-first century?

Conflict in Afghanistan, Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and many parts of Africa has seen deterioration in the living standards and human wellbeing in those countries. Many people have left via approved migration channels, while others have gone outside the legal system and become asylum seekers, either travelling by air or by boat.

The number of boats bringing asylum seekers from across Asia (see figure 1) to Australia’s territorial waters, in particular Christmas Island, the Cocos Islands and Ashmore and Cartier Islands, became pronounced from 2009 to 2013 (see figure 3).

FIGURE 1 The movement of asylum seekers across ‘stepping stones’ and through hubs en route to Australian territorial waters

12.8.3 Why do these people come by boat?

A range of ‘push and pull’ factors see people becoming refugees and asylum seekers. Some of these factors occur in the home country; some occur in the host country (see figure 2).
12.8.4 How many asylum seekers come to Australia?

Up until 2010 Australia received 96–98 per cent of its asylum applications from people arriving by air carrying legal entry documents from around the world. Since 2014, 50 per cent were arriving by boat without legal entry documents. It is these arrivals by boat that have drawn the attention of the government and the media.
12.8.5 Australia’s role in its region

A timeline of the Australian Government’s policy change on asylum seekers:
• 2001–2008: Australia’s Pacific Solution policy saw few asylum seekers reach Australia (see figure 3). Navy ships stopped the boats and transferred these asylum seekers to offshore detention centres for processing on the islands of Nauru and Papua New Guinea.
• Late 2007: a change of government dismantled this policy.
• By 2013 asylum seeker boat arrivals in Australian maritime territories, and deaths at sea, had increased considerably (see figure 3). Government policy reverted to detention and processing on the offshore islands after the High Court ruled that detaining asylum seekers in Malaysia was illegal.
• Late 2013 saw another change in government and the introduction of a ‘turn-back the boats’ policy.
• In 2014 Indonesia expressed its displeasure at this policy and suspended diplomatic relations with Australia.
• By 2016 more than 630 asylum seekers on 20 boats had been turned back.

Developing countries host more than 86 per cent of all refugees; Australia hosts less than one per cent of all asylum applications. Nauru receives one-third to one-half of its revenue from Australian aid and payment of $1000 a month in visa fees for each asylum seeker. The centre employs hundreds of Nauruans and is the biggest source of revenue for the country. Papua New Guinea receives similar aid from Australia to detain and process young male asylum seekers on Manus Island and resettle the people who gain refugee status there.

Diplomatic discussion continues with third party countries, such as Cambodia and the Philippines, to accept people from Nauru who have been declared refugees. Other diplomatic discussions take place with country-of-origin countries, such as Iran, about the return of refugees to their homeland. Australia continues to declare that asylum seekers will never live in Australia.

In response to the Syrian refugee crisis, in 2015 Australia announced it would take an additional 12000 humanitarian refugees from the refugee camps of Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Australia would also provide A$44 million in assistance for food, water, health and education within the Syrian region.

12.8.6 What role do NGOs play in assisting asylum seeker wellbeing in Australia?

There is a range of non-government organisations (NGOs) working to aid asylum seekers after arriving in Australian territory. Some of these are part of global organisations such as the UNHCR and Amnesty International; others are national organisations such as the Refugee Council of Australia, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and ACOSS (Australian Council of Social Services); while some are specifically state orientated, such as St Vincent de Paul Society in Victoria, Starts in Western Australia and the NSW Human Rights Law Centre. These groups are concerned for the wellbeing of asylum seekers.

12.8 Activities

To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Remember
1. How do we know these people are asylum seekers rather than refugees?
2. Where in Australia have asylum seekers arrived to seek residency?

Explain
3. Using figure 1:
   (a) Describe the probable route taken by an Iraqi, Sri Lankan, Afghan and Myanmar asylum seeker to reach Australian territory. In your answer include a sense of scale or distance travelled.
   (b) Suggest why journeys go through multiple countries and hubs.
   (c) Why do people go outside the UNHCR assessment programs? Figure 2 will be useful to discuss ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors.
Discover
4. Look at the graph in figure 3.
   (a) Outline the change in boat numbers, number of arrivals and deaths at sea from 2010 to 2015.
   (b) Suggest how these statistics reflected Australia’s approach to asylum seekers during two phases in this time period.
   (c) How would you assess Australia’s attitude to the wellbeing of the asylum seekers from 2010 to 2015?
5. Using the Department of Immigration and Border Security site find Australia’s migration levels for 2015 to 2019. In what way might these quotas impact on the decision of people to become asylum seekers?
6. Choose two NGOs working on behalf of asylum seekers and research their aims and undertakings to assist human wellbeing.

Think
7. Australia’s policies have impacted on its neighbours. Outline the impact on wellbeing in the developing countries of Indonesia, Nauru and Papua New Guinea.
8. Is Australia’s multicultural society affected by twenty-first century political policy developments?
9. Hold a class debate. Should Australia take more asylum seekers? The SkillBuilder, ‘Debating like a geographer’ may be of use.

Predict
10. Suggest how asylum seekers in a detention centre, expecting to find a home in Australia, would feel about their future on a developing Pacific Island with no hope of ever living in Australia.

12.9 SkillBuilder: Debating like a geographer

WHAT DOES DEBATING LIKE A GEOGRAPHER MEAN?
Debating like a geographer is being able to give the points for and against any issue that has a geographical basis, and supporting the ideas with arguments and evidence of a geographical nature.

Go online to access:
• a clear step-by-step explanation to help you master the skill
• a model of what you are aiming for
• a checklist of key aspects of the skill
• a series of questions to help you apply the skill and to check your understanding.

FIGURE 1 Palm cards for a debate on whaling in the Southern Ocean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative speaker 1 (Introduces key ideas)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Where is the Southern Ocean?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Who is whaling?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Which countries are involved in the issue?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• How far is it from Japan?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Whale species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Uses of whale meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The role of tradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scientific research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative speaker 2 (Negates negative speaker 1 and expands on key ideas—provides the facts, statistics, emotional argument)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Whale numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scientific research: what is research achieving?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Importance of tradition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative speaker 3 (Negates negative speaker 2 and sums up key ideas)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Emphasises that resource is well managed: whaling is not the only threat to species</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative speaker 1 (Negates affirmative speaker 1 and introduces key ideas)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Southern Ocean is a whale sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Why don’t the trawlers work closer to home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• What is so important about the whale hunting that the benefits outweigh the costs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Global food chains affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Animal cruelty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative speaker 2 (Negates affirmative speaker 2 and expands on key ideas—provides the facts, statistics, emotional argument)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Global food chains: facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• How are whales caught? Is it humane?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The work of Greenpeace, its actions, the conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• International Whaling Commission, its work, the global ban</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative speaker 3 (Negates affirmative speaker 3 and expands on key ideas)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Emphasises the resource is being degraded and conflict is rife</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watch this eLesson: Watch this video to learn how to debate like a geographer.
Searchlight ID: eles-1762

Try out this interactivity: Use this interactivity to learn how to debate like a geographer.
Searchlight ID: int-3380

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12.10 Is all well in paradise?


12.11 How can wellbeing be addressed during conflict?

12.11.1 Caring for wellbeing

The countries in conflict vary from year to year. Conflict disrupts life. Sometimes conflicts are short term and a country moves towards peace. In other countries, conflicts linger and the level of development of a country is affected — health, education, wealth and population structure.

International non-government organisations (NGOs) assist the wellbeing of civilians caught up in conflicts. Three significant organisations are as follows:

1. Médecins Sans Frontières provides emergency medical care. During conflict, local health systems often fail and hospitals close. In refugee camps, waterways may become contaminated, waste abounds and there is a lack of sanitation, all of which can lead to an outbreak of disease (see figure 1).

2. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian network. It aims to alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity, especially when the population structure is imbalanced by the predominantly male involvement in conflict.

3. World Food Programme (WFP) steps in when the distribution of food and other resources for the population is disrupted. WFP saves lives and protects livelihoods, reduces chronic hunger, and restores and rebuilds lives, especially for women and children.

12.11.2 Moving towards peace

The United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operation started in the Middle East in 1948. The UN implements peace agreements; monitors ceasefires; assists in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of...
former combatants; protects civilians; protects and promotes human rights; assists in restoring the rule of law; and assists in the redevelopment of a country. UN peacekeeping missions (2015) are found in 16 countries and are made up of personnel from the UN countries.

The Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) is a partnership between the people and government of the Solomon Islands and 15 contributing countries of the Pacific region. RAMSI commenced in 2003 at the request of the Solomon Islands in an attempt to regain peace and stability in the region. The Solomon Islands had seen simmering civil unrest since 1999. RAMSI helped the Solomon Islands to return to long-term stability, security and prosperity. RAMSI also assisted with the development of improved laws, justice and security. The democratic government has become more effective, with an improved economic base and greater development of services for the people (see figure 2).

12.11.3 The Global Peace Index

The Global Peace Index (see figure 3) uses 23 indicators and 30 other factors of wellbeing to assess a country’s ‘peacefulness’. Among the criteria used are elements of peace at home (government stability, democratic processes, community relations, security and trust between people) and peace in foreign relations (military spending levels, commitment to the United Nations and avoidance of war).
12.11 Activities
To answer questions online and to receive immediate feedback and sample responses for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. Note: Question numbers may vary slightly.

Remember
1. What role do NGOs play in restoring wellbeing to a country?
2. What roles does the UN provide for a country to move towards peace?

Explain
3. The Global Peace Index (2015) is mapped in figure 3. Describe the distribution of places with a very low level of peacefulness and those with a high level of peacefulness.
4. Explain why criteria for assessing peace levels of a country use indicators at home and in foreign relations.

Discover
5. Using the internet, research an international NGO and show how it is working towards peace in areas of very low peacefulness. Focus on a country not studied in this topic.
6. Use the Peacekeeping weblink in the Resources tab to describe how peacekeeping has changed over time.
7. Research the work done by RAMSI. Outline two tasks that have been completed to ensure a move towards peace.

Predict
8. From the conflicts discussed in this topic, which of the countries would you expect to be rated differently on the Global Peace Index in 2020?
9. When RAMSI pulls out of the Solomon Islands, do you expect peace to be maintained?

Think
10. Write an essay to show how a country’s HDI ranking and Peace Index levels indicate that people’s wellbeing may change. Use examples from three countries that are in conflict.
11. Is power gained through conflict?
12.12 SkillBuilder: Writing a geographical essay

WHAT IS A GEOGRAPHICAL ESSAY?
A geographical essay is an extended response structured like any essay, but it focuses on geographical facts and data, particularly data that can be mapped.

Go online to access:
• a clear step-by-step explanation to help you master the skill
• a model of what you are aiming for
• a checklist of key aspects of the skill
• a series of questions to help you apply the skill and to check your understanding.

FIGURE 1 An essay plan

Introduction: A freeway should not go through the urban parkland. Three reasons, or themes, are listed.

Theme 1: Noise levels from traffic. Currently peaceful environment. Sound barriers don’t work.

Theme 2: House and land prices will decrease. People will not buy property because of the noise. Lifestyle is changed; roads and pathways are divided by the freeway; many people can’t get to the parkland.

Theme 3: Animals will lose habitat and movement routes. Currently the area is home to kangaroos, and the habitat will be diminished. Vegetation may not support the kangaroos, animals will suffer.

Conclusion: If a road has to go through this area, it must be a tunnel under the parkland.

12.13 Review

12.13.1 Review
The review section contains a range of different questions and activities to help you revise and recall what you have learned, especially prior to a topic test.

12.13.2 Reflect
The Reflect section provides you with an opportunity to apply and extend your learning.