



# THE POL-SOC PODCAST

You're not apart from society, you're a part of society

[www.polsocpodcast.com](http://www.polsocpodcast.com)

## Politics & Society

### “Log Tables”

2021-2022

Dr Jerome Devitt



## Introduction

One of the (many) difficulties faced by Politics & Society students and teachers in the opening years of the new course has been the problem of gathering and refining relevant data to support students' essay-writing endeavours. This resulted in numerous teachers calling for a core set of data that students could draw on for their opening attempts at exam essays. This booklet is, in part, a response to that call.

It is **not** envisioned that these "data sets" should be seen as **prescriptive** – it's not ALL the data that a student needs to know in order to guarantee they have sufficient evidence in their essays to justify a high final grade in June. It is, however, designed to provide an introduction to the process of data gathering and data analysis, highlight some of the pitfalls, and to make the process of acquiring a new skillset a little less painful and time-consuming.

If students took ONE thing away from examining these data sets, it should be that **none of the data provided by any of the indices is definitive**. All are subject to criticism and improvement. But students should ask themselves:

- How would I critique the **methodology** of each data set?
- What **recommendations** would I make to improve the usefulness of each data set?
- Why is the **number of countries** in each data set important? Who has been omitted, and why?
- How has **Ireland's relative position** changed in these indices over time?
- What other international trends are relevant or interesting?
- And most importantly, how might I appropriately **deploy the data** within each of the indices into different exam essays?

To that end, the final section of each of the data sets gives a space for students to link the data to an exam essay. They should consider including the following in the box provided:

- Which specific **Learning Outcomes** are relevant?
- Which **essay titles** (drawn from those LOs) might be relevant to which data set?
- **What SDG would link to each data set?**
- What aspect of **Laudato Si** might be relevant?
- What **Key Thinker** would be most interested in each data set?

By engaging with these kinds of questions it is hoped that the "**QUANTITATIVE DATA**" ceases to be just something that is 'dead' on the page, but rather, becomes something that students can see has a specific **UTILITY**. As they begin to use these data sets in their essays (on in the concluding sections of their DBQs) that skill of providing relevant data to ensure they are expressing an **INFORMED OPINION** should become second nature. This is not something that will happen overnight, but rather something that accrues incrementally.

**Which Topic do these data suit?**

Look at the extensive list of data below and integrate learning certain key statistics into your revision plan. But don't just learn them 'Blind'. Make sure you identify ways in which each of the data sets will be useful to which topic you've covered. At the end of each longer explanation there's space to jot down the relevant essay topics.

**"HEADLINE DATA"**

In some instances, the index may be a **"lagging Indicator"**, meaning that the ranking available at any given point might be a year or more behind what it currently happening. Why might this be the case?

**Evaluate the Data**

Once you're familiar with each data set, ask yourself, "Is Ireland's performance under this metric, positive or negative, encouraging or something to be a little depressed about? Follow this up by asking what policies you might propose to improve Ireland's performance and position in each ranking table.

<b><u>Name of Index</u></b>	<b><u>Ireland's position</u></b>	<b><u>Winners &amp; Losers in that Index</u></b>
<b>The Human Development Index (2020)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Overall</b> (of 189) Up from 4 <sup>th</sup> in 2018!	<b>Top 4:</b> (1) Norway, (3) Switzerland, (4) Hong Kong <b>Bottom 4:</b> South Sudan (T 186), Chad (187) Central African Republic (188), Niger (189).
<b>PISA Education Rankings (2018)</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> of 35 OECD</b> countries, and <b>19<sup>th</sup> of 70</b> participating countries (5 <sup>th</sup> in reading, only 19 <sup>th</sup> in science)	<b>Top:</b> (1) China*, (2) Estonia, (3) Canada, (4) Finland
<b>The Good Country Index (2020)</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> (Overall)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 'International Peace & Security', 81 <sup>st</sup> – 'Prosperity and Equality'.	Ireland was <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> in 2014& <b>11<sup>th</sup></b> in 2016 <b>Top:</b> (1) Sweden, (2) Denmark, (3) Germany <b>Bottom:</b> (147) Guinea, (148) Yemen, (149) Libya,
<b>The Giving Index – (2021) Charities Aid Foundation (10-year aggregate)</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Overall.</b> Down from 5 <sup>th</sup> in 2019. One of the top 10 biggest drops on the index.	<b>Top:</b> (1) Indonesia, (2) Kenya, (3) Nigeria, <b>Bottom:</b> (112) Belgium, (113) Portugal, (114) Japan
<b>The Terrorism Index – (2020) Visions of Humanity data</b>	<b>62 of 138</b> "Low impact of Terrorism" – But 7 places worse than 2019.	<b>Top 5 Highest Risk</b> - (1) Afghanistan. (2) Iraq. (3) Nigeria. (4) Syria. (5) Somalia. Many countries tied as 'best' with a score of 0/10
<b>Global Peace Index -2020 (Same org as Terrorism Index)</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup>/163</b>	<b>Top:</b> (1) Iceland, (2) New Zealand, (3) Denmark
<b>The World Happiness Report (2020)</b>	<b>Ireland 13/149</b> (up from 14 <sup>th</sup> in 2019)	<b>Top:</b> (1) Finland, (2) Iceland, (3) Denmark, <b>Bottom:</b> (147) Rwanda, (148) Zimbabwe, (149) Afghanistan
<b>The Press Freedom Index (2021)</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b> of 180 (16 <sup>th</sup> in 2014 and 9 <sup>th</sup> in 2016)	<b>Top:</b> (1) Norway, (2) Finland, (3) Sweden <b>Bottom:</b> (179) North Korea, & (180) Eritrea
<b>Gender Equality (2020) European Institute for Gender Equality</b>	Ireland <b>7<sup>th</sup> in EU</b> (up 1) 5 <sup>th</sup> in Health Up 6.8 points since 2010	<b>Irish Score 72.2 – Top (EU):</b> (1) Sweden 83.8, (2) Denmark 77.4 <b>Bottom (EU):</b> Greece 52.2
<b>Global Gender Gap Index 2021 (World Economic Forum)</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b> of 156, down 2 places since 2020	<b>Top 4:</b> (1) Iceland, (2) Finland, (3) Norway, (4) New Zealand <b>Bottom 3:</b> (154) Iraq, (155) Yemen, (156) Afghanistan
<b>Economist "Democracy Index" (2019)</b>	<b>Ireland Ranks 8<sup>th</sup></b> – with a score of <b>9.05.</b> Down 2 from 2019's score of <b>9.24/10.</b> Ireland <b>"Full Democracy"</b>	<b>Top:</b> (1) Norway, (2) Iceland, (3) Sweden <b>Bottom:</b> (165) Central African Republic, (166) DR Congo, (167) North Korea
<b>The Corruption Perception Index (2020)</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b> of 180. Down 2 since 2019	<b>Top:</b> (1) New Zealand, (2) Denmark, (3) Finland, (4) Singapore <b>Bottom:</b> (178) Syria, (T179) South Sudan, (T179) Somalia
<b>Rule of Law Index (2020) World Justice Project &amp; World Bank Data</b>	<b>Ireland doesn't feature on the WJP Index but does have World Bank Data. *Omission Problem*</b>	<b>Top:</b> (1) Denmark, (2) Norway, (3) Finland <b>Bottom:</b> (126) DR Congo, (127) Cambodia, (128) Venezuela
<b>Kids Rights Index (2021)</b>	<b>2021 46<sup>th</sup> down from 37<sup>th</sup> in 2019</b> High score in "Education", very low on "Children's Rights Environment"	<b>Top:</b> (1) Iceland, (2) Switzerland, (3) Finland <b>Bottom:</b> (180) Sierra Leone, (181) Afghanistan, (182) Chad. [UK Rank 168]
<b>Principled Aid Index (2020)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> (of 29 Donor Countries) Up from 4 <sup>th</sup> in 2017	<b>Top:</b> (1) Ireland, (2) Norway, (3) Sweden
<b>Veracity Index (2021)</b>	<b>Top:</b> (1) Pharmacists 96%, (2) Nurses 95%, (3) Doctors 94%, (4) Teachers 88%	<b>Notable:</b> Politicians 24%, Bankers 34%, Journalists 45%, NPHET 87%

## General Overview – “Meta Analysis”

Are there **correlations** between the position of one or more countries (or types of countries) in different indices?

If so, can you describe the patterns at both the “top end” and the “bottom end” of the various data-sets?

**Top End:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Bottom End:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Take a ‘**Big Picture**’ look at the data for Ireland across all of the rankings here. What broad conclusions do you reach? Ireland in the data (your overall ‘take-away’):

---

---

---

---

---

Ask yourself, based on these data alone “**Where would YOU like to live?**” and “**Why?**” - give specific data from the data sets below to support your opinion.

---

---

---

---

Where would you **NOT** like to live? Why not?

---


---

---

---

## Getting your head around some of the problems with 'Indexed' Data: A mini data-based exercise

Look at the English Premier League Soccer table below and note the difference in points between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the points that the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> place teams are on.



Premier League standings






MATCHES

NEWS

TABLE

STATS

Season  
2019-20 ▾

Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1  Liverpool	38	32	3	3	85	33	52	99
2  Man. City	38	26	3	9	102	35	67	81
3  Man United	38	18	12	8	66	36	30	66
4  Chelsea	38	20	6	12	69	54	15	66
5  Leicester City	38	18	8	12	67	41	26	62

1. Answer the Questions below: If you were a 'spin doctor' or 'media/communications director' for Liverpool, which parts of this table would you want to highlight to demonstrate your successes in the 2019-20 season? Justify your answer with reference to the specific data.

---



---



---

2. If you were doing the same job for Manchester City, what information would you want to ELIDE (deliberately omit, or pass over quickly)? Justify your answer with reference to the specific data.

---



---



---

3. If you were managing one of the teams in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> place, what argument would you make for the way in which the prize money at the "top of the table" should be distributed?

---



---



---

4. From the Index data below, identify situations where (a) there are large gaps are evident at the top level of the data, and (b) situations where the Index data is far closer, making the relative difference between countries far less meaningful.

---



---



---



---



---

Based on these perspectives and insights gained, what would you say are the general Strengths and Weaknesses of an INDEX (plural “Indices”) as a means of measuring progress or performance of a country in a specific area?

**Strengths of Indices:**

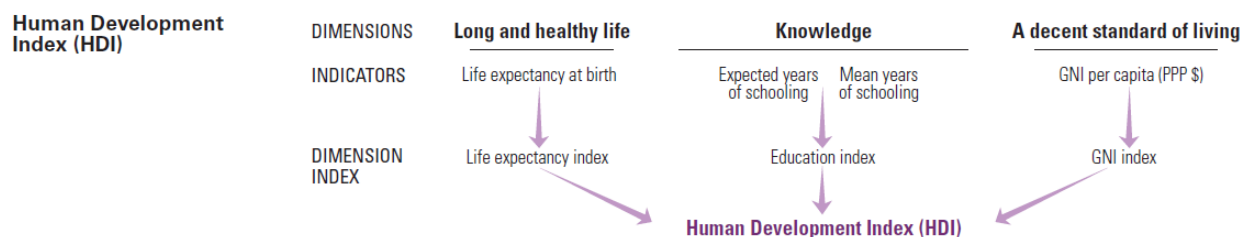
**Prominent examples of these strengths from the data below:**

**Weaknesses of Indices:**

**Prominent examples of these strengths from the data below:**

## Human Development Index (HDI) (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/latest-human-development-index-ranking>)

The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The HDI can also be used to question national policy choices, asking how two countries with the same level of GNI per capita can end up with different human development outcomes. These contrasts can stimulate debate about government policy priorities.



The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions.

The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth, the education dimension is measured by mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age. The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income per capita. The HDI uses the logarithm of income, to reflect the diminishing importance of income with increasing GNI. The scores for the three HDI dimension indices are then aggregated into a composite index using geometric mean. Refer to Technical notes for more details.

The HDI simplifies and captures only part of what human development entails. It does not reflect on inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, etc. The HDRO offers the other composite indices as broader proxy on some of the key issues of human development, inequality, gender disparity and poverty.

### Human Development Index (HDI) Ranking

From the 2020 Human Development Report

Search in table

Page 1 of 19

	Rank	Country	HDI value (2019)	Life expectancy at birth (years) SDG3	Expected years of schooling (years) SDG 4.3	Mean years of schooling (years) SDG 4.6	Gross national income (GNI) per capita (PPP \$) SDG 8.5
	1	Norway	0.957	82.4	18.1	12.9	66,494
	2	Ireland	0.955	82.3	18.7	12.7	68,371
	2	Switzerland	0.955	83.8	16.3	13.4	69,394
	4	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.949	84.9	16.9	12.3	62,985
	4	Iceland	0.949	83.0	19.1	12.8	54,682
	6	Germany	0.947	81.3	17.0	14.2	55,314
	7	Sweden	0.945	82.8	19.5	12.5	54,508
	8	Australia	0.944	83.4	22.0	12.7	48,085
	8	Netherlands	0.944	82.3	18.5	12.4	57,707
	10	Denmark	0.940	80.9	18.9	12.6	58,662

Source: Human Development Report Office 2020. • Created with Datawrapper

These data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

## PISA Education Rankings – 2018 (<https://www.oecd.org/pisa/>)

5 Things we learned from the PISA Rankings (Source: <https://www.cjfallon.ie/posts/5-things-we-learned-from-pisa/>)

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial (every 3 years) international survey by the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development). It tests 15 year olds from 72 countries on Science, Literacy and Mathematics.

The PISA testing takes a holistic approach to these subjects, grading students not on rote-learned facts but testing their problem-solving ability acquired through a broad spectrum of learning so as to determine how prepared they are for their future studies or working environment. The test is on skills not knowledge. Solving “real world problems” and creative thinking are major components and many of the questions focus on how students feel about school and studying.

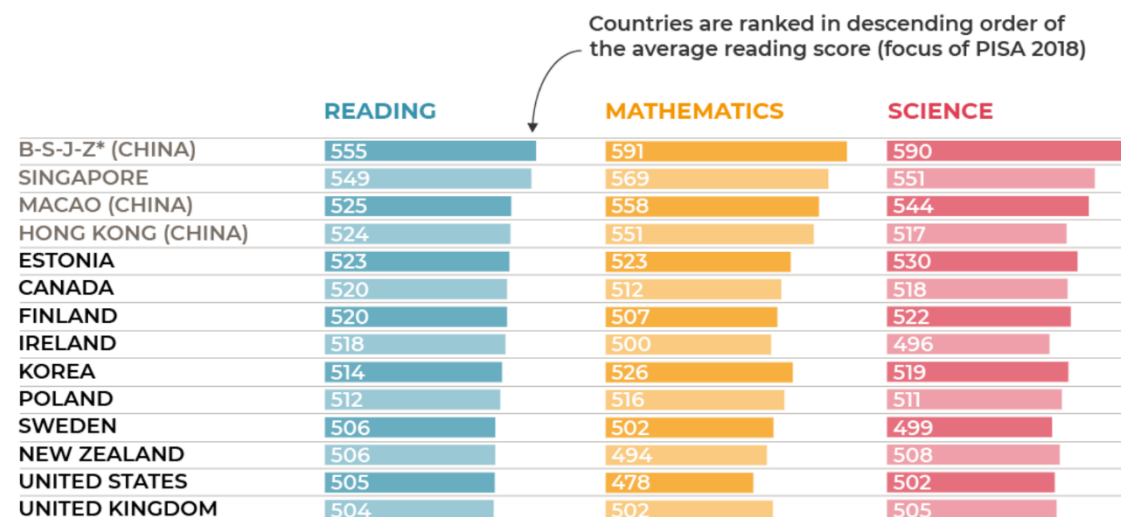
We now live in globalised societies, with a mobile workforce moving wherever particular skills are required. We can see this in our own country where in the last generation huge emphasis was placed on attracting some of the tech giants to establish headquarters here. We can use the PISA testing as an important yardstick (way of making useful comparisons) with which to objectively measure our standard of education against international standards and, in turn, help to establish our future graduates in higher education and the jobs market.

Looking at the last two sets of results from 2012 and 2015, what are 5 things that we can learn from today’s release?

- In 2012, Ireland scored 523 points in reading while the international average is 496, putting our ranking in that area at 13th;
- In the results released today and based on the 2015 test, Ireland has jumped dramatically to 5th place in reading;
- With only Finland (ranked fourth) ahead of us for reading in Europe, our teaching and learning of literacy is an area where we excel;
- This year Ireland stayed above the OECD and European averages in all subjects;
- In Science we’ve dropped slightly since 2012 and now hold a ranking of 19th out of the 72 countries tested.

### PISA 2018 results

Snapshot of students’ performance in reading, mathematics and science



These data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-



## Good Country Index (Source: <https://goodcountry.org/good-country/the-idea>)

Simon Anholt started the Good Country to change how our leaders run our countries. To help them understand they're not just responsible for their own citizens, but for every man, woman, child and animal on the planet. To tell them they're not just responsible for their own little slice of territory, but for the whole of the earth's surface and the atmosphere above it. And to help them act like they mean it.

In the past, leaders had a simple, single mandate: to do the best for their own people and their own slice of territory - frequently at the expense of people in other territories. In the age of global threats and opportunities, they must accept a *Dual Mandate*:

Today, leaders must realise that they're responsible not only for their own people, but for every man, woman, child and animal on the planet; not just responsible for their own slice of territory, but for every square inch of the earth's surface and the atmosphere above it.

Any leader who isn't prepared for this level of responsibility shouldn't be leading. And we must all do whatever we can to help the world's leaders move to the Dual Mandate, and to help citizens support them as they do so.

One day soon, the casual nationalism that characterises almost all political and economic discussions will seem as outdated and offensive as sexism and racism do today.

2020 Data:



These data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

## World Giving Index (2020) (<https://www.cafonline.org/about-us/publications/2021-publications/caf-world-giving-index-2021>)

**Background** The aim of the CAF World Giving Index is to provide insight into the scope and nature of giving around the world. In order to ensure that giving is understood in its various forms, the report looks at three aspects of giving behaviour.

Have you done any of the following in the past month?



Helped a stranger, or someone you didn't know who needed help?



Donated money to a charity?



Volunteered your time to an organisation?

### KEY FINDINGS

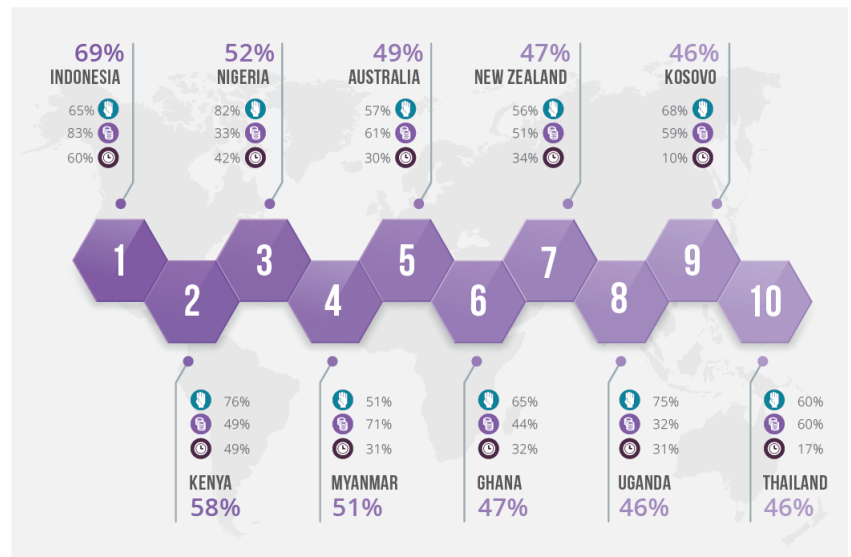
The extraordinary events of past year have reinforced the importance of civil society and international collaboration. The CAF World Giving Index offers a unique glimpse of global trends in generosity:

The Top 10 most generous **countries** has **changed substantially** in 2020

The most generous country in the world is Indonesia.

More than three billion people helped someone they didn't know in 2020.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the pandemic, donating money is up across the globe.



"This year's pandemic special was an eye-opening report to put together and speaks to the huge impact that Covid has had on giving across the globe – be it the surge of people who helped a stranger around the world as the crisis struck, the increasing generosity of African nations or the devastating impact of the lost opportunities to volunteer and fundraise that we are seeing in some of the world's most generous countries. The report shows an upended Index for 2020, and we will be watching very closely to see whether or not these trends are reversed as the pandemic recedes."

Catherine Mahoney

Research Manager

These data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

## Global Terrorism Index 2020 (<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GTI-2020-web-2.pdf>)

This is the eighth edition of the Global Terrorism Index (GTI). The report provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism over the last 50 years, placing a special emphasis on trends over the past decade. This period corresponds with the rise and fall of the

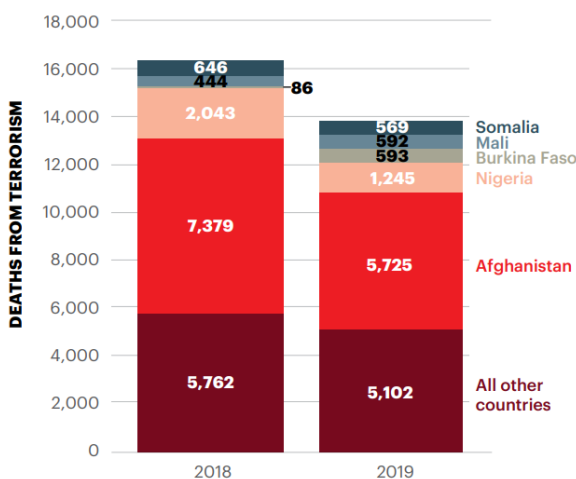
The GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) using data from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and other sources. Data for the GTD is collected and collated by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland. The GTD contains over 170,000 terrorist incidents for the period 1970 to 2019.

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
1	Afghanistan	9.592	↔
2	Iraq	8.682	↔
3	Nigeria	8.314	↔
4	Syria	7.778	↔
5	Somalia	7.645	↑ 1
6	Yemen	7.581	↑ 1
7	Pakistan	7.541	↓ 2
8	India	7.353	↔
9	Democratic Republic of the Congo	7.178	↑ 1
10	Philippines	7.099	↓ 1
11	Mali	7.049	↑ 2
12	Burkina Faso	6.755	↑ 15

FIGURE 1.1

### Total terrorism deaths by country, 2018–2019

Total deaths from terrorism fell 15.5 per cent from 2018 to 2019.

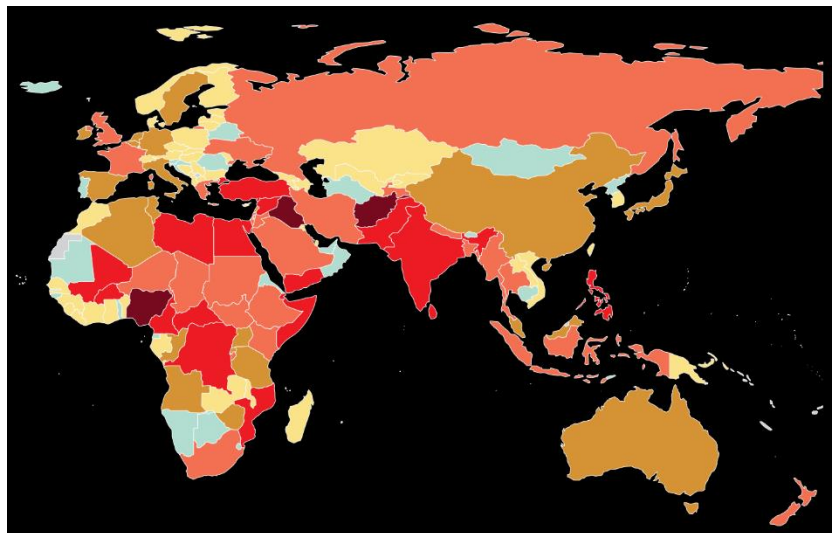


Source: START GTD, IEP calculations

Nigeria recorded the second largest reduction in deaths from terrorism in 2019, with the number falling from 2,043 to 1,245, a 39.1 per cent reduction, which was mainly due to a fall in terrorism deaths attributed to Fulani extremists. This reduction occurred despite a small increase in deaths attributed to Boko Haram, which has been the most active terrorist group in the country over the past decade. Deaths from terrorism in Nigeria are now 83 per cent lower than at their peak in 2014.

In 2019, deaths from terrorism fell for the fifth consecutive year, after peaking in 2014. The total number of deaths fell by 15.5 per cent to 13,826. The fall in deaths was mirrored by a reduction in the impact of terrorism, with 103 countries recording an improvement on their GTI score, compared to 35 that recorded a deterioration. The full GTI score takes into account not only deaths, but also incidents, injuries, and property damage from terrorism, over a five-year period.

The largest fall in the impact of terrorism occurred in Afghanistan, which recorded 1,654 fewer deaths from terrorism in 2018, a 22.4 per cent decrease from the prior year. However, Afghanistan remains the country most impacted by terrorism, after overtaking Iraq in 2018.



These data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

## Global Peace Index (2020) – (<https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GPI-2021-web-1.pdf>)

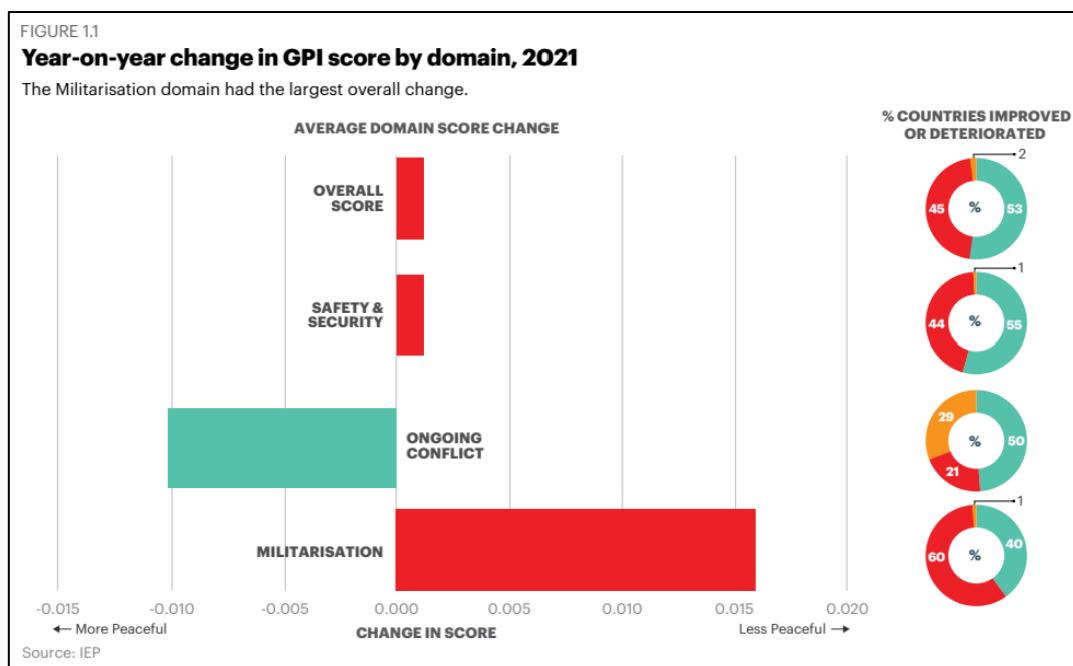
Global peacefulness has deteriorated for the ninth year in a row, this year by 0.07%. However, this is the second smallest deterioration recorded in the history of the Global Peace Index.

Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008, followed by New Zealand and Denmark. Afghanistan remains the least peaceful country globally. Furthermore, in this year's report, eight out of the top 10 most peaceful countries in the world were found in Europe, making this continent the world's most peaceful region. This is the highest number of European countries that were ranked in the top ten since the inception of the Global Peace Index.

The Global Peace Index rates countries in terms of three aspects: societal safety and security, ongoing domestic and international conflict, and level of militarisation. By examining 99.7% of the world's population through these three domains, we find a GPI score, which shows this year that peacefulness has deteriorated yet again, and while the percentage may seem low, the deterioration is worryingly substantial. While peacefulness has in fact gotten worse for a consecutive 15 years since 2020, we have witnessed new trends and causes to the fall in peacefulness.

The emergence of a global pandemic has had a significant impact on violence. While violent conflicts improved, the number of violent demonstrations increased substantially – a total of more than 5,000 Covid-19 related violent events occurred this past year.

Pandemic-related violent incidents occurred in 158 countries around the world. This increase in COVID-19 related violent incidents, caused by violent demonstrations and riots, was fuelled by various changes: the imposed COVID-19 restrictions, anti-government sentiments, lockdowns, increasing unemployment rate and lack of economic support.



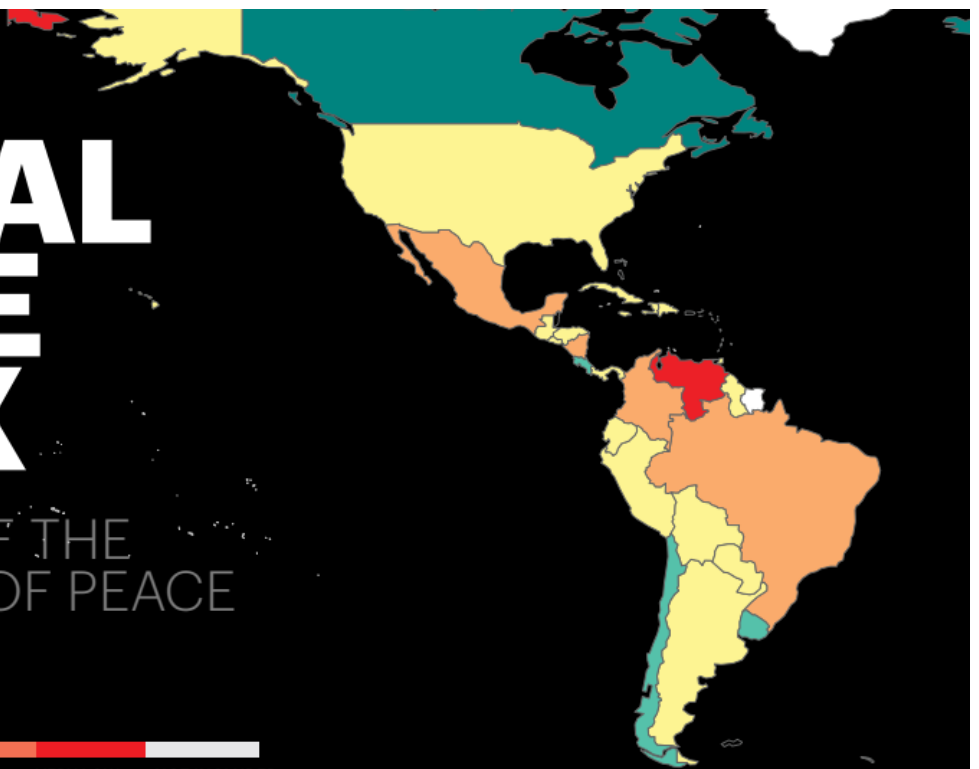
The PEACE and TERRORMISM data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

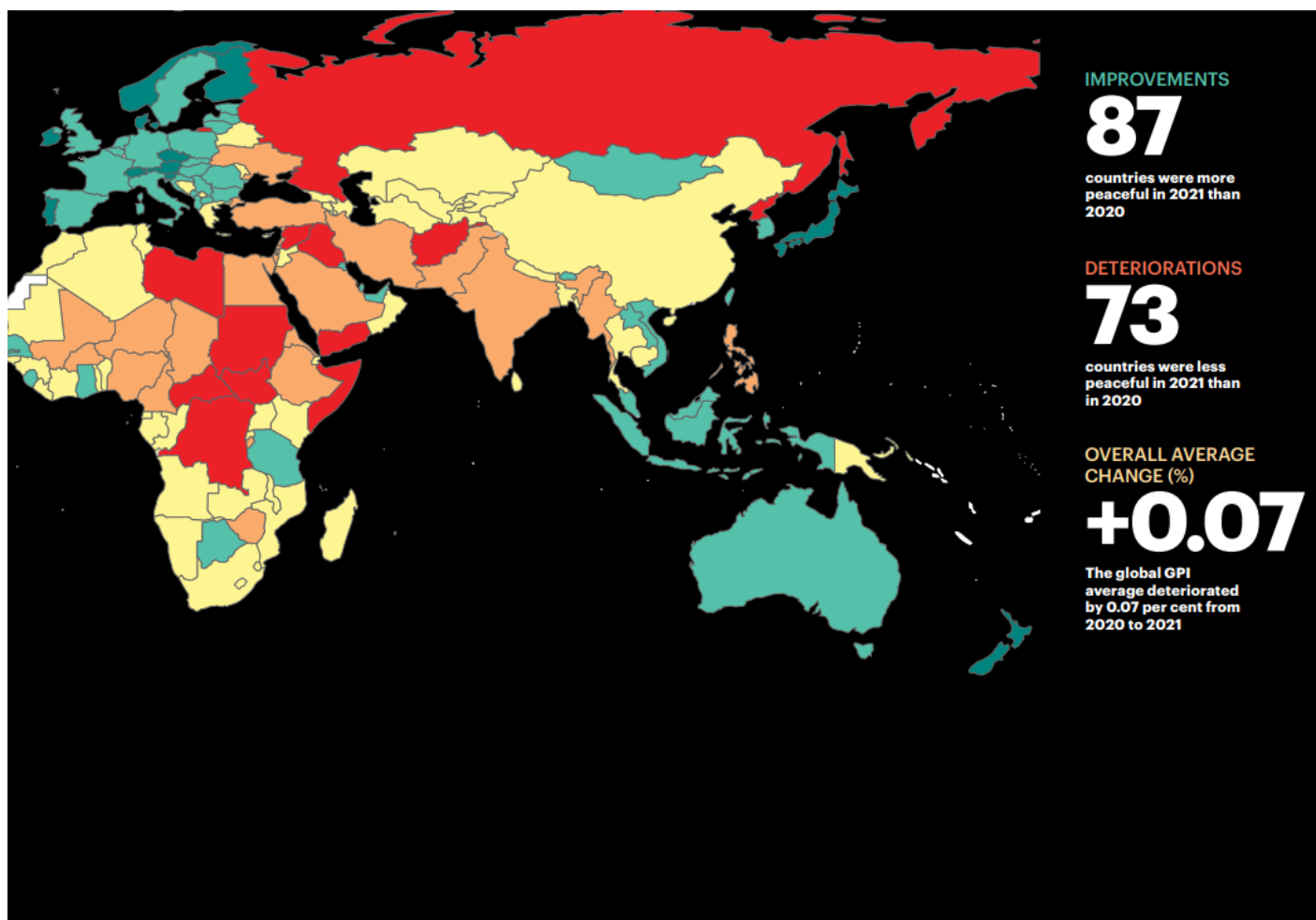
# 2021 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

A SNAPSHOT OF THE GLOBAL STATE OF PEACE

## THE STATE OF PEACE



RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE
1	Iceland	1.1	↔	29	Qatar	1.605	↑ 2	57	South Korea	1.877	↓ 12
2	New Zealand	1.253	↑ 1	30	Estonia	1.612	↔	58	Tanzania	1.892	↓ 9
3	Denmark	1.256	↑ 2	31	Spain	1.621	↑ 1	= 59	Malawi	1.909	↑ 6
4	Portugal	1.267	↓ 2	32	Italy	1.652	↓ 3	= 59	Moldova	1.909	↑ 4
5	Slovenia	1.315	↑ 5	33	United Kingdom	1.658	↑ 6	61	Cyprus	1.912	↓ 3
6	Austria	1.317	↓ 2	34	Taiwan	1.662	↔	62	Equatorial Guinea	1.915	↓ 9
7	Switzerland	1.323	↑ 2	35	Latvia	1.686	↔	63	Jordan	1.916	↑ 4
8	Ireland	1.326	↑ 3	36	Kuwait	1.688	↔	64	Panama	1.919	↓ 3
9	Czech Republic	1.329	↓ 1	37	Lithuania	1.689	↓ 6	65	Namibia	1.927	↓ 5
10	Canada	1.33	↓ 3	38	Ghana	1.715	↑ 2	66	Greece	1.932	↓ 10
11	Singapore	1.347	↓ 5	39	Costa Rica	1.735	↓ 1	67	Kazakhstan	1.936	↑ 1
12	Japan	1.373	↔	40	North Macedonia	1.744	↑ 11	68	Argentina	1.945	↑ 3
13	Finland	1.402	↔	41	Botswana	1.753	↑ 2	69	Eswatini	1.955	↑ 12
14	Norway	1.438	↑ 1	= 42	Indonesia	1.783	↑ 2	70	Madagascar	1.963	↔
15	Sweden	1.46	↔	= 42	Mongolia	1.783	↓ 1	71	Zambia	1.964	↓ 24
16	Australia	1.47	↓ 2	44	Serbia	1.797	↓ 3	72	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.97	↑ 2
= 17	Croatia	1.48	↑ 6	45	Laos	1.809	↑ 3	73	Oman	1.982	↑ 2
= 17	Germany	1.48	↑ 1	46	Sierra Leone	1.813	↑ 10	74	Jamaica	1.992	↓ 1
19	Hungary	1.494	↑ 3	47	Uruguay	1.817	↓ 10	75	Paraguay	1.997	↑ 7
20	Belgium	1.496	↓ 3	48	Albania	1.824	↓ 2	= 76	Kyrgyz Republic	1.998	↑ 20
21	Netherlands	1.506	↓ 2	49	Chile	1.831	↑ 1	= 76	Liberia	1.998	↓ 17
22	Bhutan	1.51	↓ 2	50	Vietnam	1.835	↑ 19	78	Cambodia	2.008	↓ 7
23	Malaysia	1.515	↑ 1	51	Montenegro	1.847	↑ 3	79	Morocco	2.015	↑ 9
24	Poland	1.524	↑ 9	52	United Arab Emirates	1.848	↑ 12	= 80	Angola	2.017	↑ 7
25	Romania	1.53	↓ 4	53	The Gambia	1.853	↑ 13	= 80	Kosovo	2.017	↔
26	Slovakia	1.557	↔	54	Senegal	1.864	↑ 1	82	Dominican Republic	2.024	↓ 5
27	Bulgaria	1.577	↑ 1	55	France	1.868	↑ 7	83	Rwanda	2.028	↓ 4
28	Mauritius	1.592	↓ 3	56	Timor-Leste	1.873	↓ 4				



RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE
84	Trinidad and Tobago	2.029	↑ 1	112	Lesotho	2.202	↓ 4	139	Ethiopia	2.613	↓ 6
85	Nepal	2.033	↓ 2	113	Thailand	2.205	↑ 5	140	Mexico	2.62	↓ 2
86	Peru	2.034	↑ 3	114	Uganda	2.219	↑ 3	141	Iran	2.637	↑ 1
87	Cuba	2.042	↓ 1	115	Togo	2.239	↓ 4	142	Ukraine	2.66	↑ 6
88	Ecuador	2.044	↑ 4	116	Kenya	2.254	↑ 9	143	Israel	2.669	↑ 2
89	Georgia	2.054	↓ 5	117	Belarus	2.285	↓ 19	144	Colombia	2.694	↓ 4
90	Uzbekistan	2.062	↔	118	Mauritania	2.29	↑ 1	145	Cameroon	2.7	↓ 4
91	Bangladesh	2.068	↑ 7	119	Republic of the Congo	2.291	↑ 4	146	Nigeria	2.712	↑ 1
92	Guinea	2.069	↓ 1	120	Algeria	2.31	↑ 2	147	Lebanon	2.797	↓ 1
93	Gabon	2.074	↑ 14	121	Azerbaijan	2.334	↓ 6	148	Mali	2.813	↓ 4
94	Armenia	2.075	↓ 16	122	United States of America	2.337	↓ 2	149	Turkey	2.843	↔
95	Sri Lanka	2.083	↓ 19	123	South Africa	2.344	↑ 1	150	Pakistan	2.868	↓ 2
96	Benin	2.093	↑ 9	124	Honduras	2.371	↓ 8	151	North Korea	2.923	↑ 1
97	Tajikistan	2.095	↑ 6	125	Saudi Arabia	2.376	↑ 2	152	Venezuela	2.934	↓ 2
98	Tunisia	2.108	↓ 3	126	Egypt	2.397	↑ 3	153	Sudan	2.936	↔
99	Guinea-Bissau	2.113	↑ 3	127	Philippines	2.417	↑ 3	154	Russia	2.993	↔
= 100	China	2.114	↓ 6	128	Brazil	2.43	↔	155	Central African Republic	3.131	↑ 1
= 100	Guyana	2.114	↓ 7	129	Burundi	2.434	↑ 3	156	Libya	3.166	↓ 1
102	Bahrain	2.121	↑ 2	130	Nicaragua	2.445	↑ 5	157	Democratic Republic of the Congo	3.196	↑ 1
= 103	Cote d' Ivoire	2.123	↑ 2	131	Myanmar	2.457	↓ 5	158	Somalia	3.211	↓ 1
= 103	Mozambique	2.123	↓ 2	132	Chad	2.489	↑ 1	159	Iraq	3.257	↑ 2
105	Bolivia	2.14	↓ 8	133	Zimbabwe	2.49	↓ 2	160	South Sudan	3.363	↔
106	Djibouti	2.146	↑ 6	134	Burkina Faso	2.527	↓ 13	161	Syria	3.371	↑ 1
107	Papua New Guinea	2.149	↓ 7	135	India	2.553	↑ 2	162	Yemen	3.407	↓ 3
108	Haiti	2.151	↑ 5	136	Eritrea	2.555	↑ 3	163	Afghanistan	3.631	↔
109	Turkmenistan	2.154	↔	137	Niger	2.589	↓ 1				
110	El Salvador	2.184	↔	138	Palestine	2.61	↑ 5				
111	Guatemala	2.195	↑ 3								



# World Happiness Report 2020

**Table 2.1. Ranking of happiness (average life evaluations) based on the 2020 surveys compared to those in 2017-2019**

Country name	Rank by 2020 score	Score, 2020 (95pct conf. interval)	Rank by 2017-19 score	Score, 2017-19 (95pct conf. interval)
Finland	1	7.889 (7.784-7.995)	1	7.809 (7.748-7.870)
Iceland	2	7.575 (7.405-7.746)	4	7.504 (7.388-7.621)
Denmark	3	7.515 (7.388-7.642)	2	7.646 (7.580-7.711)
Switzerland	4	7.508 (7.379-7.638)	3	7.560 (7.491-7.629)
Netherlands	5	7.504 (7.412-7.597)	6	7.449 (7.394-7.503)
Sweden	6	7.314 (7.182-7.447)	7	7.354 (7.283-7.425)
Germany	7	7.312 (7.163-7.460)	15	7.076 (7.006-7.146)
Norway	8	7.290 (7.160-7.421)	5	7.488 (7.420-7.556)
New Zealand	9	7.257 (7.124-7.391)	8	7.300 (7.222-7.377)
Austria	10	7.213 (7.080-7.347)	9	7.294 (7.229-7.360)
Israel*	11	7.195 (7.072-7.318)	12	7.200 (7.136-7.265)
Australia	12	7.137 (6.984-7.291)	11	7.223 (7.141-7.305)
Ireland	13	7.035 (6.903-7.166)	14	7.094 (7.016-7.172)
United States	14	7.028 (6.859-7.197)	16	6.940 (6.847-7.032)
Canada	15	7.025 (6.884-7.166)	10	7.232 (7.153-7.311)

This ninth World Happiness Report is unlike any that have come before. COVID-19 has shaken, taken, and reshaped lives everywhere. In this chapter, our central purpose remains just what it has always been – to measure and use subjective well-being to track and explain the quality of lives all over the globe. Our capacity to do this has been shaken at the same time as the lives we are struggling to assess. While still relying on the Gallup World Poll as our primary source for our measures of the quality of life, this year, we tap a broader variety of data to trace the size and distribution of the happiness impacts of COVID-19. We also devote equal efforts to unravelling how geography, demography, and the spread of the virus have interacted with each country's scientific knowledge and social and political underpinnings, especially their institutional and social trust levels, to explain international differences in death rates from COVID-19.

First, we shall present the overall life evaluations and measures of positive and negative emotions (affect) for those countries for which 2020 surveys are available. The resulting rankings exclude the many countries without 2020 surveys, and the smaller sample sizes, compared to the three-year averages usually used, increase their imprecision. We then place these rankings beside those based on data for 2017-2019, before COVID-19 struck, and also present our usual ranking figure based on the three-year average of life evaluations 2018-2020.

Second, we use responses at the individual level to investigate how COVID-19 has affected the happiness of different population subgroups, thus attempting to assess possible inequalities in the distribution of the well-being consequences of COVID-19.

Third, we review and extend the evidence on the links between trust and well-being. We find evidence that trust and benevolence are strong supports for well-being, and also for successful strategies to control COVID-19. We present new evidence on the power of expected benevolence, as measured by the extent to which people think their lost wallets would be returned if found by neighbours, strangers, or the police. All are found to be strong supports for well-being, and for effective COVID-19 strategies.

Fourth, we turn to examine how different features of national demographic, social and political structures have combined with the consequences of policy strategies and disease exposure to help explain international differences in 2020 death rates from COVID-19. A central feature of our evidence is the extent to which the quality of the social context, and especially the extent to which people trust their governments, and have trust in the benevolence of others, supports not only their ability to maintain their happiness before and during the pandemic but also reduces the COVID-19 death toll by facilitating more effective strategies for limiting the spread of the pandemic while maintaining and building a sense of common purpose.

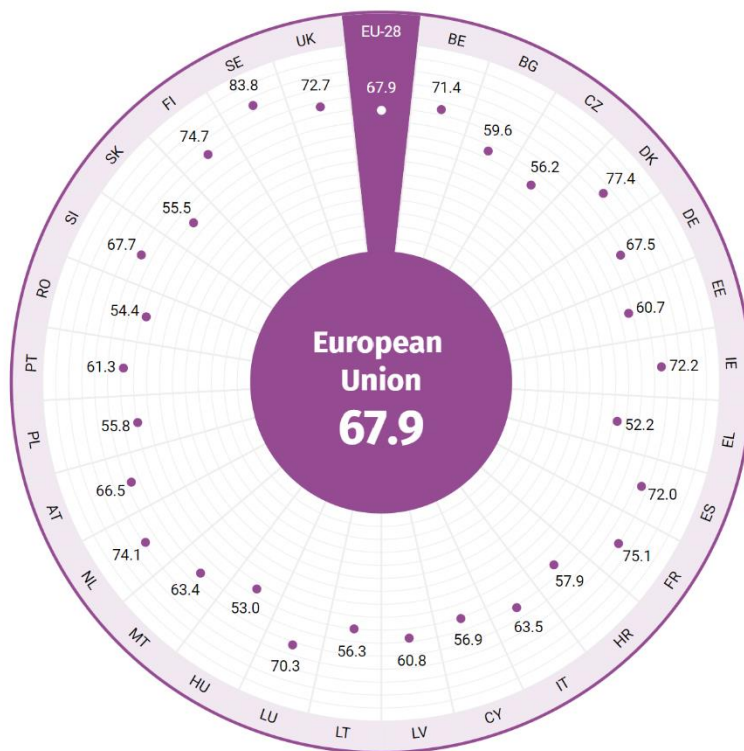
These data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

## World Press Freedom Index – 2021 (For details of this see HL Sample DBQ 1)

(<https://rsf.org/en/ranking>)

## EU - Gender Equality Index – Source: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2020/country/IE>



? The data for 2020 Index is mostly from 2018

### Progress in gender equality in Ireland since 2010:

With 72.2 out of 100 points, Ireland ranks 7th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 4.3 points above the EU's score. Since 2010, Ireland's score has increased by 6.8 points (+ 0.9 points since 2017). Ireland has progressed faster than the EU and improved its position by two places since 2010.

### Best performance

Ireland's score is highest in the domain of health (91.3 points), in which it ranks 5th. Its second highest score is in the domain of money (86.5 points), ranking 8th among all countries.

### Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities are most pronounced in the domain of power (55.8 points). However, Ireland is among the better-performing countries in this domain (ranking 10th).

### Biggest improvement

Since 2010, Ireland's score has improved the most in the domain of power (+ 18.6 points), increasing its ranking by two places. Ireland's rankings have also improved in the domains of work and time (by one place).

### A step backwards

Progress has stalled in the domain of health (+ 0.6 points), in which Ireland lost one place in the rankings. It also dropped by five places in the domain of money.

## Ireland ▾ for 2020 ▾



The EU and World Economic Forum data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-



# World Economic Forum - Global Gender Gap Index 2020

([http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2021.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf))

The Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks the evolution of gender-based gaps among four key dimensions (Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment) and tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time.

This year, the Global Gender Gap index benchmarks 156 countries, providing a tool for cross-country comparison and to prioritize the most effective policies needed to close gender gaps. The methodology of the index has remained stable since its original conception in 2006, providing a basis for robust cross-country and time-series analysis. The Global Gender Gap Index measures scores on a 0 to 100 scale and scores can be interpreted as the distance to parity (i.e. the % of the gender gap that has been closed).

The 14th edition of the report, the Global Gender Gap Report 2020, was launched in December 2019, using the latest available data at the time. The 15th edition, the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, comes out a little over one year after COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic. Preliminary evidence suggests that the health emergency and the related economic downturn have impacted women more severely than men, partially re-opening gaps that had already been closed.

## Global Trends and Outcomes

– Globally, the average distance completed to parity is at 68%, a step back compared to 2020 (-0.6 percentage points). These figures are mainly driven by a decline in the performance of large countries. On its current trajectory, it will now take 135.6 years to close the gender gap worldwide. 1

– The gender gap in Political Empowerment remains the largest of the four gaps tracked, with only 22% closed to date, having further widened since the 2020 edition of the report by 2.4 percentage points. Across the 156 countries covered by the index, women represent only 26.1% of some 35,500 parliament seats and just 22.6% of over 3,400 ministers worldwide. In 81 countries, there has never been a woman head of state, as of 15th January 2021. At the current rate of progress, the WEF estimates that it will take 145.5 years to attain gender parity in politics.

**Figure 1** The Global Gender Gap Index framework

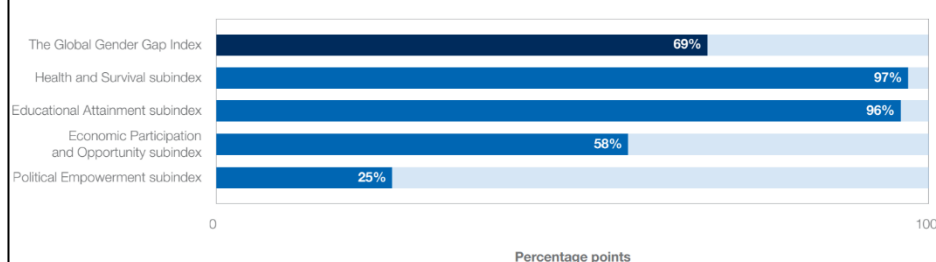


Rank	Country	Score		Rank change	Score change	
		0–1		2020	2020	2006
1	Iceland	0,892	0,892	–	+0,016	+0,111
2	Finland	0,861	0,861	1	+0,029	+0,065
3	Norway	0,849	0,849	-1	+0,007	+0,050
4	New Zealand	0,840	0,840	2	+0,041	+0,089
5	Sweden	0,823	0,823	-1	+0,003	+0,009
6	Namibia	0,809	0,809	6	+0,025	+0,122
7	Rwanda	0,805	0,805	2	+0,014	n/a
8	Lithuania	0,804	0,804	25	+0,059	+0,096
9	Ireland	0,800	0,800	-2	+0,002	+0,066
10	Switzerland	0,798	0,798	8	+0,019	+0,098
11	Germany	0,796	0,796	-1	+0,010	+0,044
12	Nicaragua	0,796	0,796	-7	-0,008	+0,139
13	Belgium	0,789	0,789	14	+0,039	+0,081
14	Spain	0,788	0,788	-6	-0,006	+0,056
15	Costa Rica	0,786	0,786	-2	+0,003	+0,092
16	France	0,784	0,784	-1	+0,003	+0,132
17	Philippines	0,784	0,784	-1	+0,003	+0,032
18	South Africa	0,781	0,781	-1	+0,001	+0,068
19	Serbia	0,780	0,780	20	+0,044	n/a
20	Latvia	0,778	0,778	-9	-0,007	+0,069

136	Algeria	0,633	0,633	-4	-0,001	+0,031
137	Bahrain	0,632	0,632	-4	+0,003	+0,043
138	Niger*	0,629	0,629	n/a	n/a	n/a
139	Nigeria	0,627	0,627	-11	-0,008	+0,016
140	India	0,625	0,625	-28	-0,042	+0,024
141	Vanuatu	0,625	0,625	-15	-0,013	n/a
142	Qatar	0,624	0,624	-7	-0,005	n/a
143	Kuwait	0,621	0,621	-21	-0,029	-0,013
144	Morocco	0,612	0,612	-1	+0,008	+0,030
145	Oman	0,608	0,608	-1	+0,006	n/a
146	Mauritania	0,606	0,606	-5	-0,008	+0,022
147	Saudi Arabia	0,603	0,603	-1	+0,003	+0,079
148	Chad	0,593	0,593	-1	-0,003	+0,068
149	Mali	0,591	0,591	-10	-0,030	-0,009
150	Iran, Islamic Rep.	0,582	0,582	-2	-0,002	+0,002
151	Congo, Democratic Rep.	0,576	0,576	-2	-0,002	n/a
152	Syria	0,568	0,568	-2	+0,001	n/a
153	Pakistan	0,556	0,556	-2	-0,007	+0,013
154	Iraq	0,535	0,535	-2	+0,005	n/a
155	Yemen	0,492	0,492	-2	-0,002	+0,032
156	Afghanistan*	0,444	0,444	n/a	n/a	n/a

**Figure 2** The state of the gender gaps

Percentage of the gender gap closed to date, 2020



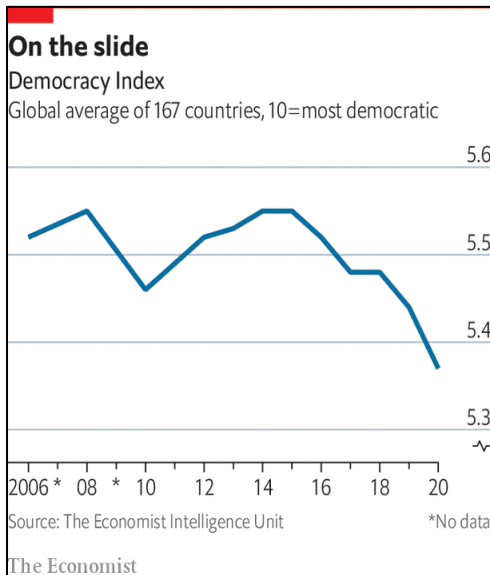
Sources

World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Index, 2020.

## Economist Democracy Index 2020

(<https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2021/02/02/global-democracy-has-a-very-bad-year>)

Global democracy continued its decline in 2020, according to the latest edition of the [Democracy Index](#) from our sister company, The Economist Intelligence Unit. The annual survey, which rates the state of democracy across 167 countries based on five measures—electoral process and pluralism, the functioning of government, political participation, democratic political culture and civil liberties—finds that just 8.4% of the world’s population live in a full democracy while more than a third live under authoritarian rule. The global score of 5.37 out of ten is the lowest recorded since the index began in 2006.



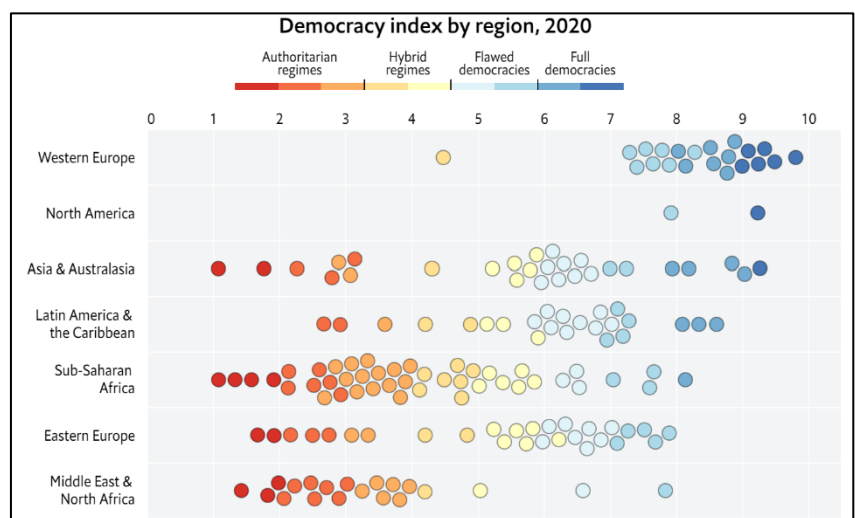
Government-imposed lockdowns and other pandemic-control measures led to a huge rollback of civil liberties in 2020, causing downgrades across the majority of countries. Confronted by a new, deadly disease to which humans had no natural immunity, most people concluded that preventing a catastrophic loss of life justified some temporary loss of freedom. The ranking penalised countries that withdrew civil liberties, failed to allow proper scrutiny of emergency powers or denied freedom of expression—regardless of whether there was public support for government measures. In France for example, severe lockdowns and national curfews led to a small but significant decrease in its overall score and the country dropped into the “flawed democracy” category.

The pandemic did not put a stop to rising levels of political engagement. Turnout in the American presidential election in November was the highest for 120 years and the country recorded its best political participation score since the index began. But public trust in the democratic process was dealt a blow by the refusal of Donald Trump and many of his supporters to accept the election result, and the United States

remains in the “flawed democracy” category. The star performer, measured by the change in both its score and rank, was Taiwan, which was upgraded to a “full democracy” after rising 20 places in the global ranking from 31st to 11th. Taiwan went to the polls in January 2020, and a strong voter turnout, including among young people, demonstrated the resilience of its democracy.

Elections do not always lead to democratic progress. Although Mali held parliamentary elections in March 2020 that were broadly free and fair, the results were nullified when the country suffered a coup in August by military officers aggrieved by a lack of progress against jihadist insurgents. Mali’s drop of 11 places down the rankings is typical of sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, which suffered a terrible year for democracy.

This year is not off to a promising start, with an insurrection in America’s Capitol and a military coup in Myanmar. Democrats will hope that a gradual loosening of covid-19 restrictions will give them more reason to cheer.



These data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

# Corruption Perception Index - 2020 (Transparency International)

([https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/CPI2020\\_Report\\_EN\\_0802-WEB-1\\_2021-02-08-103053.pdf](https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/CPI2020_Report_EN_0802-WEB-1_2021-02-08-103053.pdf))

SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	RANK
88	Denmark	1
88	New Zealand	1
85	Finland	3
85	Singapore	3
85	Sweden	3
85	Switzerland	3
84	Norway	7
82	Netherlands	8
80	Germany	9
80	Luxembourg	9
77	Australia	11
77	Canada	11
77	Hong Kong	11
77	United Kingdom	11
76	Austria	15
76	Belgium	15
75	Estonia	17
75	Iceland	17
74	Japan	19
72	Ireland	20

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** This year's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) paints a grim picture of the state of corruption worldwide. While most countries have made little to no progress in tackling corruption in nearly a decade, more than two-thirds of countries score below 50. Our analysis shows corruption not only undermines the global health response to COVID-19, but contributes to a continuing crisis of democracy. 2020 proved to be one of the worst years in recent history, with the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating effects. The health and economic impact on individuals and communities worldwide has been catastrophic. More than 90 million people were infected, and nearly 2 million people lost their lives around the world.<sup>1</sup> As the past tumultuous year has shown, COVID-19 is not just a health and economic crisis, but a corruption crisis as well, with countless lives lost due to the insidious effects of corruption undermining a fair and equitable global response.

21	Chad	160
21	Comoros	160
21	Eritrea	160
21	Iraq	160
19	Afghanistan	165
19	Burundi	165
19	Congo	165
19	Guinea Bissau	165
19	Turkmenistan	165
18	Democratic Republic of the Congo	170
18	Haiti	170
18	Korea, North	170
17	Libya	173
16	Equatorial Guinea	174
16	Sudan	174
15	Venezuela	176
15	Yemen	176
14	Syria	178
12	Somalia	179
12	South Sudan	179

Reports of corruption during COVID-19 have reverberated across the globe.



## Recommendations

To fight COVID-19 and curb corruption, it is essential for countries to:



### 1. STRENGTHEN OVERSIGHT INSTITUTIONS

The COVID-19 response exposed vulnerabilities of weak oversight and inadequate transparency. To ensure resources reach those most in need and are not subject to theft by the corrupt, anti-corruption authorities and oversight institutions must have sufficient funds, resources, and independence to perform their duties.



### 3. DEFEND DEMOCRACY, PROMOTE CIVIC SPACE

The COVID-19 crisis exacerbated democratic decline, with some governments exploiting the pandemic to suspend parliaments, renounce public accountability mechanisms, and incite violence against dissidents. To defend civic space, civil society groups and the media must have the enabling conditions to hold governments accountable.



### 2. ENSURE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT CONTRACTING

Many governments have drastically relaxed procurement processes. These rushed and opaque procedures provide ample opportunity for corruption and the diversion of public resources. Contracting processes must remain open and transparent to combat wrongdoing, identify conflicts of interest and ensure fair pricing.



### 4. PUBLISH RELEVANT DATA, GUARANTEE ACCESS

The publication of disaggregated data on spending and distribution of resources is particularly relevant in emergency situations, to ensure fair and equitable policy responses. Governments should also ensure people receive easy, accessible, timely and meaningful information by guaranteeing their right to access information.

## What about data on the ‘National’ Level? What contradictions can you see at this level?

**National Integrity Index - Local Authorities 2019** The following pages present the results, analysis and data from Transparency International (TI) Ireland’s National Integrity Index (NII) on Local Authorities. This index was designed to assess the systems and practices to promote integrity in each of Ireland’s 31 local authorities, based on the categories of Transparency, Accountability and Ethics, and to rank the local authorities accordingly. The index is based on research carried out between June and Dec 2019.

RANK	COUNCIL	OVERALL SCORE			
1	Fingal County Council	73%	14	Limerick City and County Council	57%
1	South Dublin County Council	73%	17	Sligo County Council	53%
3	Monaghan County Council	70%	18	Cork City Council	50%
4	Kildare County Council	67%	18	Cork County Council	50%
5	Dublin City Council	63%	18	Galway County Council	50%
5	Kilkenny County Council	63%	18	Roscommon County Council	50%
5	Meath County Council	63%	18	Waterford City and County Council	50%
5	Wexford County Council	63%	23	Carlow County Council	47%
5	Wicklow County Council	63%	23	Laois County Council	47%
10	Clare County Council	60%	23	Leitrim County Council	47%
10	Donegal County Council	60%	23	Louth County Council	47%
10	Galway City Council	60%	27	Longford County Council	43%
10	Tipperary County Council	60%	27	Mayo County Council	43%
14	Cavan County Council	57%	27	Offaly County Council	43%
14	Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	57%	30	Kerry County Council	40%
			30	Westmeath County Council	40%

## National Integrity Index – Private Sector 2020

The following pages present the results, analysis and data from Transparency International (TI) Ireland’s first National Integrity Index (NII) on the private sector. The index is based on research carried out in summer 2020.

RANK	COMPANY	OVERALL SCORE
1	AIB Group plc	68%
2	DCC plc	63%
3	Irish Life Group Ltd.	62%
3	Kerry Group plc	62%
3	Bank of Ireland Group plc	62%
3	Trane Technologies plc	62%
3	Tullow Oil plc	62%
8	MSD Ireland Ltd	60%
8	CRH plc	60%
10	Aer Lingus Ltd.	58%
10	Intel Corporation	58%
10	Pfizer Inc.	58%
10	Ryanair Holdings plc	58%
14	Applegreen Ltd.	57%
14	Microsoft Ltd.	57%
14	Grafton Group plc	57%

## KEY STATISTICS

2019

Comprehensive data on expenses published	8/31
Declarations of interests published	10/31
Protected Disclosures Reports posted online	14/31
Diary of the Chief Executive posted online	0/31
Donation Statements of Councillors posted	10/31
Annual Reports posted online	14/31

These Global and Local data on Corruption will be particularly useful to me in the following essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

# The Rule of Law Index – 2020 (<https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/wjp-rule-law-index-2020>)

The World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index® 2020 is the latest report in an annual series measuring the rule of law based on the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country legal practitioners and experts worldwide. Strengthening the rule of law is a major goal of citizens, governments, donors, businesses, and civil society organizations around the world.

The WJP Rule of Law Index 2020 presents a portrait of the rule of law in 128 countries and jurisdictions by providing scores and rankings based on eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice. The scores and rankings in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2020 are derived from more than 130,000 household surveys and 4,000 legal practitioner and expert surveys worldwide.

**Defining the Rule of Law:** Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights. Traditionally, the rule of law has been viewed as the domain of lawyers and judges. But everyday issues of safety, rights, justice, and governance affect us all; everyone is a stakeholder in the rule of law.

## The Four Universal Principles of the Rule of Law

The World Justice Project defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers:

### Universal Principle One Accountability



The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.

### Universal Principle Two Just Laws



The laws are clear, publicized, and stable; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons and contract, property, and human rights.

### Universal Principle Three Open Government



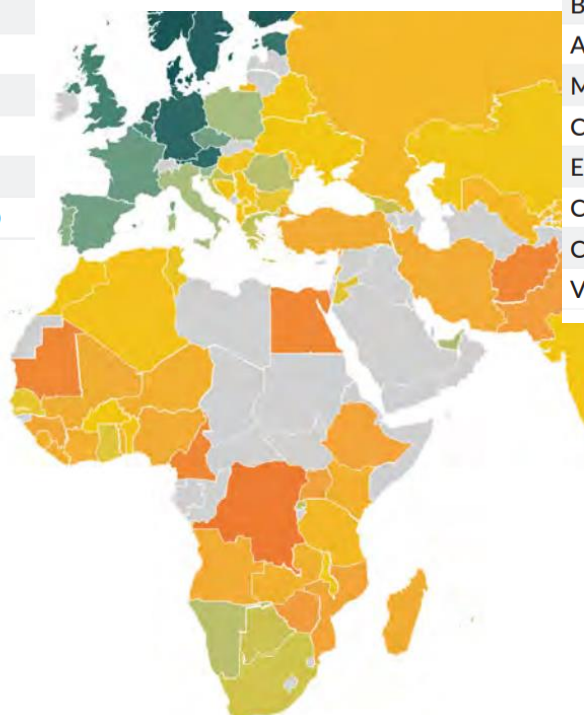
The processes by which the laws are enacted, administered, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.

### Universal Principle Four Accessible and Impartial Dispute Resolution



Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Denmark	0.90	1
Norway	0.89	2
Finland	0.87	3
Sweden	0.86	4
Netherlands	0.84	5
Germany	0.84	6
New Zealand	0.83	7
Austria	0.82	8
Canada	0.81	9
Estonia	0.81	10



	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Uganda	0.40	117
Nicaragua	0.39	118
Zimbabwe	0.39	119
Pakistan	0.39	120
Bolivia	0.38	121
Afghanistan	0.36	122
Mauritania	0.36	123
Cameroon	0.36	124
Egypt	0.36	125
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	126
Cambodia	0.33	127
Venezuela, RB	0.27	128





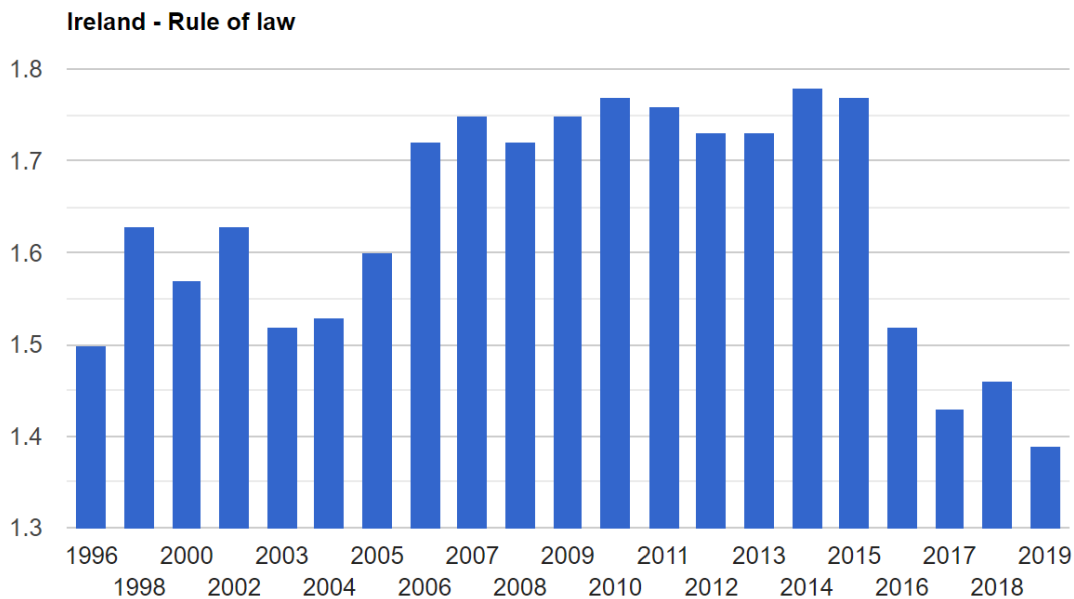
## Rule of law – World Bank Data

[https://govdata360.worldbank.org/indicators/h02f9cb8c?country=IRL&indicator=370&viz=line\\_chart&years=1996,2019](https://govdata360.worldbank.org/indicators/h02f9cb8c?country=IRL&indicator=370&viz=line_chart&years=1996,2019)

**Ireland DOES NOT feature in the World Justice Project DATA set.** Can you make viable comparisons between two indices that do not have precisely the same methodology? What would the strengths and weaknesses of trying to do this? Nor do many central African Nations. How might 'GAPS' in Data distort the validity of an index...???

**Ireland: Rule of law index (-2.5 weak; 2.5 strong):** For that indicator, we provide data for Ireland from 1996 to 2019. The average value for Ireland during that period was 1.63 points with a minimum of 1.39 points in 2019 and a maximum of 1.78 points in 2014. The latest value from 2019 is 1.39 points. For comparison, the world average in 2019 based on 193 countries is -0.04 points. See the [global rankings](#) for that indicator or use the [country comparator](#) to compare trends over time.

from: 1996 to: 2019 Download as: [PNG](#) [Download data](#) [API](#)  



How has Ireland's performance changed with regards to these data in the last 20 years?

What factors might account for these changes?

Look at the top and bottom of the 'Y-Axis' – Does the range here make the changes look more dramatic than they otherwise might? What would these data look like if the 'Y-Axis' range was -2.5 to +2.5 (which is the full range of the World Bank Assessment)?

These **World Justice Project** and **World Bank** data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

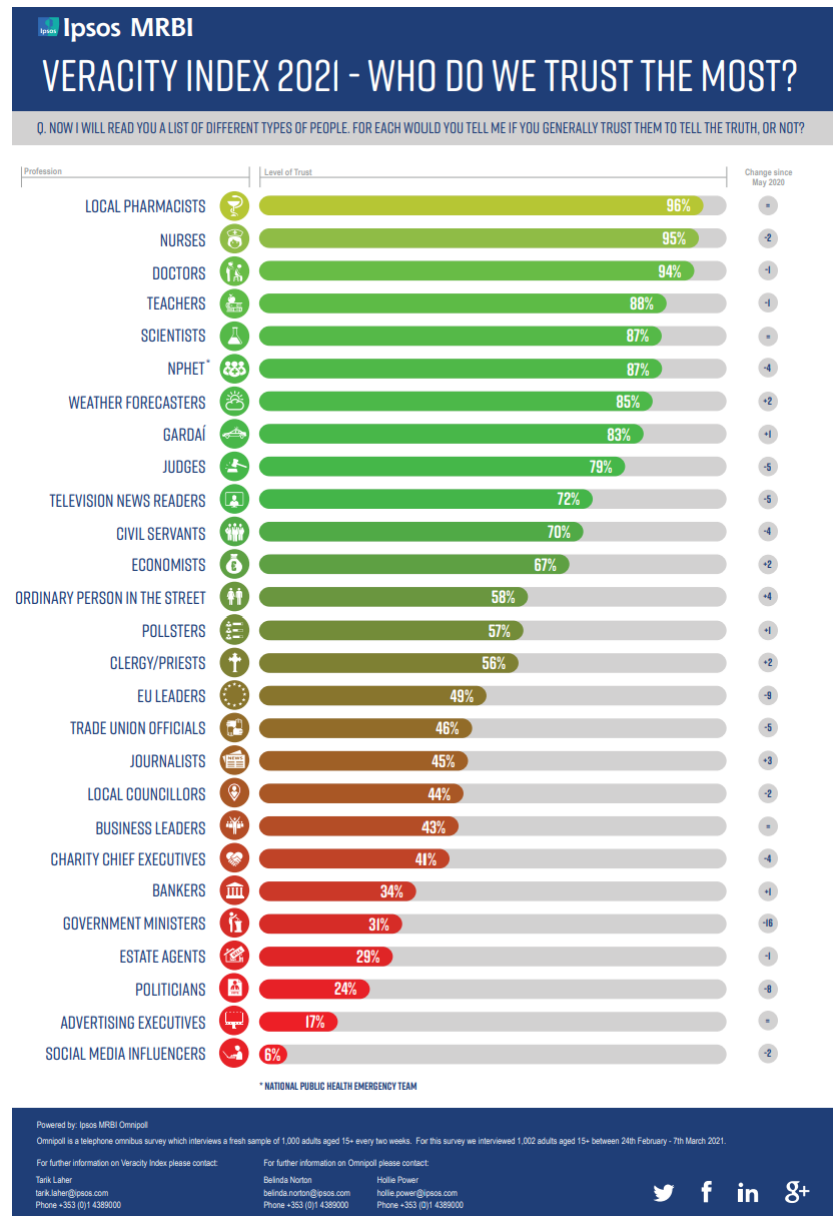
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
-

## The Veracity Index – 2021 [https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2021-03/veracity\\_index\\_2021\\_2.pdf](https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2021-03/veracity_index_2021_2.pdf)

Who do we trust most in Ireland?

Obviously, this isn't an international index, but it does reveal some interesting perspectives on Irish Society. What conclusions can you draw from it. Pay particular attention between the differences in trust between the 'Public' and 'Private' sectors...

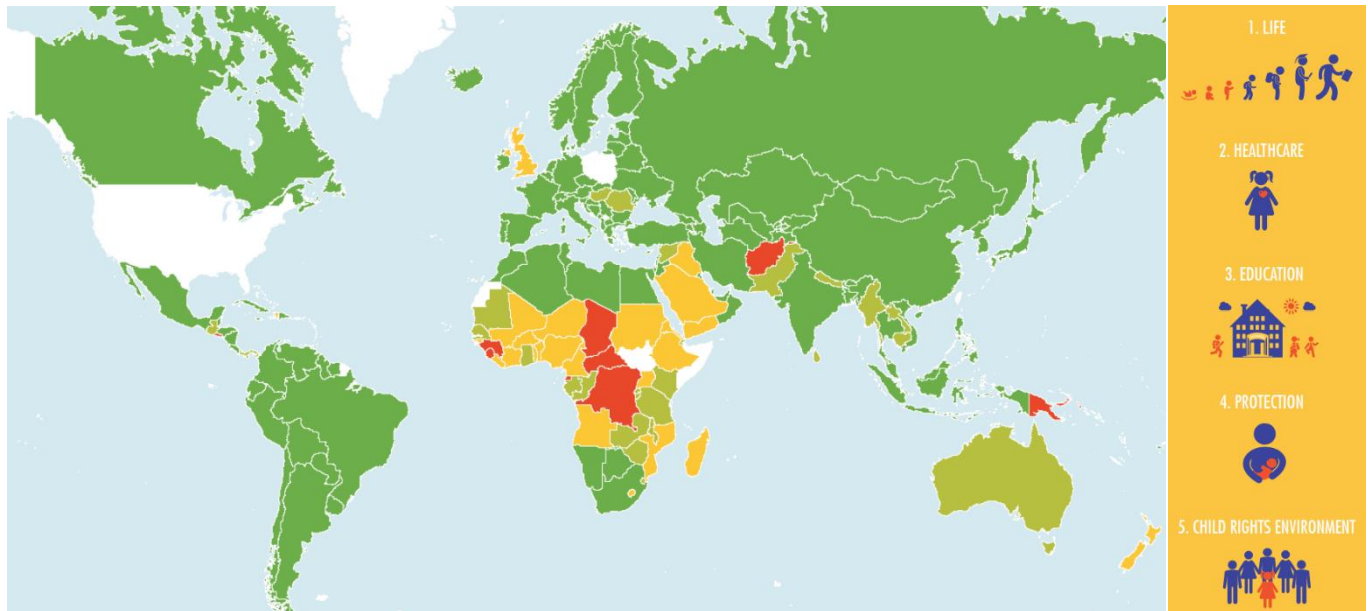
When you have considered this, use your knowledge of 'The Media' to consider how each of the most and least trusted groups are usually portrayed in media stories about issues such as 'Strikes' and 'Pay Agreements'.



These data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

# Kids Rights Index 2021 (<https://files.kidsrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/03095317/KidsRights-Index-2021-Report.pdf>)



The KidsRights Index is the only annual global ranking on how countries worldwide are adhering to children's rights.

**182 countries**

**Unique:** domain Child Rights Environment provides insight into the extent to which a country is equipped to carry out the UN CRC.

**The goal of the KidsRights Index**  
To stimulate compliance with children's rights worldwide.

**ONLINE:** the KidsRights Index is easily accessible on [kidsrights.org/kidsrightsindex](https://kidsrights.org/kidsrightsindex)

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is the global framework for children's rights.

**1989**  
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**196 states**

The KidsRights Index pools data from three reputable sources:

- Quantitative data published and regularly updated by UNICEF [www.data.unicef.org](https://www.data.unicef.org)
- UNDP [www.hdr.undp.org/data](https://www.hdr.undp.org/data)
- Qualitative data from the Concluding Observations by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The KidsRights Index: 20 indicators: 13 quantitative and 7 qualitative indicators

**1. LIFE**

- Under five mortality rate
- Life expectancy at birth
- Maternal mortality ratio

**2. HEALTHCARE**

- % of under five year olds suffering from underweight
- Immunization of one year old children
- % of population using improved sanitation facilities (urban and rural)
- % of population using improved drinking water sources (urban and rural)

**3. EDUCATION**

- Expected years of schooling of girls
- Expected years of schooling of boys
- Gender inequality in expected years of schooling (absolute difference between girls and boys)

**4. PROTECTION**

- Child labour
- Adolescent birth rate
- Birth registration

**5. CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT**

- Non-discrimination
- Best interests of the child
- Enabling legislation
- Best available budget
- Respect for the views of the child/child participation
- Collection and analysis of disaggregate data
- State-civil society cooperation for child rights participation

The KidsRights Index is an initiative of the KidsRights Foundation, in cooperation with Erasmus University Rotterdam; Erasmus School of Economics and the International Institute of Social Studies.

Rank KRI 2021	Countries/182	Score KRI 2021
1	Iceland	0.966
2	Switzerland	0.937
3	Finland	0.934
4	Sweden	0.915
5	Netherlands	0.909 <sup>1</sup>
6	Germany	0.909
7	Slovenia	0.899
8	France	0.892
9	Denmark	0.891
10	Thailand	0.889

Table 1. Top ten of the KidsRights Index in 2021.

<sup>1</sup> Differences in ranking within a cluster, despite having the same score, is because the ranking is based on the complete score received up to 15 decimal points. However, for the purpose of representation, the scores are shown only up to a rounded off figure of 3 decimal points.

Rank KRI 2021	Countries/182	Score KRI 2021
182	Chad	0.146
181	Afghanistan	0.198
180	Sierra Leone	0.218
179	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.273
178	Papua New Guinea	0.275
177	Equatorial Guinea	0.281
176	Central African Republic	0.290
175	Guinea	0.312
174	El Salvador	0.331
173	Guinea-Bissau	0.355
172	Nigeria	0.356

Table 2. Bottom eleven of the KidsRights Index 2021.

## COUNTRY: IRELAND

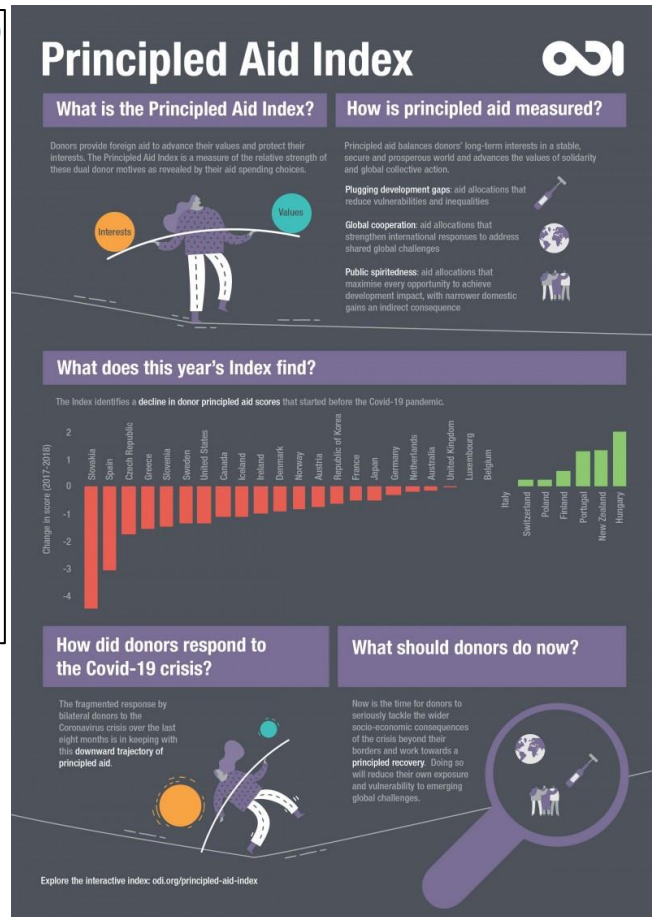
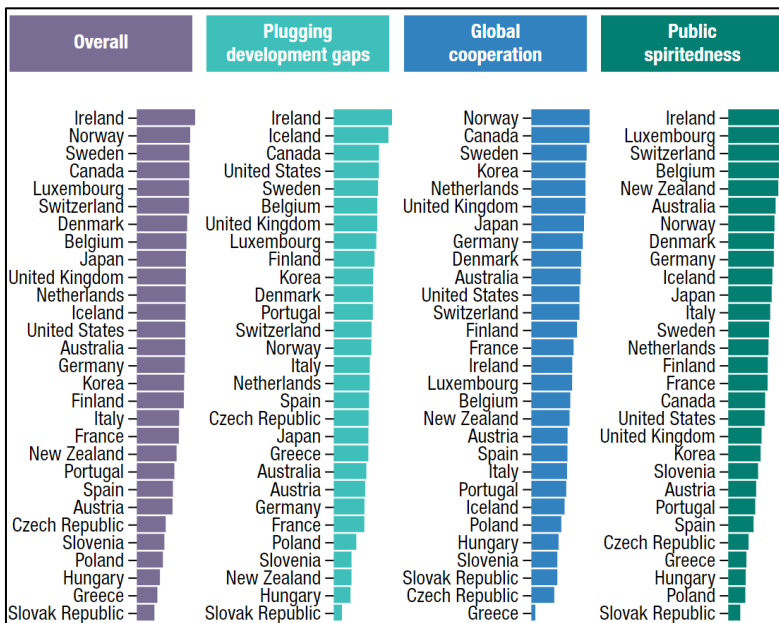
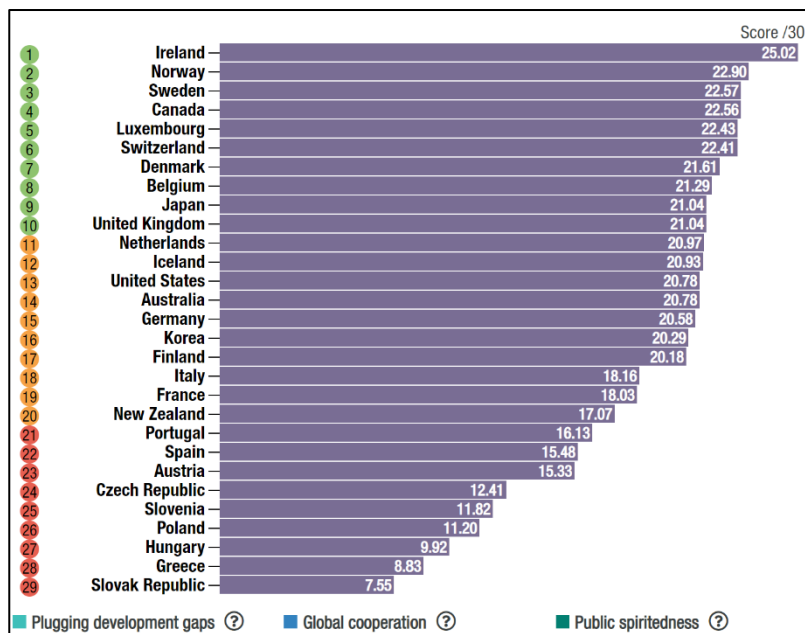
- Kids Rights Index ranking: **46** (score: 0,817)
- Health ranking: **82** (score: 0,911)
- Life ranking: **13** (score: 0,971)
- Education ranking: **1-8** (score: 1,000)
- Protection ranking: **17** (score: 0,988)
- Environment ranking: **135-139** (score: 0,417)

These data will be particularly useful to me in the following areas of study/essay titles:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-



# Principled Aid Index (<https://odi.org/en/publications/principled-aid-index-2020/>)



## Ireland ranks No.1 in how it spends foreign aid

Press release

10 November 2020

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI), a leading global development think tank, has ranked Ireland as the number one donor in delivering principled aid in their 'Principled Aid Index 2020'. ODI has found Ireland to be the most principled aid donor since its ranking began in 2013.

Welcoming ODI's finding, Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy, T.D. said:

"I am proud of the world class work of Irish Aid. It is great to see others, like the Overseas Development Institute, recognise that work, finding Ireland to be the leading donor in delivering principled aid. It is fitting that this finding comes on the day I launched Irish Aid's annual report for 2019, which describes just that principled, values-based approach."

The Minister continued:

"Looking forward, Ireland will continue to champion the needs of those furthest behind. I am determined that Irish Aid will deepen its engagement on climate change, on strengthening global health systems, and responding to the needs of those in crisis and conflict as a priority. This ODI report comes as Ireland prepares to take our seat on the UN Security Council, where we will work with our partners in the international community to promote our shared values of peace, justice and human rights. We will also continue to champion the role of the multilateral system, in a time when global cooperation is increasingly under threat."

<https://www.dfa.ie/news-and-media/press-releases/press-release-archive/2020/november/ireland-ranks-no1-in-how-it-spends-foreign-aid.php>