



Worksheet 24.1

A Customs Union in Africa

Three East African countries: Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya formed a Customs Union in 1967 with the lofty aims of developing free trade. [This article](#), from *The Economist*, explains the evolution of trade in this part of Africa and also explains how the group of nations is attempting to revitalise and strengthen the agreement.

[This video](#) tells a bit more about the history and purpose of the East African Community. Watch it before answering the questions below.

Each of the nations who are members of this trade bloc are at different stages of development, thus have different things to gain or lose through the expansion of the trade bloc. Uganda is rich with natural resources such as oil, Tanzania lacks the same educated workforce of Kenya, which in turn has high levels of endemic corruption. The risk for all three nations in a free trade agreement is the exploitation of resources across national borders.

After reading the article and watching the video, answer the questions below.

Questions:

1. What kind of trade bloc exists between the existing members of the East African Community?
2. Who are the original members of the EAC?
3. Describe how the East African Community (EAC) has changed overtime?
4. What are the advantages of altering the EAC to become a customs union and common currency union, with a bigger population base, and to include nations such as Somalia, South Sudan and Congo
5. What are the disadvantages of such a policy?