

Indicators of Quality of Life



What might be some indicators of quality of life?

Assessing Quality of Life

1. Define each of the following terms:

GDP

GDP per capita (and difficulties with measuring it)

infant mortality

life expectancy

quality of life indicator

trend

unemployment rate

2. Complete the following chart using the data from page 6 of the booklet Canada at a Glance.

	1931	1961	1991
Life expectancy at birth			
Infant mortality (death rate per 1,000)			

3. What trends are apparent in the data above?

4. What do you think might have caused the trends you observed?

5. Look at page 12 of the booklet and complete the chart below. First, enter the names of the countries used. Next, enter a rank number for the countries across the row for each indicator listed. (The best would be 1 and the worst 8.) N.B.: High infant mortality or unemployment rates means that the country will rank lower in quality of life as these are negative characteristics of a population.

Country

Infant
mortality
rate

Life
expectancy

GDP per
capita

Unemployment
rate

Public
expenditure
on health

Public
expenditure on
public education

6. It's time to tally your results in the following table. Add up the rank order numbers for each country to get a total quality of life score. Next, divide the total by 6 (the number of indicators used) to get an average quality of life ranking.

Country	Total quality of life score	Average quality of life ranking
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7. Of the eight countries listed, which three had the best average quality of life ranking?

8. Of the eight countries listed, which three had the worst average quality of life ranking?