Free Trade vs Protectionism

Webnote 431

Arguments for trade protection/advantages of trade

protection, including:

- protection of infant (sunrise) industries
- national security
- health and safety
- environmental standards
- anti-dumping
- unfair competition
- balance of payments correction
- government revenue
- protection of jobs
- Economically least developed country (ELDC) diversification

Arguments against trade protection/disadvantages of trade protection, including:

- misallocation of resources
- retaliation
- increased costs
- higher prices
- less choice
- domestic firms lack incentive to become more efficient
- reduced export competitiveness