

Paper 2: Urban opportunities and challenges

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| <u>What is urbanisation?</u> | |
| An increase in the % of people living in urban areas. In 2007, the UN said that for the first time more than 50 % of the world's population live in urban areas. | |
| <u>Where is Urbanisation happening?</u> | |
| Urbanisation is happening all over the world but in LICs and NEEs rates are much faster than HICs. This is mostly because of the rapid economic growth they are experiencing. | |
| <u>Causes of Urbanisation</u> | |
| 1. Rural - urban migration - The movement of people from rural to urban areas. | |
| Push | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural disasters - Mechanisation - War and Conflict - Drought - Lack of employment |
| Pull | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More Jobs - Increased quality of life - Better education & healthcare - Following family members. |
| 2. Natural Increase When the birth rate exceeds the death rate. | |
| Increase in birth rate (BR) | High % of population are child-bearing age which leads to high fertility rate. Lack of contraception or education about family planning. |
| Lower death rate (DR) | Higher life expectancy due to better living conditions and diet. Improved medical facilities helps lower infant mortality rate |
| Types of Cities | |
| Megacity | An urban area with over 10 million people living there. More than two thirds of megacities are in either NEEs (Brazil) and LICs (Nigeria). The amount of megacities are predicted to increase from 28 to 41 by 2030. |
| <u>Problems with congestion in cities</u> | |
| Traffic Management | Urban areas are busy places with people travelling by different modes of transport. This has caused traffic congestion which comes with the following problems |
| Environmental | Sitting traffic releases greenhouse gases that leading to climate change. |
| Economic | Congestion can make people late for work and business deliveries take longer. This can cause companies to loose money. |
| Social | There is a greater risk of accidents and congestion is a cause of frustration. It can also lead to health issues for pedestrians who are exposed to the air pollution |
| Congestion Solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen roads to allow more traffic to flow easily. Build ring roads and bypasses to keep through traffic out of city centres. Introduce park and ride schemes to reduce car use. Encourage car-sharing schemes in work places. Have public transport, cycle lanes & cycle hire schemes. Congestion charges discourage drivers from entering the busy city centres. |

Traffic Management Example: Nottingham

12 Feb 2020 Nottingham experienced the most congestion in the world during Monday evening rush hour. The most likely cause being the roadworks taking place to improve the city. The city is already known for **its' electric bus and tram system**. The centre **is mostly pedestrianised**. There are **miles of cycle routes** and **electric bikes and scooters for hire**.

Sustainable Urban Living Example: Freiburg

Sustainable Urban Living –key areas

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| Greenbelt Area | This is a zone of land surrounding a city where new building is strictly controlled to try to prevent cities growing too much and too fast. |
| Urban Regeneration | The investment in the revival of old, urban areas by either improving what is there or clearing it away and rebuilding. |
| Brownfield Site | Brownfield sites is an area of land or premises that has been previously used, but has subsequently become vacant, derelict or contaminated. |

Sustainable Urban Living - Social, Economic and Environmental goals

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| Water Conservation | <p>This is about reducing the amount of water used.</p> <p>Collecting rainwater for gardens and flushing toilets.</p> <p>Installing water meters and toilets that flush less water.</p> <p>Educating people on using less water.</p> |
| Energy Conservation | <p>Using less fossil fuels can reduce the rate of climate change.</p> <p>Promoting renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Making homes more energy efficient.</p> <p>Encouraging people to use energy.</p> |
| Background | <p>In 1970 it set the goal of focusing on social, economic and environmental sustainability.</p> |
| Sustainable Strategies | <p>The city's waste water allows for rainwater to be retained.</p> <p>The use of sustainable energy such as solar and wind is becoming more important.</p> <p>40% of the city is forested with many open spaces for recreation, clean air and reducing flood risk.</p> |

Urban Change in a Major NEE City: RIO DE JANEIRO Case Study

| Location and Background | City's Importance |
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| <p>Rio is a coastal city situated in the South East region of Brazil within the continent of South America. It is the second most populated city in the country (6.5 million) after Sao Paulo.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the second largest GDP in Brazil It is headquarters to many of Brazil's main companies, particularly with Oil and Gas. - Sugar Loaf mountain is world heritage site - Hosted the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympics. - Christ the Redeemer is a new 7 wonder. |
| Migration to Rio De Janeiro | City's Opportunities |
| <p>The city began when Portuguese settlers with slaves arrived in 1502. Since then, Rio has become home to various ethnic groups.</p> <p>More recently, millions of people have migrated from rural areas that have suffered from drought, lack of services and unemployment to Rio. People do this to search for a better quality of life.</p> <p>This expanding population has resulted in the rapid urbanisation of Rio de Janeiro.</p> | <p>Social: Standards of living are gradually improving. The Rio Carnival is an important cultural event for traditional dancing and music.</p> <p>Economic: Rio has one of the highest incomes per person in the country. The city has various types of employment including oil, retail and manufacturing.</p> <p>Environmental: The hosting of the major sporting events encouraged more investment in sewage works and public transport systems.</p> |
| City Challenges | Self-help schemes - Rocinha, Bairro Project |
| <p>Social: There is a severe shortage of housing, schools and healthcare centres available. Large scale social inequality, is creating tensions between the rich and poor.</p> <p>Economic: The rise of informal jobs with low pay and no tax contributions. There is high employment in shanty towns called Favelas</p> <p>Environmental: Shanty towns called Favelas are established around the city, typically on unfavourable land, such as hills.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The authorities have provided basic materials to improve peoples homes with safe electricity and sewage pipes. • Government has demolished houses and created new estates. • Community policing has been established, along with a tougher stance on gangs with military backed police. • Greater investment in new road and rail network to reduce pollution and increase connections between rich and poor areas. |

Urban Change in a Major UK City: London Case Study

Location and background

London is in the south east of England. It is close to the mouth of the river Thames. It is south of Nottingham. It has developed from a Roman City.

National importance

Capital city
UK's largest and wealthiest city.
Wages and house prices have increased rapidly in London.
London generates around 22 per cent of the UK's GDP, even though it only accounts for 12.5 per cent of the UK population.

International importance

Along with New York, London is one of the two most important financial centres in the world. Much of London's finance industry is located at the "Square Mile" or the "City," the long standing business hub of London.
Many headquarters of international companies are located in London as well as major British companies. Eg. HSBC
London has the second best global air connections in the world after Dubai. It is home to the UK's two busiest airports, Gatwick and Heathrow.

London's changing population

International Migration:

- Migrants have arrived in London since Roman times.
- Saxons and Normans also settled in London.
- In the seventeenth century,
- Today, London's population come from all over the world. The largest numbers are from Jamaica, Nigeria and India, as each was part of the British Empire.
- Since 2007, more migrants have come from Eastern Europe due to EU freedom of movement.

Growth:

London's population has been growing for most of the last two hundred years. In 1801, with just over a million inhabitants, it was the largest city in the world. It grew rapidly during the Industrial Revolution in the 19th C due to **internal migration** in the UK. London's population reached its previous peak at the start of the Second World War. Its population fell after 1941 due to bombing. Numbers continued to decline after the war as housing was demolished. London's population has been increasing since 1991 and is predicted to become a mega city by 2030.

Impacts of migration

Positive

- Many national and international migrants are young - so London a young city.
- Older residents moving out
- Gentrification occurring as young professionals spend money in the area and raise living standards eg, Shoreditch.
- London is one of the most diverse places not just in Britain but on planet Earth;
- Diversity of cultural experiences such as food and music
- Huge cultural events celebrating this multiculturalism, such as the Notting Hill Carnival.

• Negative

- One of the big issues for London and other parts of the UK is INTEGRATION.
- Another issue is ghettos, how can we prevent economically poorer cultural groups living in the poorest parts of our cities.
- Language is another issue, and many public services such as schools and hospitals have to provide language translation services.

London Opportunities

Social:

- Recreation - theatre, skateboarding on the South Bank, Opera, Museums
- Nightclubs, pubs and bars
- West end shopping as well as markets such as Camden

Economic:

- Finance and creative industries eg, BBC, HSBC
- High tech companies in area called Silicon Roundabout
- London residents (aged 16 to 64 and working) are more likely to be employed in managerial, professional or associate professional and technical occupations, compared with the UK (54 and 43 per cent respectively in 2011).

Transport

- Increase in jobs in London in general
- Increasing number of passengers - 2014 – 75 million on underground and buses
- Cross Rail East West route opening 2018
- Cross Rail 2 opening in 2030 with a north south route

Environmental:

- Produce oxygen, decrease flooding, more habitats, healthy recreation and can grow food
- London has 47% greenspace – eg parks and gardens eg, Hyde Park

London challenges - SEE

- Differences between life expectancy, education and wealth - west (better) and east (worse)
- Only 20,000 new homes (London's population increasing by 100,000 a year). Severe housing shortages
- Building on urban fringe leading to urban sprawl.
- Air pollution – mostly from Nitrous Oxide (No₂) from vehicles. There is an estimated 4000 deaths a year from air pollution.
- A quarter of London's waste goes to landfill – but this emits methane contributing to global warming. The target is for 0 waste to go to landfill by 2030; but this remains a challenge as London's population continues to grow.

Urban Regeneration: London Olympic Park

After the closure of many of London's docks in the 1960s, thousands of people lost their jobs. People left the area to look for jobs elsewhere.

Stratford in the Lower Lea Valley. It had one of the most deprived communities in the country, where unemployment was high and levels of health were poor. There was a lack of infrastructure and the environmental quality was poor. The 2012 London Olympics led to the regeneration of Stratford creating homes (that were built to house all the Olympic athletes, jobs, sporting facilities, new green space and leisure local people. It also attracted tourists/ After the Olympic Games were over, the park was named the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

| <u>Gone</u> | <u>In their place</u> |
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| Old factories, industrial estates and homes Derelict and overgrown sites Electricity pylons and overhead cables Contaminated soil and polluted waterways | Stunning new sport venues including the Aquatics Centre, Stadium and Velodrome A landscaped park with tourist attractions and natural habitats Clean soil and waterways Westfield Shopping Centre and restaurants A new school for 3 – 18 year olds |

| <u>Brownfield sites – pros and cons</u> | <u>Greenfield sites –pros and cons</u> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenty of sites are available since industry declined • Reduces the need for urban sprawl • Public transport is better in cities, so less need for cars • Old buildings may need to be demolished first • Ground may need to be decontamination • New development can improve the urban environment • Land is more expensive in urban areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport is worse in rural areas, so more need for cars • Increases urban sprawl • Once land is built on it is unlikely to be returned to countryside • Land is cheaper in rural areas • No demolition or decontamination needed. • Valuable farmland or recreation areas may be lost • Natural habitats are destroyed |