

SUBJECT: GCSE Geography

UNIT: Urban Issues and Challenges



Key Vocabulary:

Urbanisation – increase in % of people living in urban areas.

Rural to urban migration – move from the countryside to the city.

Megacity – population over 10 million.

Push factors – negatives pushing people away from an area. Pull factors – positives pulling towards an area.

Sustainable urban living – living in cities but don't pollute, use resources in ways that ensure these last for the future.

Greenfield sites – areas which have never been built on. Brownfield sites – areas which have been built on.

Key information linking to urbanisation:

Urbanisation occurring more rapidly in LIC/NEEs.

Push and Pull factors cause rural to urban migration.

Increase population = traffic congestion, increase waste, strain on resources and the development of illegal dwellings.

Managing urbanisation = water and energy conservation, creating green space, waste recycling, improving public transport, building on brownfield sites, regeneration projects.

HIC Case Study: Sunderland, UK – Europe.

Importance - Centre of England – close links to A1 and A19, Close to an international airport  has a port. Many industries and businesses, including Nissan (international business). University. Historic centre for ship building – pull factors for migrants.

Migration – 1880 - 1920 - population dramatically increased with people migrating for work in mines and ship building industries. Attracted thousands of students from the UK & abroad for education and from 1997, more migrants due to the government's dispersal scheme.

Challenges - Social: House prices have increased, house shortages. Racial tensions and segregation. Economic: Closure of the mines and shipbuilding industries = unemployment. Environmental: Urban sprawl = decline of greenfield sites.

Opportunities - Social: Improved housing. Improvements in education. Economic: Retail sectors create thousands of jobs, Smart City regeneration attracting more businesses for example Ocado. Universities and a work experience programme. New WiFi to give local people access to the internet throughout the city. Environmental: urban greening.

Regeneration – Employment and Business- 140% increase in financial services and real estate. 30% growth in the technology sector. Improving educational attainment to close national averages. A rise in the percentage of NVQ3 and 4 qualified residents – rising faster than the national average. Moving to a low- and zero – carbon regional economy – for example Nissan to become a world leader in producing electric vehicles.

LIC/NEE Case Study: Rio De Janeiro, Brazil - South America.

Importance - second largest GDP in Brazil. Hosted the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympics. Christ the Redeemer is a new 7 wonder. Many Trade links. 

Migration - Millions of people have migrated from rural areas that have suffered from drought, lack of services and unemployment to Rio. This expanding population has resulted in the rapid urbanisation.

Challenges - Social: shortage of housing, schools and healthcare centres available. Large scale social inequality. Economic: informal jobs with low pay and no tax contributions, for example in Favelas. Environmental: Favelas are established around the city, causing pollution and waste is not collected.

Opportunities - Social: Standards of living are gradually improving. The Rio Carnival – cultural event. 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. Environmental: investment in sewage works and public transport systems.

Regeneration – self-help schemes - provided basic materials to improve homes. Government demolished houses and created new estates. Community policing established, tougher stance on gangs in the Favelas. Greater investment in new road and rail networks to reduce pollution and increase connections.