

Urban issues and challenges

Key idea	Paper 1: Urban issues and challenges Specification content
1. A growing percentage of the world's population lives in urban areas	1A: Urbanisation = the increase in the proportion of a country's population living in urban areas. <u>The global pattern of urban change and urban trends in different parts of the world including HICs and LICs.</u> Urbanisation in HICs = the majority of the population live in urban areas, urbanisation occurred in the 1800s during the industrial revolution. The <i>rate</i> of urbanisation today is low. Urbanisation in LICs = the majority of the population live in rural areas although the rate of urbanisation is high as people are moving to towns and cities. Urbanisation in NEEs = urbanisation is occurring rapidly. 1B: <u>Factors affecting the rate of urbanisation – migration (push–pull theory), natural increase.</u> Rural-urban migration = the movement of people from countryside areas to towns or cities, caused by push and pull factors. Push factors - make someone want to <i>leave</i> an area e.g. natural disasters, desertification and unemployment. Pull factors - encourage someone to move <i>to</i> an area e.g. access to health care and education, employment opportunities. Rural to urban migration is often high when... a country industrialises as people move to urban areas to work in the factories. Natural increase = the increase in a country's population because the birth rate is higher than the death rate. Natural increase is high in NEEs because... as the country develops health care and diet improves so life expectancy increases. Birth rates are still high so the population increases in size. Natural increase is higher in urban areas because... there is better access to medical care and clean water than in rural areas. 1C: <u>The emergence of megacities.</u> Megacity = an urban area with over 10 million people living in it. Where are mega cities? 2/3 of megacities are in NEEs and LICs as rapid rural-urban migration leads to cities growing rapidly.
Urban change in cities in the UK leads to a variety of social, economic and environmental opportunities and challenges. A case study of a major city in the UK	
6. Overview of the distribution of population and major UK cities	Population density – the number of people living within one square kilometre High population densities are found in... lowland areas with milder climates and fertile soils, areas with natural resources like coal, coastal areas with bays and estuaries for ports. UK population distribution: • Highest population density in England • High population density around capital cities, especially London and Edinburgh. • High population density in areas where industry was present e.g. Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle)
7. The location and importance of the city in the UK and the world	Location: Birmingham is in the West Midlands, in central England. Importance to the UK: 200 law firms, offices for important companies BBC, Severn Trent Water, 90% of all UK consumers are within 4 hours travel of the city, New Street Station links the city to the rest of the country, very popular shopping destination Importance to the world: offices for foreign companies who work in the UK e.g. EON, in the top 15 best European cities to locate a business in, Birmingham Airport has direct flights to places like the USA and China
8. Impacts of national and international migration on the growth and character of the city	8A: <u>International migration:</u> Impact on growth: post-war migration from Jamaica and India led to growth in the 1950s. Migration today Birmingham for education, fleeing from conflict and for employment. Impact on character: multi-cultural society, segregation across Birmingham e.g. Lozells vs Sutton Four Oaks, 2005 and 2011 Riots, many cultural/religious festivals e.g. <i>Vaisakhi festival, Chinese New Year</i>, wide range of shops and restaurants

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	8B: <u>National migration</u> Impact on growth: rapid growth from 1800-1940s due to industrialization. Declines between 1950 and 1990 due to high levels of unemployment. Since 2000 the population has started to grow again – now 1.1 million. Impact on character: present day young population as people migrate for university and work.		
9. How urban change has created opportunities: <i>Urban change in Birmingham =deindustrialisation and decline followed by redevelopment</i>	9A: <u>Social opportunities:</u> <u>Cultural mix</u> <u>Urban change:</u> international migration leading to ethnic diversity <u>Opportunities:</u> variety of shops and restaurants e.g. <i>Balti Triangle</i>, Black International Film Festival, Chinese New Year festival, Vaisakhi celebrations <u>Recreation and entertainment</u> <u>Urban change:</u> rejuvenation e.g. Big City plan <u>Opportunities:</u> Gas Street Basin canal side restaurants and attractions like Sea Life Centre. Improved facilities e.g. the Library and Bullring 9B: <u>Economic opportunities:</u> <u>Employment</u> <u>Urban change:</u> deindustrialisation → decrease in manufacturing jobs. Investment in making Birmingham appealing to service sector businesses e.g. improving transport, new office spaces. <u>Opportunities:</u> large firms relocating to Birmingham e.g. HQ of HSBC, investment in universities e.g. Aston University, employment in retail <u>Integrated transport systems</u> <u>Urban change:</u> investment in transport infrastructure <u>Opportunities:</u> integrated transport system = different types of transport are connected. Metro tram reaches from Wolverhampton to New Street Station in Birmingham. Swift PAYG smart card for any travel on trains, buses and trams in the West Midlands. 9C: <u>Environmental opportunities:</u> <u>Urban change:</u> rejuvenation of the CBD e.g. Millennium Point, New Street Station <u>Opportunities:</u> new green spaces. Green Wall outside New Street Station. 600 square metres of plants along the wall at Two Snowhill. Eastside City Park at Millennium Point		
10. How urban change has created challenges	10A: Urban change leading to challenges: deindustrialisation and urban growth Urban deprivation = An area/group where the standard of living is lower than the rest of country/society. This means people are deprived of services, decent housing, adequate income and local employment. <table border="1"> <tr> <td> 10B: Social and economic challenges: <u>Employment</u> - Deindustrialisation → high unemployment in inner city in wards like Lozells as this is where factory workers used to live. <u>Inequalities in housing</u> - Poorer quality housing in inner city areas due to higher unemployment and high numbers of rented/council housing - Some inner city areas like Mosely have been redeveloped → house prices rise → original residents are forced out. <u>Education</u> Difficult to attract teachers and low aspirations of children in inner city due to unemployment → GCSE results increase with distance from the CBD. <u>Health</u> - Poor lifestyle in inner city → life expectancy increases with distance from the CBD e.g. 84 years in Sutton Four Oaks and 78 in Aston and Lozells. </td><td> 10C: Environmental: <u>Dereliction</u> - Brownfield sites in the city centre e.g. abandoned factories, unemployment has led to houses becoming run down in inner city areas like Aston and Lozells. <u>Building on brownfield and greenfield sites-</u> see urban sprawl and commuter settlements <u>Waste disposal</u> - Rising population = more waste → 7.5% goes to landfill, 27% of waste is recycled, most goes to Tyseley Energy Recovery Facility to be incinerated → generates power </td></tr> </table>	10B: Social and economic challenges: <u>Employment</u> - Deindustrialisation → high unemployment in inner city in wards like Lozells as this is where factory workers used to live. <u>Inequalities in housing</u> - Poorer quality housing in inner city areas due to higher unemployment and high numbers of rented/council housing - Some inner city areas like Mosely have been redeveloped → house prices rise → original residents are forced out. <u>Education</u> Difficult to attract teachers and low aspirations of children in inner city due to unemployment → GCSE results increase with distance from the CBD. <u>Health</u> - Poor lifestyle in inner city → life expectancy increases with distance from the CBD e.g. 84 years in Sutton Four Oaks and 78 in Aston and Lozells.	10C: Environmental: <u>Dereliction</u> - Brownfield sites in the city centre e.g. abandoned factories, unemployment has led to houses becoming run down in inner city areas like Aston and Lozells. <u>Building on brownfield and greenfield sites-</u> see urban sprawl and commuter settlements <u>Waste disposal</u> - Rising population = more waste → 7.5% goes to landfill, 27% of waste is recycled, most goes to Tyseley Energy Recovery Facility to be incinerated → generates power
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11. The impact of urban sprawl on the rural–urban fringe, and the growth of commuter settlements.	11A: Brownfield sites = Land that has been built on before and is now disused, often in the inner city. + water and sewage pipes in place, improves the area’s image by removing derelict ground, easier to get planning permission, no habitat destruction Greenfield sites = land that has not been built on before usually in the countryside or on the edge of a city. + more space for gardens and detached houses, close to large roads e.g. motorways for commuting, no cost of clearing and cleaning the land. 11B: Urban sprawl =The unplanned growth of urban areas into the surrounding countryside. <i>E.g. Birmingham’s conurbation has stretched along the Hagley Road through to Halesowen and through West Bromwich across to Stourbridge.</i> - loss of greenfield sites and habitats, out of town shopping reduces business to city centre shops, increased congestion and pollution in the rural urban fringe. Commuter settlement = where the majority of residents leave each day to work in other places e.g. <i>Hagley, south of Birmingham. Easy commuting distance to Birmingham via the M5 and railway</i> - conflict with locals due to new housing being built → house prices increasing, greenfield sites built upon, more children at local school, congestion, local shops have fewer customers
12. An example of an urban regeneration project to show:	Urban regeneration = The improvement of old parts of the built-up area by either installing modern facilities in old buildings (known as renewal) or opting for redevelopment (i.e. demolishing existing buildings and starting afresh). Case study: Birmingham Bullring. Re-opened in 2003 Reasons why the area needed regeneration • 1989 Merry Hill was built → 12% decrease in trade within Birmingham’s CBD over the next 5 years. • People preferred the range of shops, car parking and modern environment of M.H. The main features of the project • New, big brand shops e.g. Selfridges and Debenhams. Total of 140 shops and cafes • Art work and interesting architecture e.g. Selfridges building and the Bull. • Street lamps, trees and litterbins placed near around the Bullring to improve the environment. • 3100 parking spaces and new pedestrianized areas. • 36.5 million people came to the Bullring in its first year.
13. Urban sustainability requires management of resources and transport.	13A: Sustainable urban living – doesn’t damage the environment and supports locals in a way that can last into the future. Water conservation: Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust (BMHT) new social housing with Sustainable Urban Drainage; The Library of Birmingham rainwater is harvested to be reused. Energy conservation: BMHT new housing using triple glazing, effective insulation → energy efficient. Library of Birmingham has large windows to reduce energy use Waste recycling: Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in Tyseley takes 350,000 tonnes of Birmingham’s rubbish each year and converts it into electricity. Birmingham City Council we are working towards achieving a 40% recycling rate by 2026. Creating green space: Library of Birmingham roof garden attracts wildlife and boosts biodiversity. Eastside City Park, opened in 2013, 14,000 m², more than 300 trees 13B: How urban transport strategies are used to reduce traffic congestion: Birmingham Clean Air Zone - Vehicles that do not meet emissions standards pay a daily charge for driving into, out of, or through the central part of Birmingham. This encourages use of public transport or electric cars Cycling – Cycle hire and cycle lanes; some companies e.g. HSBC offer free bicycles to employees Integrated Transport system: interchanges between bus, tram and train. Swift card → encourages use of public transport.