GCSE Geography – an overview

Living with the physical environment

3.1.1 Section A: The challenges of natural hazards
3.1.2 Section B: The living world
3.1.3 Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

Challenges in the human environment

3.2.1 Section A: Urban issues and challenges
3.2.2 Section B: The changing economic world
3.2.3 Section C: The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications

3.3.1 Section A: Issue evaluation
3.3.2 Section B: Fieldwork

Geographical skills

3.4 Geographical skills

The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

AO1	AO2
Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments and different scales (15%)	**Demonstrate geographical understanding of: concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes; the interrelationships between places, environments and processes.** (25%)
AO3	**AO4**
Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues to make judgements (35% including 10% applied to fieldwork context(s))	**Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings.** (25% including 5% used to respond to fieldwork data and context(s))

Certain questions in the exam will assess you on SPAG:

Spelling

Punctuation

Grammar

-> You also need to be able to write about 'Geographical terminology' such as keywords and concepts we will explore in lessons.

Command words

These are the words used in exams to tell students *how* to answer the question. The following are taken from the AQA GCSE Geography website.

Assess

Make an informed judgement
For example: Assess how effective your presentation technique(s) were in representing the data collected in your enquiry.

Complete

Finish the task by adding given information
For example: Complete the sentence, "The greatest number of tropical storms occur in __ Ocean."

State

Express in clear terms
For example: State one characteristic of the course of the River Ouse in grid square ___.

Calculate

Work out the value of something
For example: Using Figure 7, calculate the increase in retail sales of Fairtrade bananas between 2000 and 2012.

Discuss

Present different strengths and weaknesses of an idea
For example: Discuss the effects of urban sprawl on people and the environment.

Suggest

Present a possible case
For example: Suggest how the sea defences In Figure 11 help to protect the coastline.

Compare

Identify similarities and differences
For example: Using Figure 4, compare HDI values in Africa and South America.

Describe

Set out characteristics
For example: Using Figure 9, describe the distribution of fracking licenses in the UK.

To what extent

Judge the importance or success of something (strategy, scheme, project)
For example: To what extent do urban areas in LICs or NEEs provide social and economic opportunities for people?

Evaluate

Judge from available evidence
For example: Evaluate the effectiveness of an urban transport scheme you have studied.

Explain

Set out purposes or reasons
For example: Using Figure 12 and your own knowledge, explain how landforms are created.

Use evidence to support this statement

To select and present information to prove or disprove something
For example: Weather in the UK is becoming more extreme. Use evidence to support this statement.

Give

Produce an answer from recall
For example: Give one condition that is needed for a tropical storm to form.

Identify

Name or otherwise characterise
For example: Identify the glacial landform at grid reference _____.

Source

https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/gcse/geography/teach/command-words

Justify

Support a case with evidence
For example: TNCs only bring advantages to the host country. Do you agree? Justify your decision.

Outline

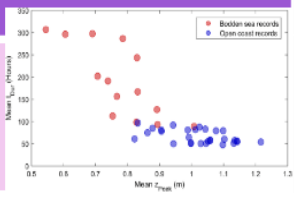
Set out main characteristics
For example: Outline one way that Fairtrade helps deal with the problems of unequal development.

Case studies

AQA expect you to know case studies and examples. E.G. Bristol Temple Quarter for the urban issues and challenges topic (Paper 2)

Analysing data - maps, images, graphs etc. (see A04))

Trend - is there a pattern in the data?
Evidence - give a number, %, quote
Anomaly - is there a piece of data not following the trend/pattern?



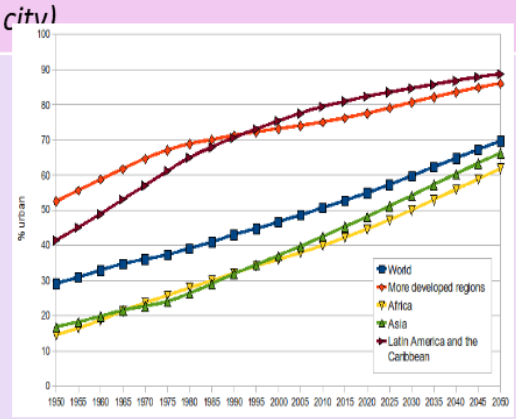
What is Urbanisation?

This is an increase in the amount of people living in urban areas such as towns or cities. In 2007, the UN announced that for the first time, more than 50 % of the world's population live in urban areas. *Remember - an urban area is built-up, like a city with developed buildings (not always a city)*

Where is Urbanisation happening?

Urbanisation is happening all over the word but in LICs and NEEs rates are much faster than HICs. This is mostly because of the rapid economic growth experienced.

High income country - HIC
Low income country - LIC



Causes of Urbanisation

Rural - urban migration

The movement of people from rural to urban areas.

Push (reasons to leave)	Pull (reasons to move somewhere)
• Natural disasters • War and Conflict • Mechanisation • Drought • Lack of employment	• More Jobs • Better education & healthcare • Increased quality of life. • Following family members.

Natural Increase

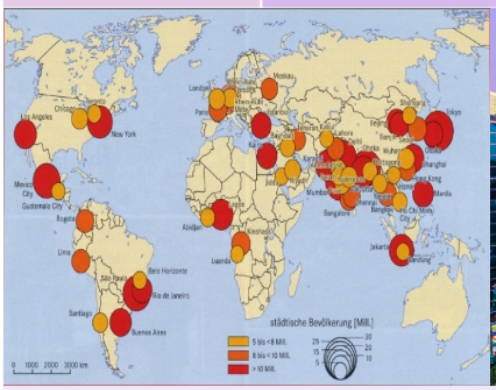
When the birth rate exceeds the death rate.

Increase in birth rate (BR)	Lower death rate (DR)
• High percentage of population are child-bearing age which leads to high fertility rate. • Lack of contraception or education about family planning.	• 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 current megacities are located in either NEEs (Brazil) and LICs (Nigeria). The amount of megacities are predicted to increase from 28 to 41 by 2030.

Sustainable Urban Living

Sustainable urban living means being able to live in cities in ways that do not pollute the environment and using resources in ways that ensure future generations also can use then.

Water Conservation

This is about reducing the amount of water used.

- Collecting rainwater for gardens and flushing toilets (grey water).
- Installing water meters to monitor consumption/use.
- Educating people on using less water.

Energy Conservation

Using less fossil fuels can reduce the rate of climate change.

- Promoting renewable energy sources (solar panels, wind turbines).
- Making homes more energy efficient (e.g. light bulbs).
- Encouraging people to use less energy.

Creating Green Space

Creating green spaces in urban areas can improve places for people who want to live there.

- Provide natural cooler areas for people to relax in.
- Encourages people to exercise.
- Reduces the risk of flooding from surface runoff.

Waste Recycling

More recycling means fewer resources are used. Less waste reduces the amount that eventually goes to landfill.

- Collection of household waste.
- More local recycling facilities.
- Greater awareness of the benefits in recycling.

Sustainable Urban Living Example: Freiburg

Background & Location

Freiburg is in west Germany. The city has a population of about 220,000. In 1970 it set the goal of focusing on social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Sustainable Strategies

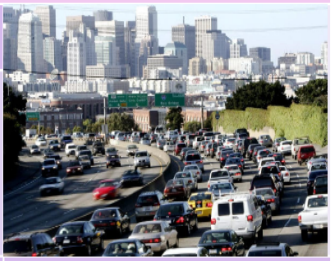
- The city's waste water allows for rainwater to be retained.
- The use of sustainable energy such as solar and wind is becoming more important.
- 40% of the city is forested with many open spaces for recreation, clean air and reducing flood risk.

Traffic Management

Urban areas are busy places with many people travelling by different modes of transport. This has caused urban areas to experience different traffic congestion that can lead to various problems.

Environmental problems

- Traffic increases air pollution which releases greenhouse gases (leading to climate change).



Economic problems

- Congestion (traffic) can make people late for work and business deliveries take longer. This can cause companies to lose money.

Social Problems

- There is a greater risk of accidents and congestion is a cause of frustration.
- Traffic can also lead to health issues for pedestrians (lung disease from air pollution).

Congestion Solutions

- 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.
- Having congestion charges discourages drivers from entering the busy city centres.

Example: Bristol

In 2012 Bristol was the most congested city in the UK. Now the city aims to develop it's integrated transport system to encourage more people to use the public transport.
Bristol's low emission zone was introduced in November 2022, people driving diesel/old cars are charged a fine.

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.

Brownfield Site

Brownfield sites is an area of land or premises that has been previously used, but has subsequently become vacant, derelict or contaminated.

Urban Regeneration

The investment in the revival of old, urban areas by either improving what is there or clearing it away and rebuilding.

Urban Change in a Major UK City: Bristol Case Study

Location and Background

City of 471,200 (2021) **people in the South West of England. 9% growth since 2000.**

City's Importance

- **UK -** One of ten core cities. 2 universities (University of Bristol/UWE), Bristol Old Vic Theatre, Avonmouth docks
- **Wider world –** Bristol international airport, good rail links to Europe (Bristol Temple Meads), global role in finance.

Growth of Bristol

- **National migration** -people and businesses moved from London. Economic and social opportunities (land and housing is cheaper).
- **International migration –**people and businesses moved to Bristol from other countries. Mainly from Poland, Somalia, India & Jamaica. (1/2 of population growth is due to international migration).

City's Opportunities

Social: **cultural mix** - St Paul's Carnival, **recreation and entertainment** - Bristol City & Rovers, Cabot Circus shopping

Economic: **employment** - below average unemployment, many high-tech companies i.e. Toshiba, Rolls Royce.

Environmental: **urban greening**- 90% of Bristolians live within 350m of a park or waterway. Aim to cover 30% of city in trees.

City Challenges

Social & economic: **urban deprivation & inequalities i.e. Filwood** - top 10% of most deprived areas in country. 1300 crimes a year, life expectancy of 78 years. **Stoke Bishop** - affluent - less than 300 crimes a year, life exp. 83 yrs

Environmental: **dereliction** - Stokes Croft - old industrial buildings abandoned, **building on brownfield sites** - Finzels Reach - sugar refinery being redeveloped into apartments, shops etc, **building on greenfield sites** - Harry Stoke - 3000+ homes built on fields, **waste disposal** - over 0.5 million tonnes a year - problem with food waste - improving collections & education.

Temple Quarter Regeneration

Aims:

- Replace/improve derelict buildings i.e. Sorting Office
- Improve access over railway lines
- Reduce unemployment

Main features:

- Enterprise Zone - incentives offered to businesses to move there
- Electrification of rail line to Temple Meads Station
- Links to Integrated Transport System inc. Bristol-Bath cycle path (different transports linked together).
- New bridge across River Avon
- Re-use of listed buildings i.e. Brunel's Engine Shed is a £1.7 million Innovation Centre

Urban Change in a Major LIC City: Kampala Case Study

Location and Background

Capital city of Uganda, a LIC (low income country) in East Africa.

Population of 1.5 million – Over 60% live in slums.

City's Importance

- **Regionally** - nearest city for people in Central region - hospitals, schools etc
- **Nationally**- organisations like Makerere University serve the whole of Uganda
- **Internationally** - The East African Development Bank has its HQ in Kampala

Growth of Kampala

Kampala's population is increasing due to:

- **Natural increase** - women in Uganda have an average of 5.71 children.
- **Migration** - rural urban migration means cities are growing by 5.3% a year.

City's Opportunities

Social: **Access to services (Health & education)** - i.e Makerere University, International Hospital

Economic: **large employers** include Airtel (communications) and Uganda Breweries. **Access to resources (water & energy) - only** 32% of people in rural areas have access to basic water supplies, but 79% in cities do.

Environmental: The bus rapid transit (see below) will provide efficient and clean(er) public transport.

City Challenges

Social: **Providing access to services** - limited access to medical care - many children suffer malaria & dysentery. People living in squatter settlements.

Economic: **Reducing unemployment & crime** - violent crime is fuelled by poverty and domestic violence

Environmental: **Managing environmental issues (waste, pollution, congestion)**- cooking fires and burning rubbish cause serious air pollution. Worse environment in squatter settlements.

KCCA - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Example of how urban planning is improving quality of life for the urban poor

- 133 x 150 seat buses
- 25km new bus lanes
- Automatic ticketing
- Less air pollution (electric buses)
- Inclusive transport - more affordable tickets
- Less time wasted in traffic jams
- Cost of US$1.18 billion
- Part funded by a World Bank loan
- Delayed due to COVID-19 (still not completed)