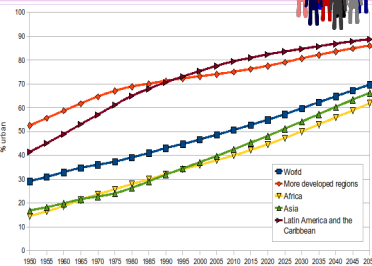


What is urbanisation?

Urbanisation is the 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.



Where is Urbanisation happening?



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, which is leading to increasing life expectancies, that they are experiencing.

Causes of Urbanisation

Rural - urban migration	The movement of people from rural to urban areas.	
Push factors	Pull factors	
Factors that encourage people to move away from a place.	Factors that encourage to move people to a place.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural disasters e.g. drought. War and Conflict. Mechanisation. Lack of opportunities. Lack of employment. 	Factors are sometimes perceived. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More Jobs. Better education & healthcare. Increased quality of life. Following family members. 	

Natural Increase When the birth rate is greater than the death rate.

Increase in birth rate (BR) **Lower death rate (DR)**

- Migration often involves young adults. When there is a high percentage of population of child-bearing age this leads to higher birth rate.
- In the UK migrant groups have higher fertility rates.
- Lack of contraception or education about family planning.
- A higher life expectancy is due to supplies of clean water, better living conditions and diet.
- Improved medical facilities help lower infant mortality rates and raise life expectancies.

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 or LICs. The majority of megacities are located in Asia. The number 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 can also use them. Sustainable living should ensure that all facilities necessary for people are available, and that areas are economically viable.



Water Conservation

This is about reducing the amount of water used.

- Rainwater harvesting provides water for gardens and for flushing toilets.
- Installing water meters discourages water use. Dual flushes on toilets flush less water.
- Educating people on using less water.

Energy Conservation

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

- Promoting renewable energy sources e.g. solar panels, insulation.
- Making homes and appliances more energy efficient.
- Encouraging people to use less energy.
- Using wood in buildings instead of bricks.



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.
- Reduces airborne particulates.

Waste Recycling

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

- This reduces waste gases (methane) and contamination of water sources.
- Collection of household waste.
 - More local recycling facilities.
 - Greater awareness of the benefits in recycling.

Unit 2a Urban Issues & Challenges

Distribution of population & cities in the UK



The location of most UK cities is linked to the availability of natural resources (particularly coal), or near to the coast for imports, and the subsequent location of industry during the industrial revolution. This is because coal was the original source of power for the factories e.g. Glasgow, Newcastle, Nottingham and Cardiff.

London is a major anomaly to this trend. Instead its location on the River Thames enabled resources to be imported along the River Thames. Imports from across the British Empire were then used in industry.

Integrated transport system

This is the linking of different forms of public and private transport within a city and the surrounding area e.g. bus timetables coincide with train arrivals and departures. Trams lines associated with peak flow from park and ride locations.

Brownfield sites

A brownfield site is an area of land or that has been developed before and, because it has become derelict, can be re-used e.g. old factories in Leicester rebuilt as apartments. Brownfield sites are more expensive to develop than greenfield sites as derelict buildings must be removed first.

Traffic management

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

Environmental problems

- Traffic increases air pollution which releases greenhouse gases that is leading to climate change.
- More roads have to be built.



Economic problems

- Congestion can make people late for work.
- Business deliveries take longer. This costs companies more money as drivers take longer to make the delivery.

Social Problems

- There is a greater risk of accidents. This is a particular problem in built up areas.
- Congestion causes frustration.
- Traffic creates particulates that can affect health e.g. asthma.

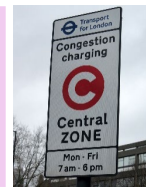
Congestion solutions

- Widen roads to allow more traffic to flow more easily and avoid congestion.
- Build ring roads and bypasses to keep traffic out of city centres.
- Introduce park and ride schemes to reduce car use.
- Encourage car-sharing schemes in work places and by allowing shared cars in special lanes.
- Have public transport, cycle lanes & bike hire schemes.
- Having congestion charges discourages drivers from entering the busy city centres.



Traffic Management Example: London – Congestion charges

Introduced in 2003 and extended in 2007 and 2011 the London congestion charge covers an area of central London. Motorists are discouraged from driving in the zone by an £11.50 daily charge. Buses, taxis, emergency vehicles and low emission vehicles are exempt. The number of vehicles driving in the congestion zone is 10% lower than before its introduction. Evidence that the congestion charge has caused local business problems is limited.



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. Some developments are now being allowed on green belt. This is controversial.

Urban Regeneration

The investment in the revival of old, urban areas by either improving what is there or clearing it away and rebuilding e.g. development of Highcross Shopping Centre on old industrial land, or the conversion of old factories into accommodation.