



A Level AQA Revision Booklet

3.2.3 Contemporary Urban Environments

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Teacher's Introduction

The revision booklets in this series are designed to support your students as they study the AQA Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Geography (7036) and the AQA Advanced GCE in Geography (7037). These revision summaries match the AQA specification perfectly. **This particular set supports AS Unit 3.3.2 Contemporary urban environments, examined in Paper 1. It also supports A Level Unit 3.2.3 Contemporary urban environments, examined in Paper 2.**

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

The concept is that *all* students need a clearly explained, concise yet comprehensive body of notes to revise from, both as they progress through the course and when preparing for the end-of-course examination. For this reason, the booklets are broken into manageable chunks and are provided in both A4 and A5 formats for easy photocopying. A5 booklets allow easy carrying and reference for students, right up to the moment they walk into the exam hall, and allow for effective revision time.

Since revision should be ongoing throughout one's study, it is recommended that after teaching each topic you issue students with the relevant revision booklet as they progress through the course. The booklets can also be issued as a complete revision pack in the run-up to the examinations.

By use of bullet points, text boxes and grids, these revision booklets provide succinct yet comprehensive and relatively detailed coverage of the specification content – probably far more than what one would expect from a revision summary.

Each topic follows a clear structure of:

- **Keywords:** lots of keywords are clearly defined, and by covering up the definitions with a sheet of paper, students can easily self-test their memory of these all-important terms.
- **Key points:** these form the main body of the summaries for each topic. Concise, detailed and easy to follow, they provide a solid bank of notes to support students' knowledge, understanding and evaluation.
- **Core content:** the main content of the specification in bullet points, boxes and diagrams. Boxes with suggested examples allow students to name-drop examples in their exam, or give ideas for further research.
- **If you only remember these three things...:** the three most important takeaways from the topic.
- **Consolidation questions:** several quick questions on the core content – designed to ensure that the key points have been retained.
- **Take it further:** offers suggestions to support the option of extending learning further.
- **Student checks:** useful checklist to help students monitor their own learning.

Each pack also contains a **students' introduction** which introduces the topic and sets out some of the exam structure; introduces command words, AOs and level marking, along with exam tips and a checklist; and explains how to use the booklet. At the end are included tips on time management, and planning and writing answers, along with an introduction to synopticity.

By using this resource, teachers will know that all students have the key points for all the topics of the course in a clear, written format. It saves time in class for teachers and decreases the amount of preparatory work needed outside class.

This resource also helps achieve greater equality among students of differing abilities, as often the weakest students make the least helpful notes from which to study and revise outside class. These easy-to-understand revision summary notes help to overcome this problem and promote greater equality of opportunity.

And remember, these revision booklets are also perfect to refer back to as end-of-year summaries before the examination – especially useful nowadays with linear examinations.

I trust that you and your students will enjoy using these revision summaries as much as I have enjoyed writing them for you.

Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free updates* made to this resource or other Geography resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

Go to [zzed.uk/freeupdates](https://www.zzed.uk/freeupdates)

May 2019

Students' Introduction

What's the topic?

If you're reading this, your teacher has chosen to teach you the optional module 'Contemporary Urban Environments' – and probably for good reason because around 90% of us in the UK live in cities, more than half the world's population lives in cities, urbanising at an ever-increasing rate. This growth presents many social and economic challenges for city dwellers. Planners also face the ongoing task of managing pollution, drainage and transport in a way that future development can address the issues in a sustainable way.

You will be examined on this topic in Paper 2, Section C.

Here's a quick overview of the things you might find in the exam. However, expect sometimes exam boards can throw in a curveball – a different type of question or format – but don't be too alarmed. Just read the questions carefully and be ready to adapt.

You'll be presented with a range of questions – remember that they ramp up in difficulty.

- First up, you might be presented by a few multiple-choice questions. They're designed to test your knowledge for any red herrings in case AQA has decided to be sneaky!
- Then, you might be given a couple of figures – maps, charts and data. You've seen these before. They're designed to see how you cope with unfamiliar sources – how you interpret and analyse them. You might have heard the term 'AO2'. AO2 marks require you to show that you understand what it means.
- After this, you might be asked to use your knowledge, as well as interpreting sources, to write named examples. The questions are longer – save your time! You'll probably be asked to write about 100 words. There's no right or wrong answer, so go with whatever you think. However, you need to give your opinion(s) and support it with facts and balanced arguments if you are reaching for the higher marks.
- Finally, you'll get a longer, essay-based question – maybe worth 20 marks. You'll need to draw on your knowledge and offer a supported opinion. PEE or, even better, PEEL here! And no, we don't recommend you get out a satsuma in the exam – link together your points with evidence.
- And *finally*, don't forget that you'll be asked questions from the whole of the syllabus – any of the topics. You'll also need to have a few named examples at the tips of your fingers. You need to have learnt a couple of case studies in depth to really ace the exam.

If you're studying this at **AS**, the exam questions are part of Section B in Paper 1.

How to use this guide

You may be given this at the start or at the end of teaching on the topic. Don't worry about it being stuffed in your pocket (although don't take it into the exam itself!). Remember to use it when you want to. Scribble all over it, or highlight bits you need to look at again.

Here are some brief suggestions:

- Work through it as you go through the course.
- Give it a chance to be your revision guide.
- Give it a read before an upcoming test.
- Use it when you revise, of course – perhaps even outside the exam hall if you can.

Now write down the date of the exam. You can use this to plan your revision time.

Date of my exam:

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Checklist

It can be a useful idea to make a note of when you've read through something. I'm confident that you know a topic, or you last looked at this six months ago, then it's time for another look!

Topic	When did I last look at this? <i>Write the date in the box, preferably today's</i>	I know this
Urbanisation		
Urban form		
Social and economic issues with urbanisation		
Urban climates		
Urban drainage		
Urban waste		
Urban environmental issues		
Sustainable urban development		
Urban case studies		

Exam tips

Now that you've thoroughly revised and hopefully answered a few sample exam questions, it's a good idea to expect in your exam.

Command words

In each question there are 'command words'. These are essentially the instructions to answer the question, and give you a clue on the type of response the examiner is looking for.

Command words are not a secret, and they're nothing to worry about. You've probably seen them from throughout your year(s) studying the course.

AQA has created a list for you to refer to:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/as-and-a-level/geography/tips-for-answers>

Unfortunately, AQA hasn't given a breakdown of the possible number of marks for each command word, but the more marks they will be worth.

- For example, the word 'define' wants a short answer stating facts (AO1). As a definition, you can quickly gain a couple of marks.
- Assess, for example, requires more thinking, and you might have to consider a range of factors.
- The words with the most marks might be 'to what extent' – you will need to provide examples!
- However, the same command words may have different numbers of marks. For example, 'assess' is used for both 6- and 9-mark questions, and 'to what extent' is used for 6- and 9-mark questions!

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Here's our quick run-down of the different command words and what you need to provide for a balanced answer.

- ✓ **JUSTIFY:** Identify the pros and cons of EVERY view or opinion. Weigh them up. Your answer should have stronger pros according to your weighing of opinion.
- ✓ **DISCUSS:** Set out for and against of an argument, and come to a conclusion between sides.
- ✓ **EXPLAIN:** Set out causes of the issue, event and/or factors influencing its form. Show your understanding of processes.
- ✓ **OUTLINE:** Provide a brief account of facts and information.
- ✓ **TO WHAT EXTENT:** Express opinion on merit or validity of a view after examining different sides of an argument.
- ✓ **COMMENT:** Make a statement arising from a factual point. Add a view, like a Commentator!
- ✓ **EVALUATE:** Consider several options or arguments and come to a conclusion on their success or worth.

Assessment objectives

You may come across the words 'assessment objectives', or 'AOs' for short. These are the command words. They are set by the government and vary by subject. As you'd expect, AO1s are the easiest to get, and AO3s are the hardest.

Here's a quick summary:

	What you need to do	
AO1	Show your knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and issues	✓ Collecting evidence together
AO2	Manipulate and draw conclusions from geographical information, both familiar and new	✓ Use of maps ✓ Statistics ✓ ICT skills: use of data ✓ Analysis, presentation
AO3	Investigating questions and reaching conclusions through many geographical skills and techniques	✓ Concluding ✓ Use of maps ✓ Statistics ✓ ICT skills: use of data ✓ Analysis, presentation

In your Paper 1 (AS) or Paper 2 (A Level) exam, you'll mostly be assessed on AO1 and AO2 marks – you'll find most of those in the NEA.

For every question, AQA will have decided which AOs they are targeting. Bare this in mind when you answer. If it's clear that an answer is looking for some AO2 or AO3 marks, don't stop at AO1. Push through.

You might find it useful to have a look at a couple of mark schemes for the topic you're studying to see what each AO marks are achievable.

Level marking

Now that you've got a handle on how the command words work and what they require, you need to be aware of how they will mark your answers.

For anything from the shortest of questions, you will be level marked. Each level has a mark range: L1 = 1–3 marks, L2 = 4–6 marks. The essay-based questions will have four levels. The more marks you'll get.

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An example of level marking criteria can be found below.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	(1–5 marks)	AO1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer uses little geographic theory, and info is superficial. No use of geographical terms. Little evidence of comprehension. No or minimal use of example material, where appropriate.
		AO2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation, connections and developments are unclear. Argument is unclear; points may be brief, biased or of poor structure. Answer is likely to be poorly written for the question.
Level 2	(6–10 marks)	AO1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of more complex theories may be inaccurate, but information is correct. Geographical terms used infrequently. Comprehension is apparent but may be patchy. Case study material is present, where appropriate, but may be superficial.
		AO2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation, connections and developments are apparent but may be poorly structured or not fully relevant to the question. Argument is apparent but may be poorly structured or not fully relevant to the question.
Level 3	(11–15 marks)	AO1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable reference to relevant geographical theories; the answer demonstrates a good level of critical comprehension. Geographical terms used often. Case study material is appropriate, specific and well written where applicable.
		AO2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation, connections and developments are explicit, with a good balance of evidence and conclusion. Answer is highly relevant to the question. Argument is explicit, with a good balance of evidence and conclusion. Answer is highly relevant to the question.
Level 4	(16–20 marks)	AO1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographical theories and processes are appropriately used, demonstrating comprehensive and specific knowledge. Frequent use of geographical terms. Critical comprehension is self-evident from the correct use of geographical theory and information. Use of case study material is suitable, broad and tailored to the question. Specific facts and figures are fully integrated and used to support the argument.
		AO2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation, connections and developments are well written, supported by the evidence. Argument is well written, supported by the evidence. Conclusion uses a balance of viewpoints in order to reach a justified conclusion. Conclusions are creative, sophisticated and highly relevant to the question.

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Urbanisation

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Keywords

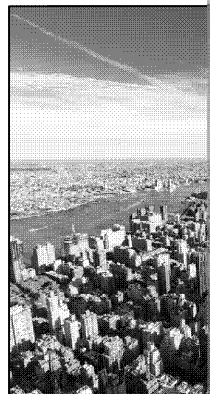
- ✓ **Urbanisation:** the expansion of urban areas (towns and cities)
- ✓ **Suburbanisation:** the development of communities on the outskirts of urban areas
- ✓ **Counter-urbanisation:** when people move from cities and towns to rural areas
- ✓ **Urban sprawl:** when urban areas spread out into nearby countryside
- ✓ **Demographics:** characteristics of a population, including age, gender, ethnicity
- ✓ **Deindustrialisation:** when a sector shift occurs, resulting in the closing down of factories
- ✓ **Decentralisation:** when shops, businesses and services move from the city centre to the suburbs
- ✓ **Primary sector:** agriculture-based work
- ✓ **Secondary sector:** manufacturing work
- ✓ **Tertiary sector:** services
- ✓ **Quaternary sector:** research and development
- ✓ **Quality of life:** physical and mental well-being
- ✓ **Standard of living:** how well off someone is in relation to people around them

Key points

- Urbanisation has been growing rapidly since the Industrial Revolution.
- The majority of the population in most HICs live in urbanised areas.
- As countries develop, the rates of urbanisation increase.
- Some countries are experiencing counter-urbanisation as people move to rural areas for a better quality of life.
- Suburbanisation, edge cities and decentralisation are all developing as urban sprawl increases.
- Redevelopment, resurgence and gentrification are changing the demographics of cities.

What is urbanisation?

Urbanisation is the physical expansion of cities and towns (and other built-up areas). The term also includes reference to the increase in the number of people living in urban areas.



An aerial view of one of the world's largest cities.

Patterns of urbanisation

- Since the Industrial Revolution, urbanisation has increased rapidly in HICs.
- NEEs are urbanising rapidly in the modern world as they develop and introduce innovative technology into their cities.
- LICs are still urbanising (some cities are urbanising very rapidly), although the majority of people living in LICs live in rural areas.
- Urbanisation is slowing in LICs and NEEs; some HICs are seeing slowing rates of urbanisation, or even counter-urbanisation.
- Megacities (with a population of over 10 million) have been established in HICs and are more common in NEEs and LICs as they rapidly develop.

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Urban processes

- Urban areas are hubs of economic, social, political and technological activity
- Countries' financial sectors rally around urban areas, particularly capital cities
- Urban areas tend to be far more demographically and culturally diverse than rural areas due to the migration of people from different regions, ethnicities, religions and cultures

Why does urbanisation occur?

Push factors in rural-urban migration

(Reasons people leave rural areas)

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Poor quality of housing
- Poor quality of life
- Poor standard of living
- Lack of social life
- Few amenities and services (e.g. schools, medical care)

Pull factors in rural-urban migration

(Reasons people move to urban areas)

- Increased job opportunities
- Improved quality of life
- Improved access to services
- Social and cultural amenities
- Demographic change

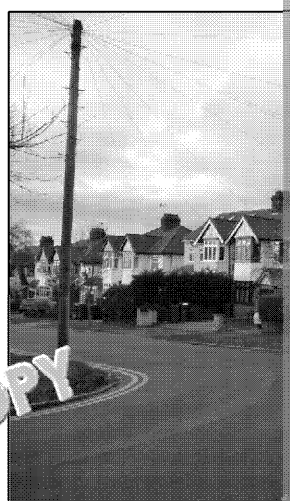
Natural growth: when a country's population grows naturally (i.e. due to birth rate exceeding death rate). As countries develop and natural increase occurs, urban populations grow. Within towns and cities have children and so there are naturally more people living in urban areas.

Suburbanisation

As cities grow, they physically spread out into nearby rural areas (known as urban sprawl). Suburbs are areas of land on the edge of big cities and towns. They develop as a result of urban sprawl. Suburban areas are less densely populated than urban areas and contain services (medical centres, schools, shops, convenience stores). Suburban areas have better transport links to the main city or town. Many suburban areas have larger houses than the city centre, and there are usually green spaces, such as parks. Suburbs are seen as more desirable places to live (especially for families). There is a perception that suburbs offer a better standard of living for people than the city centre (less pollution, less congestion, more green spaces) and some flats and house shares can be a lot cheaper in the suburbs than in the city centre.



An inner-city street in London, showing terraced housing. Houses are built close together, there is very little green space and cars are parked along the streets. Terraced houses such as these are often split into several flats per house.



A suburban housing estate in the Forest. The houses are detached and have more space around them than the ones in the inner city. There is more green space for car parking and more open space, most like a village.

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Counter-urbanisation

- Some HICs are seeing a rise in counter-urbanisation.
- This is where people move from urban areas to rural areas.
- The leading cause is a perceived better quality of life in rural areas (free from pollution, quality, more open spaces).
- As places develop, rural areas are gaining high-quality resources (clean and secure water, security, stable energy supply) and offer communities more connectivity such as broadband. As a result, counter-urbanisation is happening more so, not only in HICs.
- People can work remotely from rural areas or travel to their workplaces in rural areas. This is due to better connectivity (physical and digital) such as transport and also digital connectivity (Internet-based communications).
- Well-developed HICs, such as Norway, are seeing drops in their rates of urbanisation and an increase in counter-urbanisation.

Decentralisation

- Decentralisation is the expanding of economic and social hubs that are not in the inner city.
- Industrial parks or business parks are out-of-town areas that contain shops, offices, factories and other commercial buildings.
- It is often cheaper to build on the outskirts of a city than on expensive inner city land.
- It may encourage people to work on the outskirts as decentralised offices and businesses with free parking and heavy traffic are avoided.
- Many decentralised recreational buildings have free parking, which encourages people to live in the suburbs or nearby rural areas.
- Many inner cities have strict regulations on how buildings should look – decentralised buildings have to conform to these.

Deindustrialisation

As outsourcing increases, countries experience an economic shift from the primary sector (manufacturing) to the tertiary (services) and quaternary (research and development) sectors. This means there is no use for factories and production warehouses in the inner cities any more, so they close down. This is known as deindustrialisation. The places where factories and warehouses once were become run down and derelict. People move away in search of jobs elsewhere. This is known as **urban decline**.



Areas that are experiencing urban resurgence as a result of regeneration through **regeneration**. Old factories are repurposed into residential buildings, cafes, offices, and for commercial purposes. This achieves mixed-use development which can boost the local economy, capital flows, and create a social mix.

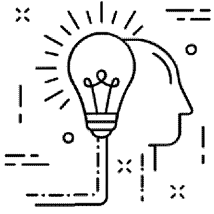
Urban policy in Britain since 1979

- Urban policy consists of new measures and targets for urban areas outlined by central government and local authorities.
- In 1979, under Margaret Thatcher's government, urban policies were updated to focus on private companies being involved in regeneration strategies (as opposed to local authorities).
- Since 1991, under John Major's government, the UK's urban policy focused on partnership between private companies and local authorities.
- In 1997, under Tony Blair's government, urban policy in the UK focused largely on regeneration and development.
- Since the 2000s, there has been a wave of urban policy updates, ranging from local authorities more power over their regions) to the New Deal for Communities scheme.

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If you only remember these three th



- 1 Urbanisation is the expansion of cities and the urban areas. After the Industrial Revolution, NEEs are developed, and urban areas in LICs are beginning to enter cities from rural areas because of push factors and pull factors of the cities.
- 2 As cities grow, the areas on the periphery become more developed. As people get wealthier, they often move to the suburbs. In developed countries, wealthy people move out of the cities to the periphery (decentralisation), allowing urban resources to be used in new areas – new homes and commercial spaces are created.
- 3 Since 1979, successive governments in the UK have had different urban policies depending on the political party in power. Policies include privatisation, partnerships, regional-based development, and devolving power to local authorities.



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Activities

Consolidation questions

1. What is urbanisation?

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2. Name three pull factors for rural to urban migration.

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3. How does suburbanisation develop?

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4. What is counter-urbanisation?

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.....

5. Outline one British urban policy since 1979.

.....

.....

Take it further

Read: [zzed.co.uk/9521-urban-issues](https://www.zigzageducation.co.uk/9521-urban-issues)

Read this [blog post](https://www.zigzageducation.co.uk/9521-urban-issues) on UK urban policy. It looks at potential issues with urbanisation, delving into what the UK faces in the midst of Brexit and how this could impact the country.

(Remember, this is a blog post; do you agree with the author? Do you think it is a reliable source? At GCSE Level, you should be comfortable with critiquing sources and analysing their content.)



Student checks

Topic	What Do I Know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😊	Sure ☺️
Urbanisation	What is urbanisation?			
	Patterns of urbanisation			
	Urban processes			
	Why urbanisation occurs			
	Suburbanisation			
	Counter-urbanisation			
	Decentralisation			
	Deindustrialisation			
	Urban resurgence			
	Urban policy in Britain since 1979			

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Urban Forms

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Keywords

- ✓ **Megacity:** a city with a population of more than 10 million
- ✓ **World city:** a city with strong financial, social, technological and political links around the world
- ✓ **Infrastructure:** built aspects of urban areas, such as buildings, electric cables, etc.
- ✓ **Land use:** what each part of an urban area is being used for (e.g. housing, etc.)
- ✓ **Spatial:** relating to the physical space of an area
- ✓ **Social segregation:** when certain social groups are excluded, disadvantaged or discriminated against on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, economic background, etc.
- ✓ **Cultural diversity:** a mix of people from different ethnic, social, religious and cultural backgrounds within the same area
- ✓ **Mixed developments:** areas that have a multipurpose use
- ✓ **Heritage quarters:** areas that have developed industries with significant historical value
- ✓ **Fortress developments:** areas with high levels of security and surveillance, often designed to deter crime
- ✓ **Gentrification:** redeveloping urban areas to increase economic activity in the face of urban decay and social exclusion and social injustices
- ✓ **Edge cities:** where small out-of-town suburb communities grow into developed urban areas

Key points

- Megacities are increasing in numbers around the world, especially in NEEs in Asia.
- Land use is important in urban areas, especially as urban areas grow and the need for space within the urban boundary for outward urban sprawl.
- Urban areas may have heritage or cultural quarters, which show the history of the area on both regional and global scales.
- Postmodern urban theories are often seen as the prototype of urban development. Many global urban policies aim to achieve cities that are more inclusive and sustainable.

Megacities

- Megacities are cities with a population over 10 million.
- They have been increasing in numbers rapidly due to globalisation and increased urban development.
- Megacities are growing in numbers in NEEs and LICs, especially in NEEs in Asia.
- Megacities are hubs of economic and social activity.
- They can also be hubs of technological innovation and development.
- Examples include Tokyo, Shanghai, Manila, Lahore and Lagos.

World cities are similar to megacities in terms of being economic and social hubs with a population of over 10 million (a city can be both a world city and a megacity). They are connected to other world cities and have highly established global transport links. They are often headquarters for several large multinational corporations, as well as being highly important financial centres and stock exchanges. Examples include London, Paris, Beijing, New York, Brussels, Dubai, etc.

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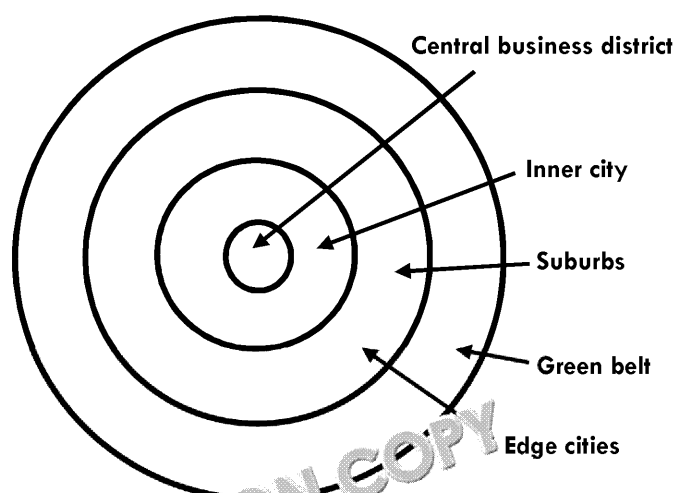
Physical forms of urbanisation

- Many urban settlements were built near to coasts for easy access to trading routes via sea.
- Urban areas also historically developed alongside rivers, to provide water for people and industry.
- Rocky or mountainous topography is often avoided by urban planners, although many informal settlements, such as slums, are built on this land for this reason.

Human form

- Infrastructure, such as roads, cables and pipes.
- Cities thrive on social interaction and density of people, especially in the centre.
- Urban settlements are often shaped by people who have migrated from other areas, bringing their own ethnic, cultural and social values.
- Social segregation still exists in many cities due to prejudices against different groups.

Land use



- Typically, the central business district (CBD) is within the inner city. This is the area where most financial flows occur and contains offices, shops and restaurants. There is a high density of buildings in the CBD.
- The inner city also hosts economic activity, although there is housing here, too. It contains high-rise flats and small terraced housing, which can often become deprived. Inner cities are close by for work and often very culturally diverse (so people from many different backgrounds live there). Some locations in the inner city have an extremely high land value. Waterfront areas are often expensive housing and highly desirable retail and office spaces.
- Suburban housing tends to be more expensive and more socially exclusive than inner city housing. Suburbs as retail space can be cheaper than in the city centre.
- Edge cities develop on the outskirts of cities where suburb communities have their own centres in themselves.
- The green belt is an area between urban areas and rural areas. Many councils have strict rules for not building on the green belt, in order to protect the countryside.

Mixed developments

- Mixed developments are places that have multi-use buildings and offer different types of housing and services for people.
- Uses may include retail space (often for local producers or independent retailers), restaurants and cafes, office space for rent, and communal office spaces (where different companies can rent a desk for an allotted period of time); some mixed developments include hotels, or even housing.

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Gentrification

- Gentrification is a system of redeveloping an urban area with the aim of increasing its economic status. Areas subject to gentrification are usually run-down and deprived, and have high unemployment.
- Gentrification can be beneficial to run-down areas by bringing in new businesses, new housing and new services.
- It can also cause socio-economic issues and inequalities. Local people are often displaced from their areas as rent and house prices increase. Minor ethnic groups are most at risk of being displaced, as are people on lower incomes.

Postmodern Western cities

- 'Postmodern' is the name given to a movement in recent years surrounding urban development. It includes movements such as the economic shift from secondary to tertiary and quaternary sector and social changes.
- Postmodern Western cities are often seen as the prototype of urban development. Urban development is changing as global urban policies aim to achieve cities that are more inclusive and sustainable.

Heritage quarters

- Heritage quarters are areas that have developed industries with significant historical importance.
- They are useful for some urban areas wanting to develop a sense of identity, attract visitors and new businesses, which increases economic activity.

Fortress developments

- These are housing or office buildings with high levels of security and surveillance.
- They may have high walls, a guard room, locked gates, security lighting, CCTV cameras and other deterrents.
- They are designed to deter crime and antisocial behaviour.
- They are usually very expensive and have been criticised for being socially exclusive.
- Some deterrents negatively affect certain social groups often seen as 'outsiders', creating a 'them' type of feeling.

If you only remember these three things



- 1 Megacities have a population of 10 million or more and high levels of economic and social activity. They are found throughout the world. Many new megacities are forecast to develop in Africa, Latin America and Asia. World cities are still important economic centres, but with smaller populations.
- 2 Many cities are planned because of physical and human forms. Physical forms include rivers and mountains, while human forms include infrastructure and land use. Planners can try to model cities in rings, from the CBD in the centre to the suburbs and eventually the greenbelt.
- 3 New changes to cities include the creation of mixed-use developments, gentrification, postmodern cities (Western), heritage quarters and fortress developments.

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Activities

Consolidation questions

1. What are the main characteristics of a megacity?

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2. Why is physical geography important in the development of urban areas?

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3. What is the difference between the CBD and the inner city?

.....

.....

4. What are the features of a mixed-use development site?

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.....

5. What are the issues with fortress developments?

.....

.....

Take it further



Study the image above of an aerial view of London, UK.

1. Describe the land use of this city.
2. Identify a physical landform and explain how this may have helped London as a major world city.




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Student checks

Topic	What Do I Know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 	
Urban forms	Megacities / world cities				
	Physical and human forms of urbanisation				
	Land use				
	Mixed developments				
	Gentrification				
	Postmodern Western cities				
	Heritage quarters				
	Fortress developments				

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Social and Economic Issues Urbanisation

Keywords

- ✓ **Economic inequality:** related to the wealth gap, this is the difference between the wealthiest and the poorest people in the population
- ✓ **Social segregation:** when certain social groups are excluded, disadvantaged or discriminated against due to race, ethnicity, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability
- ✓ **Cultural diversity:** a mix of people from different ethnic, social, religious and cultural backgrounds within the same area
- ✓ **Poverty:** the state of being below a certain standard of living, or earning below a certain level
- ✓ **Quality of life:** physical and mental well-being
- ✓ **Standard of living:** how well off someone is in relation to people around them

Key points

- Economic inequality can lead to social segregation.
- Social segregation can be caused by a number of other factors as well, such as race, ethnicity, gender, etc. leading to unequal opportunities.
- Standards of living can differ exceptionally within an urban area.
- Urban areas tend to be far more culturally diverse than rural areas, largely due to migration.

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Economic Inequality

- Economic inequality is the disparity between the richest people within the country and the poorest.
- Economic inequality leads to a wealth gap, often making the rich richer and the poor poorer.
- Economic inequality can also be a result of unequal opportunities.
- For example, more-affluent families will be able to afford better education for their children. They will have more chance to go to university or get formal qualifications to get a high-paying job. Poorer families may not be able to spend money on education so children will not get a high-paying job. (This is a particular issue in LICs and NEEs, where economic inequality is increasing as countries develop.)
- Economic inequality is also reflected in housing. Poorer communities often have less access to quality housing. In LICs and NEEs, they may live in informal settlements, such as slums.
- Slums (also called shanty towns and favelas) can be crowded and offer a poor quality of life for their residents.
- People in poverty often get stuck in a poverty cycle due to economic inequality, lack of opportunities, or even social segregation.

Social Segregation

- Social segregation is the act of excluding certain social or cultural groups from certain activities.
- Social segregation is common in urban areas, particularly the segregation of people with different income levels due to economic inequality.
- Affordable, cheaper housing tends to be located in the same areas while expensive inner-city housing (which attracts more-affluent people. This is an example of social segregation due to groups with different income levels.
- Social segregation may also occur with different cultural groups. In particular, minority groups are often socially segregated in urban communities due to economic, social and cultural factors.

Cultural Diversity

- Cultural diversity relates to the mix of people from different ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds living within the same area.
- Historically, immigrants looking for work would move to inner cities (as that was where the jobs were) which led to an increase in cultural diversity in inner cities and also led to the creation of ethnic enclaves where people from similar backgrounds all living in one area.
- 'Diaspora' is the name given to a group of people from a certain country, or region, who have a common background who move to other areas of the world, where they may be in the majority.
- Some diasporas develop their own communities, also known as ethnic enclaves. Examples include the developments of 'Chinatown' (there are Chinatowns in London, Liverpool, New York, etc.) as well as many other places).
- Cultural diversity can lead to new business opportunities (the rise of speciality shops is a good example).
- It can also lead to issues such as racism and discrimination of minority groups. These issues can often relate back to unequal opportunities.

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Strategies to manage urban socio-economic issues

- Legal reforms to ensure everyone is being treated fairly regardless of their race, sexual orientation, age, economic background or physical/mental ability (e.g. the Americans with Disabilities Act).
- The rise of affordable housing (to ensure housing is cheap enough to be able to be bought by members of the population).
- Encouraging multiculturalism through events, exhibitions, activities or including down cultural divides and to reduce racial or cultural prejudices).
- Making cities more accessible for people with disabilities, such as lowered pavements, wheelchairs, ramps and lifts in public buildings.
- Creating a living wage so people are earning enough to provide for themselves and the economic climate around them. (People in London tend to earn more than the UK average but the cost of living is so much higher.)
- The development of public services, such as free education and affordable healthcare.
- Providing affordable and accessible public transport (to encourage social mobility and inclusivity).

If you only remember these three things



- 1 Economic inequality is the gap between the richest and poorest in a population. It leads to a wealth gap and unequal access to education, housing and jobs. In NEEs and LICs, slums are often stuck in a poverty cycle.
- 2 Social segregation is the division of social or cultural groups based on race, ethnicity or activity. Cultural diversity, conversely, is people from different social, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds living together. In many cities, immigrants locating in inner-city areas have led to a more diverse population. There are various strategies to manage urban socio-economic issues: economic inequality law, affordable housing policy, promotion of cultural diversity, provision of reliable public transport, and increase in the minimum wage'.

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Activities

Consolidation questions

1. What is urban economic inequality?

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2. What are some advantages of cultural diversity?

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3. What is meant by 'diaspora'?

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4. Outline one method of managing socio-economic issues in urban areas.

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Take it further

Read: zzed.uk/9587-segregation



Student checks

Topic	What Do I Know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😐	Sure 😊	
Social and economic issues with urbanisation	Economic inequality				
	Social segregation				
	Cultural diversity				
	Strategies to manage urban socio-economic issues				

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Urban Climates

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Keywords

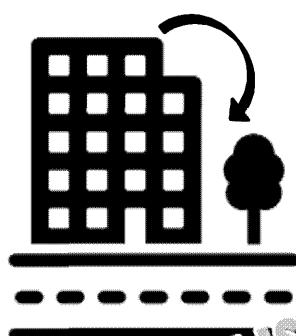
- ✓ **Urban heat island:** When an urban area has a higher temperature than its surrounding rural counterparts
- ✓ **Albedo:** the amount of solar radiation a surface can reflect or absorb
- ✓ **Microclimate:** long-term weather patterns experienced on a local level
- ✓ **Photochemical pollution:** formed from nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons released from vehicles, creating harmful smog
- ✓ **Particulate pollution:** small particles and gases create poor air quality and health issues, such as vehicle exhausts from fossil fuels
- ✓ **Channelled wind:** when wind is directed downwards into long canyon-like streets
- ✓ **Venturi effect:** when wind is forced into small gaps between buildings, which increases its velocity

Key points

- Urban heat islands affect urban areas, causing them to experience different temperatures from surrounding rural areas.
- Urban infrastructure alters the land's natural albedo, giving it a lower albedo (reflecting less of the incoming solar radiation).
- Photochemical smog is an issue for many urban areas, especially as vehicle congestion amplifies the issue.
- Urban infrastructure also affects wind speed and direction.

Urban heat islands (UHI)

- UHIs occur when urban areas have higher temperatures than nearby rural areas.
- Low albedo (caused by the nature of infrastructure materials) means urban areas absorb more solar radiation, which is let out as heat.
- Heat is also generated from vehicles, industrial outputs and large volumes of people.
- UHIs are an issue as they can make urban temperatures unbearable during summer months or a heatwave. This puts vulnerable groups at risk (such as some elderly people).



Wind

- Wind is affected by urban infrastructure.
- It is channelled in between buildings, often down the streets and through the narrow streets – the Venturi effect.
- The Venturi effect is experienced in urban areas as wind is forced into narrow gaps between buildings (increasing its velocity in the streets below).
- This can make pedestrians unstable, or alter their path (to their advantage (such as natural air conditioning)).

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Precipitation

- UHIs can create low-pressure systems above an urban area, resulting in higher rainfall.
- Thunderstorms are common in urban areas due to hot, humid air (from large amounts of water vapour from industry) and negative charges caused by condensation and convectional uplift.
- Fog is also common in urban areas; where pollution mixes with fog it is known as smog – which is dangerous to human and environmental health.



Air quality

- Particulate pollution and photochemical smog can affect air quality.
- Poor air quality can lead to a range of issues, such as respiratory problems (damage to the respiratory system), and it particularly affects vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and people with existing conditions like asthma.
- Pollution also damages the natural environment and wildlife.

Pollution reduction policies

- Clean air acts (such as the UK Clean Air Act of 1956) to combat pollution and reduce associated health risks.
- Low emission zones, pedestrianised areas, increased use of public transport.

If you can remember these three things...



- 1 Urban areas affect the local weather because of the heat created through human activity and also because of the urban heat island (UHI). The UHI can affect low-pressure systems, leading to more thunderstorms and affect the wind as it is channelled between them.
- 2 Human activity affects air quality – such as particulate pollution and smog. This causes health issues including respiratory problems for those with underlying conditions such as asthma.
- 3 There are various ways to improve air quality such as pedestrianised zones, and public transport to replace cars.

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Activities

Consolidation questions

1. What is an urban heat island?

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2. Why is poor air quality a problem in urban areas?

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3. How does urban infrastructure affect wind?

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4. What is photochemical smog?

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5. Outline one policy aimed at reducing urban pollution.

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Take it further

Read: [zzed.co.uk/9587-delhi-smog](https://www.zzed.co.uk/9587-delhi-smog)

Watch: [zzed.co.uk/9587-urban-heat-islands](https://www.zzed.co.uk/9587-urban-heat-islands) (Urban heat island video from the Museum of Virginia)



Student checks

Topic	What Do I Know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 	
Urban climate	Urban heat islands				
	Air quality				
	Wind				
	Precipitation				
	Pollution reduction policies				

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Urban Drainage

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Keywords

- ✓ **Catchment:** the area over which rainfall is collected
- ✓ **Basin:** a bowl-like dip in Earth's surface into which water drains
- ✓ **Hydrology:** a system of geography related to natural water cycle processes
- ✓ **SuDS:** sustainable urban drainage
- ✓ **Conservation:** protecting the natural environment
- ✓ **Restoration:** repairing the natural environment

Key points

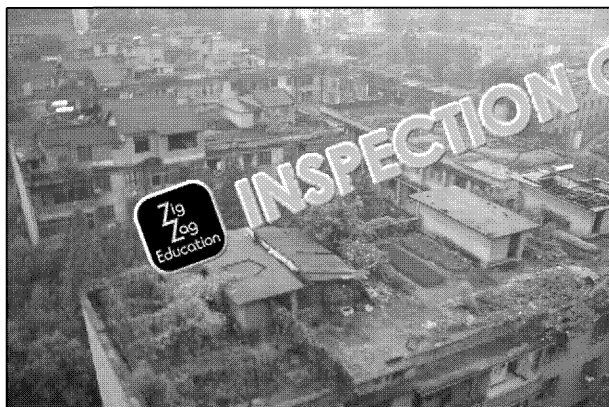
- The urban environment impacts the natural water cycle, largely due to infrastructure that reduces natural drainage.
- Urban infrastructure can make cities and towns more vulnerable to flash flooding.
- Hydrographs are used in flood events to show discharge over time and rainfall.
- Water pollution is an increasing problem due to urban interference with natural water cycles.
- River restoration and conservation can help to reduce issues associated with urban drainage.

How do urban surfaces affect the water cycle?

- Urban infrastructure makes drainage of precipitation difficult. Urban surfaces are impermeable, so water cannot percolate down into the ground (as with natural water cycles).
- Gardens and green spaces that once were permeable have become paved over.
- Waste water is artificially removed from cities via sewers, which redirects the water to treatment plants.
- This can cause issues further down the water cycle, especially if there is a high volume of water entering the system.
- Issues include riverbed erosion, pollution, salinisation and biohazards.
- Precipitation falls with much higher intensity and in larger amounts over urban areas than in rural areas.
- This means urban areas are at risk from flash flooding.
- This poses a hazard to the large populations that live in urban areas.

Sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS)

- SuDS are used for managing excess rainwater that cannot percolate into the ground.
- They are seen as more sustainable than conventional urban drainage strategies as they integrate natural environment into their management solutions.
- They tend to be effective at reducing flooding by allowing water to permeate the ground naturally as possible.
- They may also incorporate water recycling through rainwater collection and reuse for things such as flushing toilets or watering plants.



This photo shows a housing estate in China.

The region has incorporated urban greening into its design to improve drainage and percolation.

Urban greening is a popular sustainable drainage system as it also improves the urban environment (such as air quality of life and improved

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River restoration and conservation

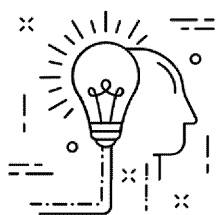
Another method of dealing with the issues caused by urban structural interference is river restoration and conservation. This strategy aims to improve urban catchment areas so that water flows do not pose a high flood risk (especially of flash flooding). It also aims to encourage the natural processes of the water cycle. There are also wider environmental restoration and conservation, such as reduced pollution, which can help to mitigate the impacts to the environment and biodiversity.

You will have studied a specific example of river management and you should know the level of success, including its level of success.

e.g. The Mersey-Trent Flood Alleviation Project in the UK.

Volunteers from the local area have been asked to help with rebuilding the riverbank area. The project is still ongoing but is so far successful in terms of gaining volunteer support.

If you only remember these three things



- ① Urban areas increase the risk of flash flooding because they are impermeable and quickly drain water into rivers. There is no flood interception and there are very few natural areas to absorb water.
- ② Sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) help manage flood risk. There are lots of different methods, including green roofs, permeable paving, rainwater collection, which all store water and release it slowly.
- ③ Another way of reducing flood risk is through river restoration and conservation, trying to restore the catchment area to its natural state before the human changes.



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Activities

Consolidation questions

1. How do urban surfaces affect water drainage?

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2. What is an issue with collecting run-off water to nearby rivers?

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3. Why are urban areas at risk of flash flooding?

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4. What are SuDS?

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Take it further

Watch: [zzed.uk/9587-susdrain-video](https://www.zzed.uk/9587-susdrain-video) on SuDS, explaining why they are used and what they do.



Student checks

Topic	What Do I Know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😐	Sure 😊	
Urban drainage	Urban surfaces and the water cycle				
	SuDS				
	River restoration and conservation				
	River case study				

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Urban Waste

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Keywords

- ✓ **Industrial waste:** building materials, machinery, packaging, hazardous waste
- ✓ **Commercial waste:** packaging, e-waste, food, small household waste such as garden waste
- ✓ **Personal waste:** packaging, food, household waste such as broken or unwanted items
- ✓ **Recycling:** where waste is sorted and used to create something new
- ✓ **Recovery:** includes recycling of materials but also includes using waste for energy
- ✓ **Incineration:** burning waste in a furnace
- ✓ **Burial:** burying waste underground or in a landfill site
- ✓ **Submarine:** burying waste underwater
- ✓ **Trade:** exporting waste to other countries for them to recycle for materials

Key points

- Waste occurs on several different levels from industrial, commercial and personal
- There is a waste hierarchy, with reducing waste at the top and landfill disposal at the bottom
- Waste trade has developed over the last few decades, where countries buy and sell waste to be used as an alternative to sourcing raw materials.

What is urban waste?

- Waste is essentially things that we no longer need or want.
- Waste occurs on many levels:
 - **Industrial:** infrastructural waste such as building waste, hazardous waste (chemical, radioactive waste), electrical waste
 - **Commercial:** waste from retail, catering, office waste such as packaging
 - **Personal:** domestic waste that is generated every day by people – food waste, broken or unwanted domestic household items.
- Waste occurs as a result of consumerism and general human activity. However, with increasing populations, the amount of waste is higher in these areas and is also concentrated in these areas.
- Waste disposal systems tend to be better in HICs as local authorities have more resources for waste disposal.
- Waste causes an issue for the environment and for humans. Waste can cause pollution, pose a biohazard risk, and some waste cannot fully decompose (such as plastic) and it can even enter the human food chain.

There are multiple ways of dealing with waste, some more sustainable than others.

Unregulated waste disposal

- Relates to where there are no organised or regulated waste disposal systems.
- Is more common in LICs than HICs.
- Is common in informal housing settlements, such as slums and shanty towns.
- Can pose a risk to the environment (pollution).
- Can pose a risk to human health (can affect water supply and lead to diseases such as cholera).

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Recycling

- Recycling is when waste materials are melted down and made into something new.
- This is the third stage of the waste hierarchy (after reducing waste and reusing waste materials for their original purpose).
- Recycling can be highly energy-intensive and recycled materials lose some of their useful properties every time they are recycled. Therefore, this option is not always as sustainable as people may think.

Incineration

- Refers to burning waste.
- Can be done alongside energy recovery.
- Reduces waste that may otherwise go to landfill.
- Large incinerators are preferred as opposed to burning waste in open areas (as this causes pollution and fumes cannot as easily be contained or filtered).
- e.g. Viridor Energy Recovery Facility near Cardiff, UK, which powers nearby homes through energy recovery.

Landfill and burial

- Where waste is either left in a specified area or buried underground.
- Can cause pollution and land degradation, and is seen as the least sustainable option of waste disposal (especially where materials do not decompose, as is the case with plastic).
- e.g. Lamby Way, Cardiff, UK, a recycling centre which also has a burial and landfill site for non-recyclable waste.

Submergence

- Refers to when waste is buried underwater (usually in the sea).
- Waste submergence in the sea is technically illegal.
- However, it still occurs in some areas (illegally), especially for disposal of hazardous or chemical waste.

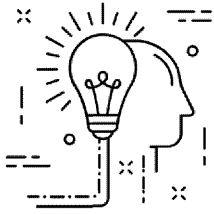
Waste trade

- The trading of waste materials for money or through other agreements.
- LICs and NEEs may buy waste from HICs for recycling.
- It is often cheaper to recycle waste materials than to obtain new raw materials (it is seen as more sustainable too).
- It is also a good way for LICs and NEEs to increase their income (by buying waste from HICs).
- Can be controversial, especially where countries buy waste from other countries with the agreement that it will be recycled, but it is not and it is burned or put into landfill.

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If you only remember these three th



- 1 Humans generate unwanted material called waste and ways to dispose of. There are three main types of waste: commercial and personal. Waste harms the environment, is hazardous, and some waste persists in the environment as plastics.
- 2 While rich countries have developed ways of collecting and managing waste, poor countries and NEEs may not have – we call this unregulated waste. This can damage the environment and human health.
- 3 We can recycle some of our waste, and for materials that cannot be recycled, we can incinerate it or bury it in landfill – with effects on the environment and groundwater. Some waste is traded between countries.



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Activities

Consolidation questions

1. What is the most, and least, preferred method of dealing with waste?

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2. How sustainable is incineration of waste?

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3. What is the issue with waste going to landfill?

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4. Why does unregulated waste occur most in LICs, and what is the issue with

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5. How sustainable is waste trade?

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Take it further

Watch: [ZZ19587-viridor-landfill](#) (Viridor landfill and waste recycling)



Student checks

Topic	What Do I Know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😊	Sure 😄	
Urban waste	What is urban waste?				
	Unregulated waste disposal				
	Recycling				
	Landfill and burial				
	Incineration				
	Recycling				
	Submergence				
	Waste trade				

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Urban Environmental

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Keywords

- ✓ **Atmospheric pollution:** when air quality is compromised due to harmful chemicals and other particles
- ✓ **Water pollution:** when bodies of water, such as seas and rivers, are contaminated with harmful chemicals and small particles that affect wildlife and humans
- ✓ **Dereliction:** when an area that has been used as a result of becoming run-down

Key points

- Pollution occurs as a result of human activity in urban areas.
- Atmospheric pollution affects air quality, creating a range of human health and environmental issues.
- Water pollution affects potable water supplies as well as damaging the environment.
- Dereliction occurs when urban areas are abandoned due to being run-down, creating issues as well as health and safety risks.

Pollution

Air and water pollution are issues faced by urban areas. These topics are discussed in the drainage and urban climate sections of this resource.

Pollution causes a range of issues:

- Water is a basic human need; if it becomes contaminated through urban waste, then this becomes a hazard for humans.
- A polluted water supply can cause diseases such as cholera and typhoid.
- Water pollution can also negatively affect marine life and other wildlife habitats.
- This affects both the environment and natural ecosystems.
- Air pollution can cause respiratory issues and aggravate existing health issues.
- It can also have wider environmental effects; for example, the use of chlorofluorocarbons in industries has led to ozone damage.

Dereliction

Dereliction occurs when areas become abandoned after becoming run-down. Urban areas can become derelict for many different reasons, such as the following:

- Deindustrialisation; factories and warehouses close down and buildings that were once used for industry fall into dereliction.
- Buildings become unsafe or unstable and not fit for human use.
- There is an economic shift and people move away to find jobs in other areas.
- The area becomes associated with high crime rates and this puts people off moving there.
- Developers do not invest in the area, so there are no new developments or buildings being planned.

The photo opposite shows a region in Belfast, UK that has become derelict.



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Urban dereliction can be an issue for the following reasons:

- Can cause pollution and land contamination.
- Can lead to high crime rates.
- Can cause developers and investors to pull out of investing in other parts of
- Can cause health and safety risks, such as buildings falling down.

Managing pollution and dereliction

- Managing pollution can be achieved through top-down levels as well as bottom-up.
- Top-down pollution management includes governments passing legislation to reduce their pollution output; for example, clean air acts, congestion charges.
- Bottom-up strategies include people reducing their own pollution output; for example, water recycling (using waste water to water gardens and plants).
- Managing dereliction normally involves redevelopment of an area.
- For example, old warehouses that were left empty as a result of deindustrialisation have been converted into mixed-use developments, museums, flats and offices.
- Derelict buildings that are unsafe may be completely demolished. New buildings can be built on old ones, increasing the land value in the region.

If you only remember these three things



- 1 Human activity can pollute air and water – which can harm human health, and damage local ecosystems and the environment.
- 2 Dereliction is the process whereby abandoned buildings become unsafe. For example, they can collapse, cause contamination, and invite crime into an area.
- 3 Various top-down and bottom-up strategies can be used to manage pollution and dereliction – including government policy, involving redeveloping an area to restore or demolish derelict buildings and bring economic activity to an area once more.

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Activities

Consolidation questions

1. What is meant by pollution?

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2. What is urban dereliction?

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3. What are the issues with urban dereliction?

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4. How can dereliction be managed?

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Take it further

Read: [zzed.co.uk/9587-manchester-miracle](https://www.zzed.co.uk/9587-manchester-miracle) (Manchester case study)



Stretch tasks

Topic	What Do I Know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 	
Urban environmental issues	Pollution				
	Dereliction				
	Managing pollution and dereliction				

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Sustainable Urban Deve

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Keywords

- ✓ **Sustainability:** providing for the needs of the present without compromising the future
- ✓ **Liveability:** how much an urban area offers in terms of quality of life
- ✓ **Urban resilience:** how well an urban area copes with internal and external stresses
- ✓ **Ecological footprint:** the amount of natural resources required in the make-up of a city

Key points

- Sustainable urban development must focus on environmental, social, economic and cultural aspects
- Urban areas tend to have large ecological footprints, which is damaging the environment
- Cities require a certain aspect of liveability in order to offer their residents a good quality of life

Ecological footprints of urban areas

- An ecological footprint is the name given to the amount of environmental resources and environmental stresses required to make a particular thing or to do a particular activity
- Urban areas have very high ecological footprints.
- Carbon footprints are similar to ecological footprints but relate specifically to the amount of carbon emissions released in processing.

Dimensions of sustainability

- Sustainability should be measured in terms of **economic, social, political and environmental** dimensions
- Even if an urban activity may be considered environmentally sustainable, it may not be (economically) sustainable
- e.g. cycling is often seen as a more environmentally sustainable transport mode, but it is not socially sustainable for accessibility reasons (e.g. disabilities, cost of equipment)

Liveability

- The concept of liveability refers to how well an urban area provides a good quality of life for its residents
- Characteristics of a city with good liveability include economic equality, fair housing, good public transport systems, open spaces and green spaces, and accessibility for disabled persons.

Sustainable cities

- Many global cities are enforcing sustainable development into their urban planning
- This may include public transport, green spaces (urban greening), SuDS, improved energy efficiency schemes and community-led developments.
- Many cities in LICs and NEEs are achieving improved rates of sustainable urban development as they can 'leapfrog' certain aspects of development.
- For example, it is often easier for newer cities in NEEs to run renewable energy systems (solar roads, urban wind turbines) than it is for older cities to upgrade existing infrastructure.

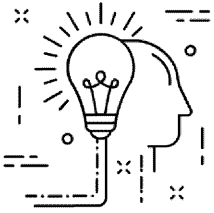
The photo shows solar panels on roofs in the city of Weihai in China.

The solar panels are used to heat water and are a popular method of sustainable heating in China.

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If you only remember these three th



- 1 Urban areas have high ecological footprints because of the resources that they use and the environmental strain they put on. They also have carbon footprints.
- 2 Liveability is the ability for an urban area to provide to its residents a good quality of life includes amenities such as having public transport, green spaces for recreation and facilities for residents – including disabled people.
- 3 Sustainability should consider economic, social, and environmental factors. Many cities around the world are implementing sustainable development; for example, through transport, digitalisation. Cities in NEEs and LICs can benefit from leapfrog development.



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Activities

Consolidation questions

1. What does sustainable mean?

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2. What does liveability mean? How does it relate to urban areas?

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3. How can LICs and NEEs 'leapfrog' development to ensure sustainability?

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Take it further

Read: zzed.uk/9587-sustainable-cities

Student checklist

Topic	What Do I Know?	No Idea ☹	Nearly 😊	Sure ☺	
Sustainable urban development	Ecological footprints of urban areas				
	Dimensions of sustainability				
	Liveability				
	Sustainable cities				

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Urban Case Study

You will have studied two contrasting urban areas.

Fill in the table to help you revise the key facts for each case study.

Questions	Urban area 1:	Urban area 2:
Is this urban area a HIC, LIC or ME? 		
Describe the physical geography of this urban setting.		
How does the physical geography of this setting impact the people living in this urban area?		
Describe any differences in economic activity in this urban area. 		
How do the socio- economic differences in this setting affect people living in this urban area?		
What sustainability measures does this urban area have? Are they successful?		
How would you say this urban area differs from the other one you have studied? 		

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Exam Advice

Time management

If you open the paper and see a question you didn't expect: don't panic! Take a moment to follow the steps below. Whatever you do, don't just start writing down everything you know.

Before you rush headlong into the exam, take a moment to look at the questions.

Reading through the whole paper

- Remember to take your time at the beginning, reading through all of the questions.
- You don't have to answer them in any particular order, but be aware that sometimes AQA order the questions for a reason, and earlier questions might help you answer later ones.

Reading the questions

- Too often students rush and lose marks.
- It might be useful to underline command words to remind you what the question is asking.

Planning

- After reading through the question, make sure you plan your answer.
- This stage is key to getting higher marks, so make sure you don't skip it. Planning can help you:
 - structure your answer
 - answer the question properly
 - save time
- You may do any rough work and planning in your extra paper, but make sure to put a line through it to indicate it is not to be marked.

- Remember to proofread for spelling, grammar and punctuation as content.
- You can use as many words as you need, but try to be concise. Don't be put off by how long the question is around you.
- Any mistakes you make don't use correction fluid.
- If you get stuck, move on and go onto another question. You can come back to it at the end.
- Adopt a formal style, but be clear and concisely.
- Your introduction should state the issue at hand, give a brief overview of the information. The body of your answer should provide evidence for your points. For long-answer questions, you should demonstrate your knowledge and recommendation need to present viewpoints.

Checking

- Leave some time after to go through your answers, correcting spelling, grammar and terminology errors and making sure you haven't left anything out.
- Finally, double check that your candidate details are on any extra sheets you may have, and put them in the correct order with your answer book, using a treasury tag to attach them if you need to.
- Put a cross through any pages you don't want marked, e.g. planning pages.

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Writing

Geographical terms

One of the points you are being assessed on is the correct and appropriate use of geographical terms. You should have assembled a list of key terms that might be useful for this exam, so make sure you learn them and think about how you might include them in your answers. If you are scared of forgetting these words when you start writing your answers, you could try writing them down as soon as you are permitted to start writing, remember to cross them out at the end though!

However, don't use geographical terms if they are unnecessary or you are unsure. Only include the ones you are sure of if they are relevant and useful.

Getting the tone right

As well as using key geographical terms in your answers, your writing should strike the right tone. This helps your answers appear considered and professional.

Do ✓	Do not ✗
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write out abbreviations in full the first time you use them Be clear when a statement is a personal opinion as opposed to fact Use linking words: thus, therefore Try to include the source of a fact if you can, e.g. according to the WHO, the death toll from the tsunami was 1,200. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write in the first person Use contractions: don't Use slang terms and other informal language Use rhetorical questions

It might help to think of yourself talking to an examiner, or a geography teacher who doesn't know you, so you need to make sure you are clear, but they do know about the topic. You don't need to explain every key term, but it's not necessary.

Ask your teacher if you are unsure about your current 'tone', but don't worry about it too much. You are more focused on how you answer the question.

Spelling, punctuation, grammar and legibility

It can often be hard to think about these in the exam hall, but proper spelling, punctuation, grammar and legibility really help keep your meaning clear. They also keep your sentences from getting too long, which aids with clarity and readability.

While examiners are used to reading all sorts of handwriting, it is good to try to make your answers as legible as possible. One way to do this is to slow down while writing, making sure your letters are an appropriate size. The final read-through of your answers before finishing is a good idea to check for any words which are especially tricky to read.



Quality over quantity: writing skills are equally important in that they help you to clearly and communicate your geographical knowledge and understanding. It's better to give a clear and concise answer than a long answer stuffed with complex words that you don't fully understand.

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In the event of emergencies!

- All your planning and preparation means this isn't going to happen... But if it does, the first rule is always to try and relax!
- Take a minute for some deep breaths, close your eyes and imagine a lush green woodland... clear your mind.
- Now read over the question, think over what you have just said yet, and continue.

'Thinking like a geographer' and 'synopticity'

Learning to 'think like a geographer' is crucial for exam success and important for your future.

As you are in the world, the world is a complicated place – cause and effect, and a lot of things to think about. You need to pull information together, join up the dots, and work out why things happen in the world. This includes space, place, environment and scale.

Don't be afraid to draw on your own knowledge and other modules to help illustrate your answer. Be creative, original and innovative, but use this skill wisely. Make sure you use that knowledge to answer the question rather than going off on a tangent or writing down *everything* you know. This is called 'synopticity'.

Here are a few tips on thinking like a geographer:

Consider the many aspects of the issue from many viewpoints

- Think across the social/natural divide, using your knowledge of both human and physical geography
- Involve many aspects of the issue: historical context, cultural perspectives, etc.
- SPEED can be a useful tool for thinking synoptically: social, political, economic, environmental, and demographic. But don't forget to consider cultural and material factors when appropriate.
- Try to think about the issue from many viewpoints: work on your empathy!
- Don't be afraid to think outside the box!

Spatial concepts

- Geographical perspectives often focus on the importance of space, location and scale in the issues at hand
- Think about movements and flows of people, goods, ideas, etc.
- Think about the effects of 'scale': local, regional, global

Be Creative

As long as your approach is logical and well justified, you can think in creative ways.

Exam preparation:

My take-home tips:

- ✓ Before the exam (Eat a good BREAKFAST)
- ✓ During the exam (Read the question CAREFULLY)
- ✓ Planning (HIGHLIGHT key words and concepts)
- ✓ After the exam (Take some time to RELAX!!!)

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Answers to Consolidation Questions

Urbanisation

1. The expansion of cities and towns as well as the increasing number of people living in them.
2. e.g. more jobs, better services, greater social inclusion
3. Urban sprawl extends the city further where smaller urban communities develop. Suburbs contain larger houses than the city centre, most of which have parking, gardens and lawns.
4. When people move from urban areas to rural areas as a result of a perceived need for a better quality of life or development that allows people to live suitably in rural areas.
5. e.g. New Deal for Communities, outlined by Blair's government, to regenerate urban areas by focusing on reducing crime, increasing education, creating employment and improving health. This policy has had varying success across the country.

Urban Forms

1. Population over 10 million; it is a hub of economic and social activity and is usually located on a river or coast.
2. Topography must be suitable for infrastructure; cities are usually close to the sea or a major river.
3. The CBD is the central business district; it is usually located within the inner city and contains high-density housing. The inner city has housing, usually terraced housing or high-rise apartment blocks.
4. Multi-use buildings such as shops, museums, restaurants, office spaces, hotels and residential units.
5. They can be socially exclusionary and housing within them is usually very expensive.

Social and Economic Issues with Urbanisation

1. When some people are wealthy and others very poor despite living in the same city.
2. Businesses provide more educational opportunities (e.g. learning new languages, vocational training).
3. The spread of people from a particular background to other areas. Ethnic enclaves or ghettos develop in one particular urban region.
4. e.g. Affordable housing. This is to ensure suitable housing is accessible to people, particularly where house prices and the cost of living are high. This strategy addresses issues arising from economic inequality. Affordable housing can also reduce social inequality.

Urban Climates

1. An urban area that has a hotter temperature than surrounding rural areas due to the heat absorbed by urban infrastructure.
2. Affects human and environment health (e.g. issues facing the respiratory system due to air pollution).
3. Creates wind channelling and the Venturi effect, redirecting wind downwards and increasing wind velocity.
4. Formed when nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons react with sunlight, causing smog and the environment.
5. UK Clean Air Act 1956, as a result of sulfur dioxide and smoke pollution in London. It led to the closure of coal-fired power stations away from cities and monitoring air quality.

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Urban Drainage

1. They limit the amount of rainwater percolation into the ground.
2. High-intensity water flow into rivers can cause erosion, pollution and damage.
3. Due to intense rainfall, lack of natural drainage and large human population.
4. Sustainable urban drainage systems; they incorporate natural drainage methods into the environment, such as green roofs and bioswales.

Urban Waste

1. The most preferred way of dealing with waste is by reducing the amount of waste produced. If this is not possible, then the next best option is burial or landfill.
2. On the one hand, it can be used in the process of energy recovery (so reducing the need for fossil fuels). On the other hand, if fumes are not filtered, it can cause air pollution and release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
3. It degrades the land, causes pollution and causes harm to wildlife. Some materials can be toxic, which affects animals, and they may end up in the human food chain.
4. Because many urban areas in LICs may not have a large enough budget to cover the cost of disposal. There are also a larger number of informal settlements in LICs, where waste is often disposed of. This causes pollution and can affect the water supply. This may lead to health problems.
5. On one hand, it is better for countries to recycle materials than to mine for raw materials. On the other hand, trade agreements may be broken and waste destined for recycling may end up in landfill.

Urban Environmental Issues

1. When the natural environment becomes contaminated with harmful chemical substances.
2. When an urban area becomes run-down as a result of being run-down.
3. Pollution, crime, safety, health problems, low land value.
4. Redevelopment of the area, bringing back the local economy by providing new jobs and services.

Sustainable Urban Development

1. Providing for the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. This involves economic, political, social and environmental factors.
2. Liveability is how well an area offers a good quality of life, which is good measure of the success of a city. Urban areas can offer different levels of liveability for their residents depending on their physical location and socio-economic equality.
3. By incorporating the newest sustainable technology when developing cities, it is easier and cheaper to build sustainable infrastructure from scratch than it is to retrofit existing infrastructure (e.g. listed buildings may even have specialised protection which could prohibit modification, etc.).

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