

Topic 2

Changing places

The nature and importance of places

A core feature of geography entails understanding the nature of places and their characteristics. This topic is about how we engage with places, both those that are known well to us and those studied at a distance. It considers how places are known, how they are experienced and the factors and processes that develop and change their character through time.

The study of two contrasting places, as indicated under 'Place studies' on page 22, is an integral feature and should be applied throughout the whole topic.

According to geographers there are broadly three aspects of place: **location**, **locale** and the **sense of place**.

1 What is the difference between the location, the locale and the sense of place? (AO1)

4 marks

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2 Explain the relationship between place and feelings of identity, belonging and wellbeing. (AO1)

6 marks

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Different people will perceive places in very different ways. These perceptions may vary because of race, religion, ethnicity, culture, gender, age or socioeconomic background.

3 With reference to examples, compare the perspectives of 'insiders' and 'outsiders' on the nature of a place. (AO1, AO2)

8 marks

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4 Explain the potential meanings of the following two different categories of place:

a Near and far places (AO1)

4 marks

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b Experienced and media places (AO1)

2 marks

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5 Outline how media portrayal of places may be different to the reality of life in certain places. (AO1, AO2)

6 marks

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Factors contributing to the character of place

The **character of a place** refers to the combination of natural features in the landscape and the cultural characteristics of the people who occupy the place.

Endogenous and **exogenous** factors both contribute to the character of a place.

6 Explain the difference between endogenous and exogenous characteristics. (AO1)

3 marks

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7 For a local place that you have studied, complete the boxes in Figure 2.1 by identifying factors that have contributed to the character of that place. (AO2)

10 marks

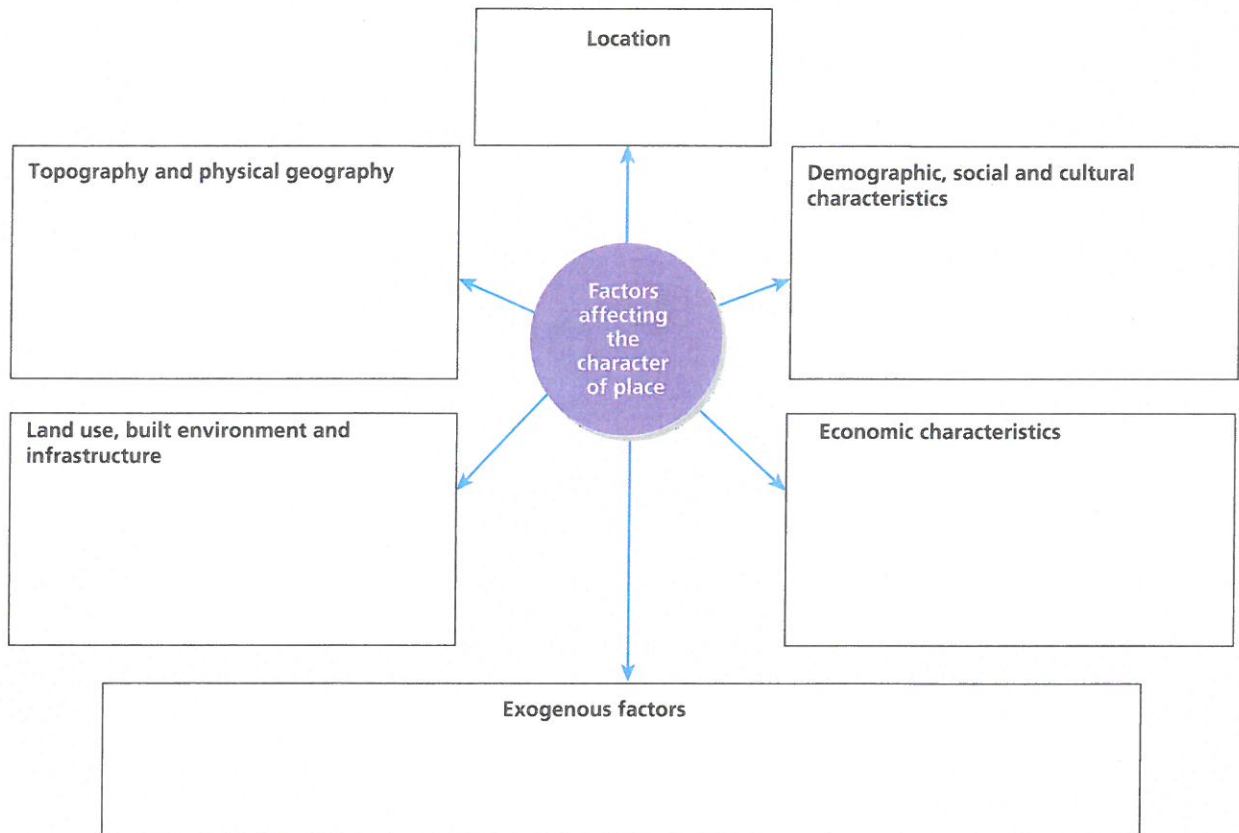


Figure 2.1 Factors affecting the character of place

Changing places

Although the location remains constant, all other aspects of a place's character change over time. To improve your understanding of the two contrasting places you have chosen to study, it is important to be aware of the factors that bring about change and also how this change affects the perceptions and lives of those living there. The factors that change places can operate at different scales.

Relationships and connections

Agents of change are those people and organisations, operating at various scales, that influence the changing character of a place.

8 Identify some of the agents of change that may influence the nature and character of places. (AO1)

5 marks

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9 To what extent can past and present connections, both within and beyond the locality, influence the nature and characteristics of a place? (AO1, AO2)

8 marks

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Answer either question 10 or question 11, depending on which aspect of 'relationship and connections' you have opted to focus on.

Option A: Changing demographic and cultural characteristics

10 Suggest reasons to explain how the demographic and cultural characteristics of a place are changed. (AO1, AO2)

6 marks

OR

Option B: Economic change and social inequalities

11 Outline the possible impacts on the economic development and social inequality in a place resulting from external forces operating at different scales. (AO1, AO2)

6 marks

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Meaning and representation

Another dimension of changing places is how they are perceived by individuals or collectively (what they mean to people) and how they are represented

(or seen) in society. The focus here is on people's lived experience of place(s) both in the past and at present.

12 Explain how people can develop a sense of place and what this means for their individual identities, perspectives and memories. (AO1, AO2)

6 marks

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13 Contrast the idea of a sense of place with that of perception of place. (AO1)

2 marks

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Perceptions of places on an international scale are more likely to be influenced by media coverage than by personal experience. Agencies external to places can operate to influence or manipulate place meanings and how they are represented at all scales.

Efforts made by external agencies to influence perception of place are often known as 're-imagining' or 'rebranding'.

14 Use Figure 2.2 to help you answer the following questions.



Figure 2.2 The components of urban rebranding

a Suggest reasons why each of the named external agencies in Table 2.1 attempt to manage the perception of place. (AO1, AO2)

9 marks

Table 2.1 Role of external agencies in managing perceptions of place

External agency	Reasons for trying to influence place meaning
Local or central government (3 marks)
Corporate bodies (3 marks)
Local or community groups (3 marks)

- b** Outline strategies that are used by external agencies to create place meanings and influence individuals' and organisations' perception of place. (AO1, AO2)

5 marks

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Quantitative and qualitative skills

Place characteristics can be represented and supported by a whole range of quantitative and qualitative data. It

is especially important to engage with and interpret a range of data when investigating your two place studies.

- 15** Explain the difference between quantitative and qualitative data. (AO1)

4 marks

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One of the richest sources of quantitative data available for places in the UK is the Office for National Statistics, found online at www.ons.gov.uk. Census

information can be particularly useful and is found at www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk.

Table 2.2 Census data for two contrasting areas

Location	Housing (% owner occupied)	Ethnicity (% white British)	Age structure (average age)	Employment (% unemployed)
Blakenhall, Wolverhampton	62.35	23.18	38.30	7.9
Brill, Buckinghamshire	73.10	93.90	43.10	2.6

- 16 a** Interpret and comment on the data shown in Table 2.2. (AO2, AO3)

5 marks

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- b** What additional quantitative or qualitative data would you need to represent these two places to clarify your perceptions of them? (AO1, AO2)

6 marks

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Images such as paintings and old or current photographs are also used to represent places. For example, photographs of places can be found on the

website www.geograph.org.uk. The photographs include the location and the year taken.

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(b)



Figure 2.3 Photographic images of contrasting places (Topic 6, Question 16 requires you to annotate these photographs)

17 Describe the contrasts in the two images shown in Figure 2.3 and from these representations, give your interpretation of the type of places they are. (AO2, AO3)

6 marks

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Maps too — as well as determining location and locale — can be used to represent place and to influence our

perception of a place, for example if it is in a built-up area or in an area surrounded by natural beauty.

18 Using Figure 6.1, the OS map of Cambridge on page 67 (in Topic 6), locate the two areas of Romsey and Histon. Use a range of quantitative and qualitative data from the sources suggested, including www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk and www.geograph.org.uk to compare these two places. (Note that on the neighbourhood statistics website, Histon is listed as Histon and Impington ward.) (AO2, AO3)

9 marks

Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

Place studies

A place study involves exploring the developing character of a place. You need to undertake **two** place studies as a requirement for the exam paper. One should be a **local place** near your home or place of study, such as a neighbourhood or small rural or urban community. The other has to be a **contrasting place**, which is different economically, demographically, culturally or in terms of

its political and economic organisation. It is likely to be distant but can be in the same country.

The framework of questions below suggests what you need to explore for each place and suggests sources that you might use for each question.

For questions 19–23 make notes in the tables provided and then write your answers on separate sheets of paper.

19 Describe the location and locale of each of your place studies. (AO2)

4 marks

Possible sources: maps at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk; geospatial data (including GIS); photographs

Local place	Contrasting place
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20 Outline a brief history of each place. (AO2)

6 marks

Possible sources: old maps; archive documents; text; audio-visual media; photographs

Local place	Contrasting place
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21 Contrast the demographic characteristics of each place. (AO2, AO3)

8 marks

Possible sources: census data (old and current) at www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk; geospatial data from the census at <http://maps.cdrc.ac.uk>

Local place	Contrasting place
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22 Contrast the economic characteristics of each place. (AO2, AO3)

8 marks

Possible sources: census data (old and current); newspaper text or audio-visual media; the Index of Multiple Deprivation, mapped at <http://maps.cdrc.ac.uk>

Local place	Contrasting place
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23 Contrast the social characteristics and inequalities that exist in each place. (AO1, AO2, AO3)

8 marks

Possible sources: census data (old and current); for education, school performance information can be found at www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/; data on crime at www.police.uk and on health profiles at www.apho.org.uk

Local place	Contrasting place
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People's lived experience of the place in the past and present can be sourced orally by interviewing people or by gathering reminiscences, songs etc. Written text,

audio-visual media and artistic representations can further support these experiences, as can comparing old and current photographs of the same place.

24 Examine people's lived experience of a local place that you have studied and of a contrasting place. (AO1, AO2)

10 marks

Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

25 Compare the changing demographic and cultural characteristics of two contrasting places that you have studied. (AO1, AO2)

10 marks

Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

Exam-style questions (AS, Paper 2)

- 1 Which of the following lists has qualitative data and quantitative data about a place in the correct columns? (AO1)

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1 mark

	Qualitative data	Quantitative data
A	A photograph of the place Census data about % unemployed	Average age of residents in the place Interviews recording people's opinion about the place
B	A map of the place and its locale A breakdown in proportions of ethnic minorities living there	A historical document referring to land ownership Census data recording age structure
C	Sample data recording people's assessment of environmental quality A drawing of the place from the past	Crime figures for the past 3 months A land use map of the place
D	A film documentary of the place recording life there 50 years ago Minutes from a local council meeting	A representative sample of past and current house prices Percentage of rented properties

- 2 For a named place that you have studied, explain ONE way in which it is represented either positively or negatively by any media source. (AO2)

3

3 marks

- 3 Identify the qualitative data sources that you used to study your contrasting place and evaluate the usefulness of each in giving you a better perception of that place. (AO1, AO2)

10

9 marks

- 4 With reference to a place that you have studied, assess the extent to which the character of the place has been affected by external agencies. (AO1, AO2)

20

20 marks

Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

Exam-style questions (A-level, Paper 2)

- 5 In the context of studying places, explain how a place might be represented using qualitative data. (AO1)

5 4 marks

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- 6 Table 2.3 shows a range of demographic and socioeconomic data from government censuses for the central ward of Thetford, a market town in East Anglia, over a 30-year period from 1981 to 2011.

Table 2.3

Census indicator	1981	1991	2001	2011
Ethnicity (% white British)	95.80	94.30	91.59	75.00
Average age (mean)	39.01	43.60	46.02	44.10
Unemployment (%)	3.79	4.70	2.91	4.10
Home ownership (% owner occupier)	65.90	72.10	70.93	56.50
Occupation type (% managers and professionals)	19.65	21.75	20.95	16.80
Occupation type (% machine operative and unskilled)	30.26	28.40	31.68	36.70

- Assess the usefulness of the data in Table 2.3 in helping you to understand the changing nature of the place. (AO2, AO3)

8 6 marks

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- 7 'Media representation of a place does not always reflect the reality of living there and the perceptions created can have either positive or negative effects on that place.' To what extent does this statement apply to one or more places that you have studied? (AO1, AO2)

25 20 marks

Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.