**Changing Places: 20 mark question practise**

Study the question below and try to break the question down in to its component elements:

For a distant place that you have studied, assess the extent to which flows of people have been important in developing the character of this place.

How would answer this question in relation to **Detroit**? What evidence would this give you?

Outline Detroit’s character in a spider diagram:

**What is useful evidence to support your answer?**

It can be hard to select supporting evidence on longer essay style questions but it is important to stick to the point and ensure you are actually answering the question.

Think about the evidence you have for Detroit. Can you differentiate between the information which helps to answer and information that is irrelevant or off topic?

* Detroit was founded by French colonialists and later developed further by the British.
* Many Detroit companies in the 20th century manufactured standardised consumer products. Ford and General Motors used innovative production processes such as the assembly line that was then replicated worldwide.
* In the 1970s city authorities were accused of supporting racial segregation of schools and housing, reinforcing ghettos and the racial divide within the city.
* In the latter half of the 20th century Detroit’s troubles prompted middle-class white families to move out of the city to the suburbs of metropolitan Detroit.
* Tech start-ups and young entrepreneurs are moving into the downtown area of Detroit and attracted by jobs in new sectors. Many of them are buying and renovating old apartments.

**Plan it out**

20 mark answers should be planned before writing the final version. Just one minute spent planning can help you to stay focused on the question and is evidence of what you planned to discuss even if you run out of time.

The 20 mark question is testing both AO1 (knowledge and understanding) and AO2 (application of knowledge and understanding) equally, so it is important to balance your answer and not just list everything you know about a case study.

The question asks you to assess the extent to which flows of people have been important in developing the character of a place (in this case Detroit). Possible aspects of flows of people to explore include:

* Migration to the city and suburbs with the economic boom. Huge increase in spatial spread of city; different ethnic groups arrived at different times.
* Out-migration with deindustrialisation: “white flight”; which areas affected? Which groups remained?
* Most recent migration of people attracted to work in tech and innovation sectors downtown. May have a different educational and socio-economic profile. How might this change the character of central Detroit?
* Impact of changing flows of people – huge areas of abandoned housing, increase in crime, increasing segregation.

Because the command is *the extent to which* you must also consider the role of other factors in the development of the character of Detroit. These could include:

* Detroit’s economic boom and growth in the 20th century as a major centre within the US Steel Belt.
* Deindustrialisation: Steel Belt to Rust Belt – competition in the 1970s from Asia and the southern states leading to abandoned factories and dereliction.
* The role of the automotive industry, Motown records and other industrial and cultural factors in shaping character.
* The built environment, architecture and spatial layout.
* Local community and residents groups e.g. urban farming collectives;
* Physical characteristics such as the Detroit River linking Lake Huron and Lake Erie. Across the river lies Canada.
* The extent of racial integration/segregation, e.g. Grosse Pointe Park/East Side.
* Corporate bodies/large TNCs — renewed investment in the downtown, same for the suburbs?
* City authorities – planning and development, infrastructure and transport, regeneration downtown;
* Wealthy investors and powerful individuals – e.g. Dan Gilbert founder of Quicken Loans

*Develop a plan for your answer:*

**How to structure your answer**

***Introduction***

A strong opening sentence that addresses the question and demonstrates a confident start.

Define the key terms that are mentioned in the question. Introduce your case study/studies.

***Main Body***

Ensure that every paragraph links explicitly back to the question. Use a range of connectives to allow your essay to flow.

Make reference to a range of case studies and synoptic links.

***Conclusion***

A summary of your final judgement, don’t bring in anything new! Link back clearly to the question.

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| **Introduction** – Introduce case study location and outline the main place characteristics. |
| P – **Effect of flows of people on the character of Detroit, e.g. migration during boom and bust.**  E – explain it  E – Give evidence – which aspects of character have changed and how?  L – Assess it (How significant is the impact?) |
| P – – **Effect of recent incoming residents, e.g. tech companies in Downtown Detroit**  E – explain it  E – Give evidence - which aspects of character have changed and how?  L – Assess it (How significant is the impact?) |
| P **Effect of companies/TNCs, e.g. Detroit and General Motors or Quicken Loans**  E – explain it  E – Give evidence - which aspects of character have changed and how?  L – Assess it (How significant is the impact?) |
| P – **Influence of the built environment/infrastructure.**  E – explain it  E – Give evidence - which aspects of character have changed and how?  L – Assess it (How significant is the impact?) |
| All these are examples of factors impacting on the development of the character of Detroit.  However, you must consider several options and **whether flows of people have had a greater impact than other factors.** |
| **Conclusion - Overall Assessment**  Consider several options or arguments and weigh them up so as to come to a conclusion on the overall impacts. |

*Once you have finished planning your answer, you will be ready to answer it in full. You will need to do this on a separate piece of paper.*

As part of this focus on exam technique you may find it helpful to peer assess each-others work. If you choose to do this, you could give feedback to your fellow student using the approach below:

Read through the student response once. Then read through it a second time and:-

1. Underline the different factors affecting the development of Detroit’s character. (Remember that when you are evaluating the effect of flows of people you need to consider other factors too. Did you do this in your answer?)
2. Place a star next to every occasion the effects of flows of people or other factors on the development of Detroit’s character are evaluated. (Evaluation involves saying how big/significant/important the effect is. These are AO2 marks. Did you do this in your answer?)

How well has the student evaluated? Have they done it throughout? Where else could they have evaluated?

In the conclusion - has there been a judgement as to how much the development of Detroit’s character is a result of changing flows of people or other factors? Has the student justified their judgement?

What other improvements could be made? Do you think the student could have used more evidence e.g. examples? Could the student have explained their points more fully? Remember, with a 20 mark question you have approximately 22 minutes and so there is a limit to the number of factors which can be explained and evaluated.

**Other possible 20 mark questions – what would you include, how would you answer?**

Assess the extent to which the experiences of people living in a place that you have studied have been affected by the development of the area’s infrastructure. [20 marks]

“Conflict often arises when people who live in a place try to resist changes that appear to have been forced upon them by organisations, groups and individuals from outside that place.’ To what extent does this statement apply to one or more places that you have studied? [20 marks]

‘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? (20 marks)

For a place that has successfully been rebranded, evaluate the strategies used in the place-making process. (20 marks)

In your study of two contrasting places, assess the extent to which either there has been a change in the demographic and cultural characteristics of those places OR there have been economic changes over time that have affected those places. (20 marks)

With reference to a place you have studied, assess the extent to which the demographic and cultural character of that place has been shaped by shifting flows of people, resources, money and investment. (20 marks)