

**Revision Outline**

Human geography: Contemporary Urban Environments

| **Specification content and key ideas** | **Possible exam/revision questions** | **Topic(s) revised** |
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| 1. **Urbanisation**

Urbanisation and its importance in human affairs. Global patterns of urbanisation since 1945. * Definitions of urbanisation, mega city, world city and urban growth
* Causes of urbanisation and reasons for changing rates of urbanisation around the world

The emergence of megacities and world cities and their role in global and regional economies.* Characteristics and importance of world cities
* Reasons why **London** is a world city

Suburbanisation* Causes and consequences of suburbanisation
* Green belts – why they were introduced and the pressures they are now under
* Evidence of suburbanisation - **Surbiton case study**

**Counter-urbanisation*** Causes and consequences
* Characteristics of a suburbanised village
* **Cranleigh case study**

**Urban change: deindustrialisation, decentralisation, rise of service economy**. * The causes and characteristics of deindustrialisation– **case study Detroit** using detail from Changing Places & regeneration case study
* What decentralisation is and what examples there are in **Guildford**
* What the service economy is and what has caused it to rise – **case study Cambridge Science Park**

**Urban resurgence*** What it is and why it is required

**Urban policy and regeneration in Britain since 1979*** Urban Development Corporation – **LDDC**
* City Challenge – **Hulme**
* New Deal for Communities – **New East Manchester**

**Economic, social, technological, political and demographic processes associated with urbanisation and urban growth.*** Case study **Mumbai**
 | ***Analyse changes in the world pattern of urbanisation shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8. (6 marks) AQA Paper 2 – A level Specimen assessment material******Assess the role of technological processes leading to the growing number of global megacities. (9 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 2020******Assess the extent to which counter-urbanisation leads to social and economic change. (9 marks) AQA Paper 2 – A level Specimen assessment material******Outline reasons for the emergence of megacities. (3 marks) AQA Paper 1 – AS level Specimen assessment material******Using Figure 7, assess the extent to which there is a relationship between city size and percentage urban population. (6 marks) AQA Paper 1 – AS level Specimen assessment material******Outline the role that world cities play in the global economy. (4 marks) AQA A Level November 2021******Figure 5a shows the year of peak population in inner and outer London between 1800 and 2018. Figure 5b shows the year of peak population in London boroughs. Analyse the data shown in Figure 5a and 5b. (6 marks) AQA A Level November 2021******Analyse the trends in urbanization between 1950 and 2050 (predicted) shown in figure 3.6. (6 marks) Hodder workbook******With reference to explicit strategies, evaluate urban policy and regeneration in Britain since 1979. Hodder workbook***Define the term urbanisation. (2 marks)Distinguish between urbanisation and urban growth. (2 marks)***Outline the process of suburbanisation. (3 marks) - AQA Paper 1 AS Level June 2018******‘Counter-urbanisation affects the human characteristics of place more than the physical characteristic of place.’ With reference to an urban areas you have studied, how far do you agree with the statement above? (20 marks) AQA AS Paper 1 June 2022***How do rates of urbanisation differ between HICs and LICs? (4 marks)Distinguish between a mega city and a world city. (4 marks)Examine the role of megacities and world cities in global and regional economies. (9 marks)What are the main causes of urbanisation around the world (6 marks)Compare the process of suburbanisation in HICs in the C20th with that occurring in selected LICs in the C21st. (9 marks)Explain what is meant by decentralisation. (2 marks)Assess the relationship between deindustrialisation and the rise of the service economy and assess the impact of these two processes on urban areas. (9 marks)Assess the impacts of deindustrialisation on urban areas. (9 marks)Evaluate the success of one urban policy designed to promote regeneration in the UK since 1979. (9 marks)***With reference to one urban policy in Britain since 1979, evaluate its success in contributing to urban resurgence. (9 marks) AQA A Level Paper June 2022******‘Britain’s urban regeneration policies since 1979 have failed to address problems of economic inequality and social segregation. The gap between the richest and the poorest urban residents has widened. ‘To what extent do you agree with this statement? (20 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 June 2018***With reference to specific strategies, evaluate urban policy and regeneration in Britain since 1979. (20 marks) |  |
| 1. **Urban Forms**

**Contemporary characteristics of mega/world cities.** (Covered in previous section)**Urban characteristics in contrasting settings. Physical and human factors in urban forms**.* Definition of urban form – shape, size, density and make-up
* Physical and human factors affecting urban form
* Comparison of urban forms – **Mumbai, LA and London**

**Spatial patterns of land use, economic inequality, social segregation and cultural diversity in contrasting urban areas, and the factors that influence them.*** Major case studies – Mumbai and London

**New urban landscapes:** * Characteristics of town centre mixed developments e.g. **The Shard, London**
* Characteristics of cultural and heritage quarters e.g**. Manchester Northern Quarter**
* Characteristics of fortress developments e.g. **LA**
* Characteristics of gentrified areas e.g. **Portland Road, Notting Hill**, London
* Characteristics of edge cities.

**The concept of the post-modern western city.*** What are the characteristics of modern and post-modern cities e.g. **Las Vegas**
 | **Using Figure 6 and your own knowledge, assess the importance of physical factors in affecting urban form. (9 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 2020**Using examples, evaluate the factors responsible for urban form. (9 marks)With reference to examples, analyse the physical and human factors that have shaped the spatial patterns of land use, segregation and diversity in contrasting urban areas. (9 marks)***Summarise the causes of social segregation in urban areas. (3 marks) AQA AS Paper 1 June 2022***Describe the characteristics and account for the development of the following new types of urban landscapes:- Town centre mixed developments  Edge citiesCultural and heritage quartersFortress landscapes (6 marks)***How far do you agree that new urban landscapes such as fortress developments, heritage quarters and edge cities have intensified issues associated with economic inequality and social segregation? (20 marks) AQA A Level Paper June 2022***‘Gentrification – a blessing or a curse’. (9 marks)Identify some of the key features expected to be seen in a post-modern Western city. (6 marks)***Using Figures 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d and your own knowledge, assess the extent to which you agree that Vancouver is an example of a post-modern western city. (9 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 June 2018******Outline what Is meant by the concept of the post-modern western city. (3 marks) AQA AS Paper 1 June 2019*** |  |
| 1. **Social and economic issues associated with urbanisation**

**Issues associated with economic inequality, social segregation and cultural diversity in contrasting urban areas.*** Social segregation
* Economic inequality
* Racial tension
* Housing
* Education
* Health

Case studies – **Mumbai, London and Detroit (link to Changing Places)****Strategies to manage these issues.**RedevelopmentUrban gardens in Detroit | Evaluate the issues associated with economic inequality and social segregation in urban areas of the UK today. (20 marks)Explain why economic inequality exists as a key issue in many different urban areas. (5 marks)Analyse either social segregation or cultural diversity as an issue in contrasting urban areas. (9 marks)Evaluate the strategies used in contrasting urban areas to manage issues associated with economic inequality, social segregation, and cultural diversity. (20 marks)***Figure 9 shows the Index of Multiple Deprivation for the city of Preston, Lancashire in 2015. Figure 10 shows the percentage of Preston residents who cannot speak English (2011 census). Analyse the data shown in Figure 9 and Figure 10. (6 marks) - AQA Paper 1 AS Level June 2018******‘Strategies used to manage issues associated with economic inequality are usually unsuccessful.’ With reference to two contrasting urban areas that you have studied, how far do you agree with this statement? (20 marks) AQA A Level November 2021***  |  |
| 1. **Urban climate**

**The impact of urban forms and processes on local climate and weather.*** Factors affecting microclimate
* The causes of urban heat island effect and how it varies in London
* The reasons why precipitation rates , thunderstorms and fogs are more frequent in urban areas and the problems that these can cause
* The effects of urban structures and layout on wind speed, direction and frequency
* Air quality – particulate and photo-chemical pollution
* Pollution reducing strategies
* Pollution case study - **London**
* The impacts urban climate has on people’s lives
 | ***Explain why thunderstorms are common in urban areas. (4 marks) AQA A Level Paper June 2022******Figure 5a, on the insert, shows a map of Portland, a city in north-west USA. Figure 5b, on the insert, shows the urban heat island effect for Portland in June 2015. Analyse the data shown in Figure 5a and Figure 5b. (6 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 June 2018******Assess the extent to which local weather and climate in an urban area might affect its character and/or people’s lived experience. (9 marks) AQA AS Level Paper 1 June 2019******Assess the extent to which the urban heat island effect is a problem in urban areas. (9 marks) Hodder workbook******Outline how one urban pollution reduction policy has been implemented. (4 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 2020***Define what is meant by microclimate. (2 marks)Describe the impact that the urban area has on temperatures compared to surrounding rural areas. (4 marks)Outline the reasons for the increased frequency and intensity of precipitation, thunderstorms and fogs in urban environments. (6 marks)Examine the frequency of urban structures on wind speed, direction and frequency. (6 marks)Assess the extent to which the urban heat island effect is a problem in urban areas. (9 marks) |  |
| 1. **Urban drainage**

**Urban precipitation*** The reasons why urban areas have different precipitation to urban areas

**Surfaces and catchment characteristics*** How catchment characteristics vary between urban, suburban and central urban land uses.

**Impacts on drainage basin storage areas; urban water cycle: water movement through urban catchments as measured by hydrographs.****Issues associated with catchment management in urban areas.** * Impacts on water quality and flow rates
* The advantages and disadvantages of different hard and soft drainage management approaches

**The development of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS).*** Techniques used and benefits of SUDS
* Case study of **Lamb Drove, Camborne**

**River restoration and conservation in damaged urban catchments with reference to a specific project.** **Reasons for and aims of the project; attitudes and contributions of parties involved; project activities and evaluation of project outcomes.*** Case study – **The Cheonggyecheon River project, Seoul, South Korea**
 | ***Outline benefits of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS). (3 marks) AQA Paper 1 – AS level 2017*** ***Using Figure 6a and your own knowledge, evaluate the use of SUDS in achieving the benefits shown in Figure 6b. (9 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 June 2019******‘River restoration and conservation in damaged urban catchments will enhance environmental quality as well as improve urban drainage’. With reference to a specific project, discuss the statement and evaluate the project outcomes. (20 marks) Hodder workbook***Contrast the surface and catchment characteristic of an urban drainage area with those of a rural area. (3 marks)Explain the effects of the catchment characteristics and water usage in urban areas on the urban water cycle. (6 marks)Explain the meaning of ‘sustainable urban drainage systems’ (SUDS) and suggest methods using SUDS to manage urban catchment. (9 marks)Explain the advantages of using sustainable urban drainage systems in an urban area. (9 marks)‘River restoration and conservation in damaged catchments will enhance environmental quality as well as improve urban drainage’. With reference to a specific project, discuss the statement and evaluate the project outcomes. (20 marks)Examine the view that human activity is having a greater impact than natural factors on urban drainage systems. (9 marks)To what extent do you agree that flooding in urban areas can be sustainably managed? (20 marks)***Figure 5a shows information about a river restoration project on the River Alt in Knowsley, Merseyside which took place in 1996. The project aimed to improve water quality and increase biodiversity. Figure 5b shows water quality and biodiversity in the River Alt between 1995 and 2006. Analyse the changes brought about by river restoration shown in Figure 5a and Figure 5b. (6 marks) AQA A Level Paper June 2022******Assess the impact on the character of a place of a river restoration and conservation project in a damaged urban catchment. (9 marks)***  ***- AQA Paper 1 AS Level June 2018******To what extent do you agree that urban drainage presents more opportunities than challenges in developing more sustainable cities? (20 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 November 2020******Using an example you have studied, assess the impact of a river restoration project on urban drainage. (9 marks) AQA A Level November 2021*** |  |
| 1. **Urban waste and its disposal**

**Urban physical waste generation:** * Definitions of waste stream, urban mining, global waste trade

**Sources of waste - industrial and commercial activity,** **Personal consumption**. * The reason why the amount of waste has increased and the link to social and economic characteristics, lifestyles and attitudes.

**The environmental impacts of alternative approaches to waste disposal:** * Unregulated – **Mumbai** case studies,
* Recycling **– Norway** bottle return scheme, UK household collections
* Recovery and incineration – **Amsterdam and Singapore**
* Burial, submergence and trade.

Comparison of incineration and landfill approaches to waste disposal in relation to a specified urban area.* **Landfill v incineration in Amsterdam**
 | How and why does the generation of urban physical waste vary around the world? (6 marks)For one or more urban areas, assess the value of incineration versus landfill as approaches to waste disposal. (9 marks)Evaluate the extent to which government strategies can improve waste disposal. (9 marks)For one or more urban areas, assess the value of incineration versus landfill as approaches to waste disposal. (9 marks)***Assess the extent to which incineration is a more sustainable approach to waste management than landfill. (9 marks) AQA AS Paper 1 June 2022******Assess the effects on the carbon cycle of incineration and landfill approaches to waste disposal in urban areas. (9 marks) AQA A Level Paper June 2022******‘The greatest challenge for mega/world cities is managing waste.’ To what extent do you agree with this view? (20 marks) AQA AS Level Paper 1 June 2019*** |  |
| 1. **Other contemporary urban environmental issues**

**Environmental problems in contrasting urban areas**Atmospheric pollution* Global concentrations of particulate matter, causes and impacts
* Difference between particulate and photochemical pollution
* Causes, consequences and strategies to reduce air pollution in **London and Beijing**

Water pollution * Causes, consequences and management
* Urban waste water treatment in the UK
* Water case studies – **London and India**

Dereliction* Negative impacts of dereliction
* Land remediation in **Stratford, London Docklands and Detroit** (you will need to revisit the Changing Places topic)
 | ***‘Addressing socio-economic issues is more important than dealing with environmental challenges in the management of urban areas.’ How far do you agree with this view? (20 marks) AQA Paper 2 – A level Specimen assessment material******‘There are more challenges than opportunities associated with improving environmental quality in urban areas.’ To what extent do you agree with this view? [20 marks] AQA Paper 2 – AS level Specimen assessment material******Solving inequality in urban areas requires action involving both people and the environment. Evaluate this view. (20 marks) AQA Paper 1 – AS level 2017***Explain why dereliction is an issue in some urban areas. (5 marks)What is photo-chemical pollution? (2 marks)Assess the threat to health presented by air pollution in cities and the degree to which air pollution can be reduced in an area you have studied. (9 marks)Examine the causes and consequences of water pollution. (6 marks)Discuss the strategies used to manage the following in urban areas:- Air pollution (8 marks) Water pollution (8 marks) Dereliction (8 marks)To what extent do you agree that ‘poor sanitation is still an urgent worldwide problem? (9 marks)‘Despite the recent economic growth in cities across many LICs, the deterioration in air and water quality threatens to stifle further growth’. Assess this statement. (9 marks)‘Environmental problems vary from city to city.’ Using examples, discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement. (20 marks) |  |
| 1. **Sustainable Urban Development**

Impact of urban areas on local and global environments. * Ecological footprint of major urban areas.
* Dimensions of sustainability: natural, physical, social and economic.
* Nature and features of sustainable cities.
* Concept of liveability and how it is synonymous with urban sustainability.

Contemporary opportunities and challenges in developing more sustainable cities.* Obstacles to cities becoming more sustainable and the difference between HICs and LICs.
* The need for long term planning solutions to economic, social and environmental problems.

Strategies for developing more sustainable cities.* **Case studies of Curitiba and Copenhagen**
 | ***Evaluate the relative importance of strategies used to develop sustainable cities in overcoming environmental problems for one urban area you have studied. (9 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 June 2018******Using Figure 6a, Figure 6b and your own knowledge, assess the factors that contribute to cities such as these scoring highly on the livability index. (9 marks) AQA A Level 2021***With reference to examples, evaluate the strategies that are used to develop more sustainable cities. (20 marks)Assess the importance of transport planning in promoting sustainable urban development. (9 marks)Explain the concept of liveability with reference to sustainable urban development. (9 marks)Assess the opportunities and challenges associated with sustainable development in urban areas. (20 marks)What do you understand by the concept of the ‘sustainable city’? (6 marks)Using examples, evaluate the attempts made to urban areas to become more sustainable. (9 marks)  |  |
| **Case studies of two contrasting urban areas LONDON AND MUMBAI to illustrate and analyse key themes set out above, to include:*** **Patterns of economic and social well-being**

**The nature and impact of physical environmental conditions with particular reference to the implications for environmental sustainability, the character of the study areas and the experience and attitudes of their populations.** | ***Evaluate the impact of migration on the character of a place that you have studied and people’s lived experience of that place. (9 marks) AQA Paper 2 – A level Specimen assessment material******With reference to an urban area that you have studied, assess the importance of past and present processes of development in understanding the area’s characteristics. (9 marks) AQA Paper 1 – AS level 2017******For one urban area you have studied, to what extent are environmental problems a consequence of globalization? (9 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 June 2019******‘Environmental issues in urban areas will always emerge despite attempts to be more sustainable.’ With reference to two contrasting urban areas that you have studied, to what extent do you agree with this statement? (20 marks)*** - ***AQA Paper 1 AS Level June 2018******With reference to two contrasting urban areas, assess the role played by the process of suburbanization in creating patterns of economic and social wellbeing. (20 marks) AQA A Level Paper 2 June 2019***‘Strategies to manage social and economic issues in urban areas are more challenging than those strategies used to manage environmental problems’. How far do you agree with this view? (20 marks) |  |