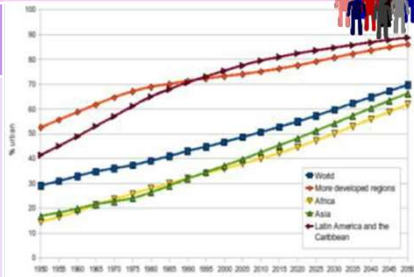# Urban Issues & Challenges

What is Urbanisation?

This is an increase in the amount of people living in urban areas such as towns or cities. In 2007, the UN announced that for the first time, more than 50 % of the world's population live in urban

Where is Urbanisation happening?

Urbanisation is happening all over the word but in LICs and NEEs rates are much faster than HICs. This is mostly because of the rapid economic growth they are

Causes of Urbanisation

Rural - urban migration (1)
The movement of people from rural to urban areas.

Push	Pull
• Natural disasters • War and Conflict • Mechanisation • Drought • Lack of employment	• More Jobs • Better education & healthcare • Increased quality of life. • Following family members.

Natural Increase (2)
When the birth rate exceeds the death rate.

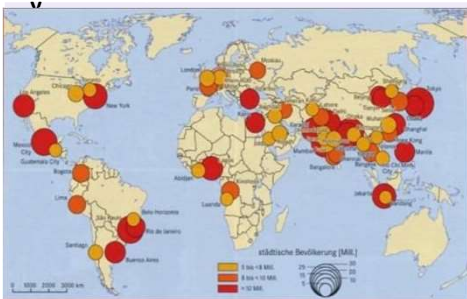| Increase in birth rate (BR)	Lower death rate (DR)
• High percentage of population are child-bearing age which leads to high fertility rate. • Lack of contraception or education about family planning.	• Higher life expectancy due to better living conditions and diet. • Improved medical facilities helps lower infant mortality rate.

Types of Cities

Megacity
An urban area with over **10 million people** living there.

More than two thirds of current megacities are located in either NEEs (Brazil) and LICs (Nigeria). The amount of megacities are predicted to increase from 28 to 41 by 2030.

Sustainable Urban Living

Sustainable urban living means being able to live in cities in ways that do not pollute the environment and using resources in ways that ensure future generations also can use then.

Water Conservation
This is about reducing the amount of water used.
• Collecting rainwater for gardens and flushing toilets.
• Installing water meters and toilets that flush less water.
• Educating people on using less water.

Energy Conservation
Using less fossil fuels can reduce the rate of climate change.
• Promoting renewable energy sources.
• Making homes more energy efficient.
• Encouraging people to use energy.

Creating Green Space
Creating green spaces in urban areas can improve places for people who want to live there.
• Provide natural cooler areas for people to relax in.
• Encourages people to exercise.
• Reduces the risk of flooding from surface runoff.

Waste Recycling
More recycling means fewer resources are used. Less waste reduces the amount that eventually goes to landfill.
• Collection of household waste.
• More local recycling facilities.
• Greater awareness of the benefits in recycling.

AQA

Sustainable Urban Living Example: Freiburg, Germany

Background & Location
Freiburg is located in the south western region of Germany. In 1970, a goal of urban sustainability was set up.

Sustainable Strategies
• Strong focus on recycling and solar panel technology
• Local people included in decision making
• Rainwater capture and use of water / energy efficient technology
• Green spaces created
• Tram / Cycle network

Integrated Transport System

This is the linking of different forms of public and private transport within a city and the surrounding area.

Brownfield Site

Brownfield sites is an area of land or premises that has been previously used, but has subsequently become vacant, derelict or contaminated.

Traffic Management

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

Environmental problems
Traffic increases air pollution which releases greenhouse gases that is leading to climate change.

Economic problems
Congestion can make people late for work and business deliveries take longer. This can cause companies to lose money.

Social Problems
There is a greater risk of accidents and congestion is a cause of frustration. Traffic can also lead to health issues for pedestrians.

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

Traffic Management Example: Congestion Charge
The London congestion Charge zone (CCZ) is an area within London where you have to pay £11.50 a day to drive in. Its aim is to reduce the growth rate of traffic within the heart of the city. Introduced in 2003 and operates from 7am to 6pm

Greenbelt Area
This is a zone of land surrounding a city where new building is strictly controlled to try to prevent cities growing too much and too fast.

Urban Regeneration
The investment in the revival of old, urban areas by either improving what is there or clearing it away and rebuilding.

GEOGRAPHY

Urban Change in a Major UK City: Bristol Case Study

Location and Background

Bristol is in the South West of England. The population of the city is 440,000 and expected to grow to 500,000 by 2029. The city grew during the 18th century trading with West Africa & the West Indies

City's Importance

- **Education:** 2 universities.
- **Religion:** 2 cathedrals.
- **Culture/entertainment:** several theatres & music venues. Also home to Aardman, a famous animation company.
- **Tourism:** the UK's 8th most popular city for foreign visitors
- **Industry:** largest concentration of silicon chip manufacturers outside California.

Migration to Bristol

Between 1851-91, Bristol's population doubled as people arrived looking for work. In recent years, migration from abroad e.g. Poland has accounted for half of Bristol's population growth

Migrants enrich the city's cultural life, provide a hard working labour force and are young which helps to balance the population. However, there is pressure on housing, schools and wider integration in society.

City's Opportunities

Social: Youthful population means there is a cultural vibrancy. There are sporting opportunities. The area attracts shoppers.

Economic: There are 50 micro-electronic and silicon design businesses in Bristol. The council have invested in super fast broadband and there are strong links with the universities.

Environmental: Bristol was the European Green Capital in 2015. Over a third of the city is open space, they use an integrated transport system and develops brownfield sites.

City Challenges

Social: There are social inequalities in Bristol and in some areas there is high social deprivation such as in Filwood.

Economic: The need for new housing comes at a high economic cost and the cost of developing brownfield sites is particularly high.

Environmental: Urban sprawl has led to increased pressure, there are vast areas of dereliction, waste disposal is a problem as is atmospheric pollution

Bristol Temple Quarter Regeneration Project

Aims: to transform the run down area as it gave a bad impression to visitors.

Main features: Brownfield sites and derelict buildings pulled down, the area was given "Enterprise Zone status" which encouraged economic growth and jobs. A new bridge was built across the River Avon to improve access to the new arena. The train station was improved, alongside the cycle paths and road network

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Urban Change in a Major NEE City: RIO DE JANEIRO Case Study

Location and Background

Rio is a coastal city situated in the South East region of Brazil within the continent of South America. It is the second most populated city in the country (6.5 million) after Sao Paulo.

City's Importance

- Has the second largest GDP in Brazil It is headquarters to many of Brazil's main companies, particularly with Oil and Gas.
- Sugar Loaf mountain is one of the seven wonders of the world.
- One of the most visited places in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Hosted the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympics.

Migration to Rio De Janeiro

The city began when Portuguese settlers with slaves arrived in 1502. Since then, Rio has become home to various ethnic groups.

However, more recently, millions of people have migrated from rural areas that have suffered from drought, lack of services and unemployment to Rio. People do this to search for a better quality of life.

This expanding population has resulted in the rapid urbanisation of Rio de Janeiro.

City's Opportunities

Social: Standards of living are gradually improving. The Rio Carnival is an important cultural event for traditional dancing and music.

Economic: Rio has one of the highest incomes per person in the country. The city has various types of employment including oil, retail and manufacturing.

Environmental: The hosting of the major sporting events encouraged more investment in sewage works and public transport systems.

City Challenges

Social: There is a severe shortage of housing, schools and healthcare centres available. Large scale social inequality, is creating tensions between the rich and poor.

Economic: The rise of informal jobs with low pay and no tax contributions. There is high employment in shanty towns called Favelas

Environmental: Shanty towns called Favelas are established around the city, typically on unfavourable land, such as hills.

Self-help schemes - Rocinha, Bairro Project

- The authorities have provided basic materials to improve people's homes with safe electricity and sewage pipes.
- Government has demolished houses and created new estates.
- Community policing has been established, along with a tougher stance on gangs with military backed police.
- Greater investment in new road and rail network to reduce pollution and increase connections between rich and poor areas.

GEOGRAPHY