

Unit 2: Urban Issues and Challenges

RED/AMB
-ER/
GREEN

Challenges in the Human Environment	
Section A: Urban issues and challenges:	
The global pattern of urban change	
Urban trends in different parts of the world including HICs and LICs	
Factors affecting the rate of urbanisation - migration (push-pull theory), natural increase	
The emergence of megacities	
<i>A case study of a major city in an LIC or NEE (Rio de Janeiro) to illustrate:</i>	
• the location and importance of the city, regionally, nationally and internationally	
• causes of growth: natural increase and migration	
• how urban growth has created opportunities:	
• social: access to services - health and education; access to resources - water supply, energy	
• economic: how urban industrial areas can be a stimulus for economic development	
• how urban growth has created challenges:	
• managing urban growth - slums, squatter settlements	
• providing clean water, sanitation systems and energy	
• providing access to services - health and education	
• reducing unemployment and crime	
• managing environmental issues - waste disposal, air and water pollution, traffic congestion	
An example of how urban planning is improving the quality of life for the urban poor	
Overview of the distribution of population and the major cities in the UK	
<i>A case study of a major city in the UK to illustrate:</i>	
• the location and importance of the city in the UK and the wider world	
• impacts of national and international migration on the growth and character of the city	
• how urban change has created opportunities:	
• social and economic: cultural mix, recreation and entertainment, employment, integrated transport systems	
• environmental: urban greening	
• how urban change has created challenges:	
• social and economic: urban deprivation, inequalities in housing, education, health and employment	
• environmental: dereliction, building on brownfield and greenfield sites, waste disposal	
• the impact of urban sprawl on the rural-urban fringe, and the growth of commuter settlements	
Features of sustainable urban living:	
• water and energy conservation	
• waste recycling	
• creating green space	
How urban transport strategies are used to reduce traffic congestion	