

my **revision** notes

WJEC/Eduqas AS/A-level

GEOGRAPHY



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My revision planner



Changing landscapes and changing places

1 Changing landscapes

7 Coastal landscapes

32 Glaciated landscapes

2 Changing places

56 Changing places

REVISED	TESTED	EXAM READY
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Global systems and global governance

3 Global systems

80 Water and carbon cycles

4 Global governance

101 Processes and patterns of global migration

120 Global governance of the Earth's oceans

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Contemporary themes in geography

5 Tectonic hazards

141 Tectonic hazards

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2 Changing places

Changing places

Relationships and connections

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The characteristics of places

Many factors affect the character of a **place**, such as:

- **demographic** — population size and structure
- **socio-economic** — employment and education opportunities, income, health, crime rates
- **cultural** — religion, customs, social behaviour and language
- **physical geography** — relief, features such as rivers, coasts and geology
- **location** — urban or rural, relationships with other settlements
- **built environment** — land use, building type and density
- **political** — role of government and council, for example planning regulations

The character of places can be shaped by the following:

- Flows of people:
 - Migrants moving in to live or work can result in areas of a town being influenced by the culture of the migrant population, such as shops and services catering for their needs. These influences may be at a very local scale.
 - People travelling to another area for work. On a small scale, villages surrounding a large town may become commuter settlements with limited services for the population as they rely on the nearby large settlement.
- Flows of resources:
 - For example, reliance on raw materials from another location.
 - The import of cotton resulted in the growth of the cotton industry in Lancashire, with urban areas characterised by mills. The decline in imported cotton and the decline in the cotton industry has led to changes in the character of the region.
- Flows of money:
 - Foreign direct investment (FDI) from a company based elsewhere can influence the character of a region by creating employment and wealth, such as Nissan's £100 million investment in Sunderland.
 - Ending investment in a place can change a town or region's character, giving an impression of decline, which can discourage future investment. The end of investment by Tata Steel into the Redcar Steelworks on Teesside is an example of the economic character of a town changing quickly.
 - Investment by **MNCs**, especially fast-food chains, has led to a decrease in the uniqueness of some places. Town centres frequently become homogenised as 'clone towns', with over 60% of shops being chain stores. The impact can also be global, with identical styles and products being recognisable in many countries.

Exam tip

You *must* support your studies in this section with examples from contrasting places. You should use your 'home' place, which may be a locality, neighbourhood or small community, as well as other regional or national examples. You could also use examples from field studies.

Connections refer to any types of physical, social or online linkages between places.

Place is a portion of geographic space to which meaning has been given by people, and is best understood as a small settlement or a neighbourhood within a larger city.

An **MNC**, or multinational corporation (sometimes referred to as a multinational company), is a business that has factories and/or offices in more than one country. An MNC often has a centralised head office in its home country from where it coordinates management of its global facilities.

- Flows of ideas:
 - Urban planners and developers change a place, with redevelopments encouraging people to move back into previously run-down and derelict parts of a city, such as many dockland and waterfront areas in UK cities.
 - Ideas coming from universities can lead to area becoming a technology hub, such as Cambridge.

How continuity and change can affect lives

The factors that shape the character of a place can continue to influence it for a long time. For example, West Ham United Football Club was located in Upton Park, east London because it evolved from the Thames Ironworks club at the start of the twentieth century. This gave continuity to the area long after the industries had disappeared. However, the club's recent move to the Olympic Stadium (now called the London Stadium) in Stratford, east London shows that factors can change, as it consequently changed the character of Upton Park, which is being redeveloped for the building of 850 new homes.

Continuation or change in any of the factors could impact on the following aspects of our own or other people's lives:

- employment opportunities
- access to services and open space.
- factors affecting health (e.g. atmospheric pollution)
- social inclusion or isolation
- ability to afford housing

Typical mistake

Do not think of 'place' as meaning an urban area. It could be part of a city or a remote rural location, including wilderness areas.

Revision activity

In what ways has your own life been affected by the factors and flows that connect where you live with other places?

Changing places — meaning and representation

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Perceptions of a place

Different people have varying perceptions of a place based on information from two sources:

- **direct experience** — based on living in a place
- **indirect experience** — based on information seen or read in the media or other sources

How a place is given meaning results from a person's perceptions of, engagement with and attachment to the place. These can be influenced by a range of factors (Table 2.1).

Exam tip

The factors shown in Table 2.1 will influence your perception of a place. Keep an open mind and use any evidence presented before you make a judgement.

Table 2.1 Factors influencing the perception of a place

Factor	Example
Age	An older person's perception may be different from that of a young person — a person's needs change with age, altering perceptions (e.g. suitability based on access to services)
Gender	Males may perceive a place or individual street as more or less friendly/safe than females do
Socio-economic status	A wealthy person may have different perceptions of a 'cheaper' housing area than the residents living there
Socio-cultural positioning	Ethnic origin, race and religion influence how a person perceives the role of a place or its suitability in terms of services and amenities

Residents of a place perceive it differently from visitors, especially somewhere like a tourist resort. Even visitors may have different perceptions of the same place, for example due to the weather at the time of the visit.

A person may have an emotional attachment based on memories and feelings about events connected with the location. These feelings may be positive or negative.

Exam tip

Remember that a local person may have a perception of a place that is based on factors that no longer influence its character. A visitor or newcomer may consider such factors no longer important.

Revision activity

For your home area or a place you know, compile a list showing:

- a) what factors give it a distinct 'character'
- b) varying ways in which it is perceived by different groups of people

Variety of ways in which places are represented

A place can be represented in both **informal** and **formal** ways (Table 2.2), which can influence perception:

- Formal place representations are produced by political, social and cultural agencies (including local government, education institutions, tourist boards and national heritage agencies), along with large businesses.
- Informal place representations are produced by individuals or small groups of people working outside of formal-sector institutions. Informal representations are often creative and do not necessarily try to faithfully reproduce reality.

Table 2.2 Examples of ways a place can be represented

Formal		Informal		
		Factual	Non-factual	Opinion
News media	Census data	Media written by individuals or informal groups	TV dramas	Social media
Photographs	Statistics		Films	TV
Advertising	Geospatial data		Literature	Graffiti
Promotional materials (e.g. by councils/tourist organisations)	Maps			

Place meanings can have an effect on continuity and change for places, and can affect the lives of people

The ways in which different groups perceive and give meaning to a place lead to variations in the demand for changes to a place, which could in turn lead to conflicts. For example, Table 2.3 shows the demands for change that might occur in a rural area such as a national park.

Revision activity

Compile examples showing how places have been informally represented in different ways.

Table 2.3 Variations in place meanings and their impact on continuity and change

Group	Perception of the place	Desire for continuity or change
Local residents	Attractive place to live	Development of infrastructure for modern life, such as high-speed internet Improved public transport Limited new housing development
Young people	A place with limited opportunities	Increased employment opportunities Affordable housing and reduction in second home ownership High-speed internet and good mobile coverage
Farmers	A place of livelihood	Development of modern agricultural practices Maintaining the environment
Visitors	An area of attractive scenery	Preservation of the scenic landscape and villages

Changes in attachment to an area have positive or negative impacts on people. For example, a terrorism incident changes the perception of safety of a place, quickly reducing tourist numbers. This impacts on employment opportunities and the income of residents.

Now test yourself

TESTED

- 1 How do places differ in terms of their social, economic and environmental characteristics?
- 2 What are the factors that can influence a person's perception of a place?

Answers on p. 170

Changes over time in the economic characteristics of places

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Economic change can lead to structural changes in employment

Over time, economies go through changes that affect the **employment structure**. The modified Clark-Fisher model identifies three stages (Figure 2.1).

Employment structure

refers to how the workforce is divided between the four main employment sectors: primary — the collection of natural resources; secondary — manufacturing; tertiary — services; and quaternary — research and development activities.

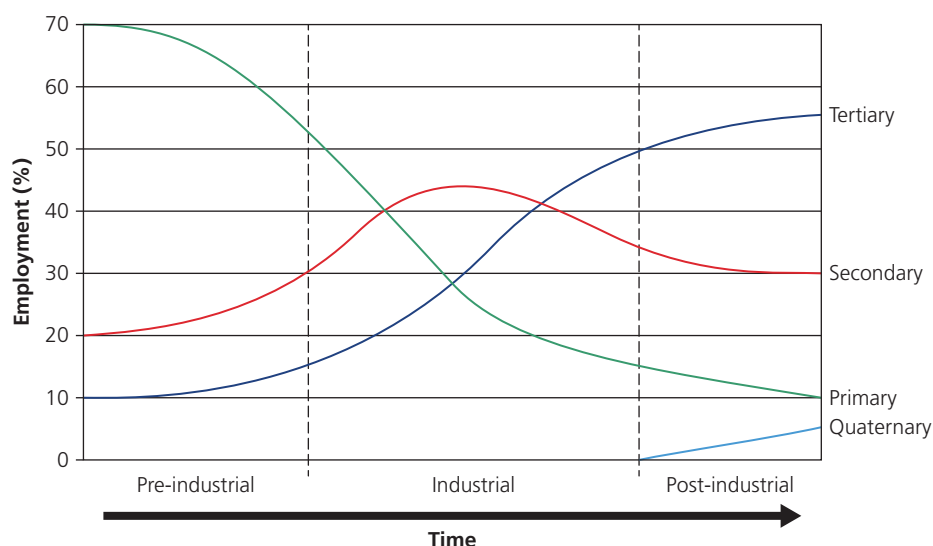


Figure 2.1 The modified Clark-Fisher model

Table 2.4 The characteristics of changing economic stages

Economic stage	Description
Pre-industrial	Primitive economies with the primary sector dominating, for example LICs such as Mali
Industrial	Growth in secondary and decline in primary activities; some increase in tertiary activities, for example emerging economies such as China
Post-industrial	Primary activities remain low and secondary activities decline, while tertiary activities dominate; there is a growth in quaternary activities, for example HICs such as the UK

The World Bank defines **LICs** and **HICs** as follows:

- LIC (low-income country) — GNI per capita below \$1,005
- HIC (high-income country) — GNI per capita over \$12,235

The term **emerging economy** has been used by geographers and economists to refer to middle-income countries.

Globalisation is the way in which economies and societies have become integrated by a global network of trade, communication and immigration.

- Such economic developments change the employment opportunities in the different economic sectors, which increases the need for retraining.
- The impact of **globalisation** may alter the sequence or speed of development.
- The tourism industry may result in missing out a large industrial stage.

Typical mistake

Do not assume that all countries follow the Clark-Fisher model of development. Remember also that within one country different regions could have very different employment structures.

Forces and factors influencing economic restructuring

A place is influenced by factors that result in changes to the employment structure:

- **Changes in technology** — machinery reducing the need for farm labourers; robots reducing the need for skilled secondary workers.
- **Depletion of resources** — natural resources are depleted, resulting in a decline in the extractive industry.
- **Changing lifestyles and tastes** — a decline in demand for products such as coal, and a reluctance to work in old, heavy industries.