

AS/A-LEVEL
STUDENT GUIDE

WJEC/Eduqas

Geography

Changing places

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Getting the most from this book

Exam tips

Advice on key points in the text to help you learn and recall content, avoid pitfalls, and polish your exam technique in order to boost your grade.

Knowledge check

Rapid-fire questions throughout the Content Guidance section to check your understanding.

Knowledge check answers

- 1 Turn to the back of the book for the Knowledge check answers.

Summaries

- Each core topic is rounded off by a bullet-list summary for quick-check reference of what you need to know.

Exam-style questions

Commentary on the questions

Tips on what you need to do to gain full marks.

Sample student answers

Practise the questions, then look at the student answers that follow.

Questions & Answers

1 Use Figure 1 to describe the pattern of fastest-growing UK city centre populations. [3 marks]

The command word 'describe' is targeting A03, so you have to interpret and analyse the information shown in Figure 1. You must provide factual detail about the characteristics of the data that have been given and identify the distinctive features.

Student A

Out of the 10 cities, nine have had an increase greater than 100%, with Liverpool being the greatest. There is a concentration in regions of northern England, especially the Northwest and Yorkshire and Humber, with five of the 10 fastest-growing city centre populations. Most are found in old industrial cities where regeneration has occurred. Areas at the edge of the UK such as Northern Ireland, the Southwest and Wales have none of the fastest-growing city centres. Although London has a large city centre, it is not in the top ten.

3/5 marks awarded This answer describes the main patterns concerning the location of the fastest-growing city centres and, to some extent, the rate of growth. There is some use of knowledge when referring to regeneration and the size of London, which is not required in the answer because this information cannot be identified in the data that have been given. Credit is given for identifying areas without the fastest-growing city centres, but it would be better to name them or to use a term such as 'peripheral areas' rather than 'edge of the UK'.

2 Justify a suitable alternative method of presenting the data shown in Figure 1. [3 marks]

The command word 'justify' requires you to explain why your choice of data presentation is a suitable method. It is testing A02 because you are having to apply your knowledge of presentation methods to this subject matter. It is necessary to clearly outline the method you suggest as well as justifying its use. A quick simple sketch of your chosen method could be used for clarification. However, remember that the marks are for justification of its use and not the plotting of data.

Student A

A method that could be used is to plot the fastest-growing city centres on a map of the UK. The size of the circle for each city could be drawn to represent the size of the population growth and a scale added to the map. An advantage of this method is that it is very easy to see where in the UK the fastest-growing city centre populations are located.

2/5 marks awarded While this answer suggests a method that is suitable and offers limited justification, it is rather simplified. It would be improved by referring to the method as 'located proportional circles' and noting how spatial patterns can be more easily identified if they are located on a map. Areas with no cities in the top 10 can also be easily identified. While highlighting the ease of seeing the location of the cities, the answer fails to mention how the one diagram would have the advantage of being easy to understand, allowing comparisons between cities and regions.

3 Suggest one reason to explain why there are variations in the rate of growth of the city centre populations. [2 marks]

In this question you have to apply your knowledge and give a plausible reason to explain the trends shown by the graph (A02). There are a number of plausible explanations for the variation in growth rates. The question clearly states that one reason should be given, so there is no credit for multiple reasons. There are 2 marks for this question, so the answer requires a little elaboration. However, the command word 'suggest' shows that it does not require a lengthy explanation.

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Commentary on sample student answers

Read the comments showing how many marks each answer would be awarded in the exam and exactly where marks are gained or lost.

About this book

This Guide has been designed to help you succeed in the Eduqas A-level and WJEC AS and A-level Geography **Changing places** topics. The guide has two sections.

The **Content Guidance** summarises the key information that you need to know to be able to answer the examination questions with accuracy and depth. In particular, the meanings of key terms are made clear. You will also benefit by testing your knowledge with knowledge check questions, and noting the exam tips, which provide further help in determining how to learn key aspects of the course.

The **Questions & Answers** section includes sample questions similar in style to those you might expect in the exam. There are sample student responses to these questions as well as detailed commentary giving further guidance in relation to what exam markers are looking for in order to award top marks. The best way to use this book is to read through the relevant topic area first before practising the questions. Only refer to the answers and comments after you have attempted the questions.

The topics covered in this guide make up:

- **Section B of Eduqas A-level Geography Component 1**
- **Section A of WJEC AS Geography Unit 2**

The formats of the different examination papers are summarised in the table below.

Specification and paper	Total time for Changing places	Total marks for Changing places	Structured questions	Extended response/essay
Eduqas A-level Component 1, Section B	50 min in a paper lasting 1 h 45 min	41/82	Two compulsory, structured, data-response questions marked out of 13	One compulsory question marked out of 15
WJEC AS Unit 2, Section A	45 min in a paper lasting 1 h 30 min	32/64	Two compulsory structured, data-response questions marked out of 16	None

Content Guidance

■ Changing places: relationships and connections

The characteristics of places

On your journey to college or school, what types of urban or rural area do you pass through? One student may depart on a bus from a small development of 1980s houses, a small community, which the local residents' committee call a **village**, despite it being in an **exurb** of 17,000 people swallowed up by suburbia. Her journey takes her through an area of semi-detached homes built between 1920 and 1939, the residents of which voted solidly Conservative in the 2019 general election, and past a retail park. The bus enters a declining traditional **suburban** high street with small retailers, estate agents, charity shops, betting shops and a bingo hall in the former cinema. This 'high street' locality also houses some local government offices. Her route continues past 'motor row' — car sales showrooms on former military land, some of which is the location for new high-tech industries. Next, through nineteenth-century terraced housing, with its corner shops, pubs turned into supermarket chain stores and a cinema converted into a mosque. Some of her friends from the South Asian communities board the bus. They are worried as some people in this **neighbourhood** voted for the UK Independence Party (UKIP).

The bus takes the inner ring around the city centre, with its landscape of car parks surrounding the pedestrianised shopping area where some shops and a department store have closed. She finally reaches her school, on the fringe of the old medieval town centre, abandoned as the central area over 100 years ago. This is the desirable part of the city (**neighbourhood**) to live in (**identity**) and it is close to the local university.

What characterises the places she identified? She identifies architecture (**landmarks**), the areas' cultural, social and demographic mix, and their economic profile. She is also recalling her own mental map based on the **pathway** that her journey takes. She has identified **edges** between **areas** where there is a defined change, such as around the city centre. She notes that places are dynamic because they adapt and change over time.

The characteristics of a place can therefore be influenced by many factors:

- Demographic — the size and structure of the population.
- Socioeconomic — this includes the incomes, types of employment and education opportunities. It also includes the health of the population and crime rates in the area.
- Cultural — the religions, customs, languages and social behaviour that can make a place distinct.

- Built environment — the land use, including the level of urbanisation, building types and density.
- Physical geography — the relief and physical features, such as rivers and coasts, which can add to a place's character.

People use different terms for the places we live in. Some of these key definitions are as follows:

- **Built-up area:** defined by the 2011 census as areas of built-up land that are joined together, and where the gaps between the developed areas are less than 200 m. For example, Cardiff's built-up area includes Penarth, Pontypridd and Caerphilly.
- **City:** a large settlement depending primarily on service and knowledge industries, together with manufacturing. It is an aggregation of places. In 2015 UK cities made up 9% of the land area of the UK and yet housed 54% of the population. 59% of jobs and 72% of the highly skilled workers live in them. 78% of new migrants live in cities. Officially, cities in the UK have been granted city status by royal charter. There are currently 69, of which 51 are in England and six in Wales. Some still cling to the idea that a city has to have a cathedral. However, these are historical definitions rather than definitions based on current functions, and hardly apply to many other countries.
- **City region:** an area served by and functionally bound to a city, and normally including journeys to work and to places of study.
- **Community:** a set of interacting but diverse groups of people found in a particular locality. It may be tied together by common heritage, but many communities can be very diverse.
- **Conurbation:** an urban area that has fused together over time, such as Greater Manchester or the Ruhr region of Germany. It may grow from one centre (e.g. London) or from several (e.g. the West Midlands).
- **Dispersed city:** a US term used to define a city that has sprawled over a wide area, such as the spread of the San Francisco urban area around San Francisco Bay and up to 60 miles beyond into California.
- **Dormitory village and commuter village:** used to describe a settlement in which the population is socially urban and works in nearby urban areas. Estate agents frequently misappropriate the term to describe new developments and boost the attractiveness of neighbourhoods within cities.
- **Exurbia:** those areas beyond the urban area that house people who live in mainly rural surroundings but work in urban areas.
- **Global hub:** a large city that is at the heart of the global economic and financial system, for example London, Tokyo, Shanghai, New York.
- **Hamlet:** a small cluster of dwellings/farms that lacks services.
- **Isolated dwelling:** a single rural dwelling (or pair of dwellings), often in a sparsely populated area.
- **Locality:** descriptive term for where people live out their daily working and domestic lives. It can vary in size — geographers use the term loosely for anything from small scale to a large urban area.
- **Megacity:** a city with a very large population, for example Shanghai, Tokyo, Mexico City.
- **Megalopolis:** a growing together of large urban and suburban areas, for example Boswash, the area between Boston and Washington DC, USA.

Exam tip

It is essential that you support your studies with examples from contrasting places. Make copious use of your 'home' place, which may be a locality, neighbourhood or small community, as well as the region in which it is located. Remember that you can use examples from field studies.

Exam tip

You need to know and use the various place/settlement terms and definitions that are used by geographers.

- **Metropolitan area:** a term frequently used instead of conurbation.
- **Minor built-up rural area:** a rural area with a main settlement of under 10,000 people.
- **Neighbourhood:** a distinct and recognisable residential area that may be the location of home and its immediate environment. It can be someone else's home base and area. It is an area of similar housing, persons and lifestyles. The term was used most obviously in the planning of new towns in the 1960s, having originated in the Garden City movement.
- **Primary urban area (PUA):** a built-up area of a city that invariably extends beyond its administrative area. The term is used in publications of www.centreforcities.org.
- **Rural settlement:** a village, hamlet and/or isolated farms in the countryside formerly associated with primary employment. Most of the population of rural settlements do not work in the countryside. Rural UK is psychologically urban because the hamlets and villages contain people who may have retired from city jobs, or who work in nearby urban areas. Peter Hall stated in 2014 that there are few truly rural settlements within 150 miles of London.
- **Rural–urban fringe:** a dated term that refers to the immediate surroundings of an urban area, which contain elements of an urban area, such as golf courses alongside open countryside.
- **Suburb:** an area of mainly residential units that has been developed around the core of a town or city. It has increasingly included other uses, such as industry, retailing, offices, recreational buildings and public open spaces.
- **Town:** a small urban area with a range of services that may include some independent retailers, schools (sometimes secondary), post offices, banks and estate agents.
- **Village:** a small rural settlement with some functions, for example a post office, shops, public houses and a church. Population sizes vary (200–7,000 in the UK, but far larger in Italy, for example).
- **World city:** a broader term than global hub that refers to a city that is prominent in the operation of the world economy, for example Hong Kong, Singapore, Frankfurt, Paris.

All of these terms are not entirely discrete because communities and localities are embedded in the suburbs of cities or in villages. They nest within larger places and give those places a **meaning** because of the combination of localities or communities.

What makes a place distinct?

Arundel in West Sussex is a small former market town or large village. In 1960 the population was around 2,600. Living in the Arundel of 1960 was different (yet also similar in many ways) from living in the Arundel of 2019 (**time**). The shops catered for local people and were locally owned. Greengrocers, butchers, bakers, a dairy, 'ladies and gents outfitters', two banks, a jewellers, a cinema and some small factories catered for the needs of the population. The Arundel Castle Estate, its farms and horse racing stables, provided employment for many, although some did commute by bus and train to London and nearby towns. There were many public houses and a former coaching inn. A council estate had just been completed on the fringe of the town (**identity**). The population had declined in the previous decade and 21% of the inhabitants were retired.

Arundel (population 3,295 in 2017) now functions as a tourist centre within the South Downs National Park. A more commercialised castle, a cathedral, jailhouse, museums and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust nature reserve are among its attractions. Its **identity** and **representation** changed through modernisation. The centre has many antique shops and small galleries, an antique bookshop and specialist food shops, together with a range of bars, the same coaching inn, and restaurants and cafés catering for all tastes, especially those of visitors.

However, its two banks have closed. The **threshold** population required to sustain their services has grown to the point that local retailing and banking are no longer viable. A farmers' market has returned to the town, which is a Fair Trade town. Much of the population now commutes to work in larger towns by car, and some by rail to London. The retired population of the town had increased to 31% by 2017. The Office for National Statistics classifies Arundel as a 'coastal and countryside senior community' because its demography resembles nearby coastal places, such as Littlehampton and Bognor Regis, and countryside places such as Petworth and Midhurst. Although it has changed as the economy has altered to a service economy due to the growth of tourism, the identity of the main street and most of the streets in the old town has not changed. However, while the buildings are identical, their functions have changed. Therefore, the differences in 2019 are not architectural but social and economic. Nevertheless, the architecture enables the town to continue to function as a tourist centre — it is **resilient**.

Clovelly in Cornwall has changed its economic base, and yet its visual image remains the same. Once primarily a small mackerel fishing harbour at the mouth of a steep valley, with houses clinging to the valley sides and cliff edge, the village has become a tourist hot spot that is still **represented** by the village's personality as a harbour. Mackerel fishing, once strictly controlled by EU fishing policy, has declined to just one boat, but tourism has boomed. External forces have changed Clovelly's economic base, but the image of the place remains **resilient**.

Continuity and change in contrasting places

The Lake District

Place can be a larger area that can be seen in different ways by different people.

The characteristics of a place can be shaped by many factors that may change over time. Despite the relief of the land and wet climate creating difficulties for agriculture, there has been a tradition of farming in the Lake District for thousands of years. Generations of the same family have farmed areas for hundreds of years. In 1851 around 40% of the population worked in agriculture.

However, in early Victorian times the Lake District was already becoming a popular tourist destination, helped by the writing of artist and social revolutionary John Ruskin, who described the area as 'The loveliest rock scenery, chased with silver waterfall, that I have ever set foot or heart upon.' William Wordsworth's *Guide to the Lakes*, first published in 1810, also encouraged visitors to the area, with still more after the arrival of the railways. It was during the nineteenth century that the Lake District economy shifted from being dependent on agriculture to being more centred on tourism. In 2017, 19.17 million people visited the Lake District, spending £1.4 billion and helping to create 18,500 jobs. Today, of the 41,000 living in the park, 2,500 work in agriculture and 15,000 in tourism.

Exam tip

Make sure that you can categorise your home place and are able to identify the different factors that give your home area a distinct character.

Exam tip

Remember that 'place' does not only refer to an urban area. It could refer to remote rural areas such as parts of the Lake District.

The population continues to change. The 64+ age group is increasing, especially among the more affluent looking for a quality of life. Lifestyle, education, employment and housing opportunities have all resulted in a decline in the 16–30 age group. By 2029 over 50% of the population will be over 50. Around 15% of all dwellings are now holiday or second homes.

In July 2017, the Lake District became a World Heritage Site. The nomination document noted that ‘The harmonious beauty of the Lake District is rooted in the interaction between an agropastoral land use system and the spectacular natural landscape of mountains, valleys and lakes’. However, the writer George Monbiot writing in the *Guardian* at the time felt the designation turned the Lake District into a ‘Beatrix Potter-themed sheep museum’, with ‘...entire high fells reduced by sheep to a treeless waste of cropped turf, whose monotony is relieved only by erosion gullies, exposed soil and bare rock’.

Foster City, California

A **contrasting place** to the Lake District and probably your home location is Foster City, California (Figure 1). Foster City is an affluent, planned settlement of 34,412 people (2019) built on reclaimed marshland on the western shore of San Francisco Bay. Jack Foster bought Brewer Island and the surrounding wetlands in 1958, drained it and raised its level by dredging 10.7 m³ of sands and muds from the Bay.



Figure 1 Foster City, California

Knowledge check 1

What are the socioeconomic and demographic factors that have resulted in changes in the characteristics of the Lake District?

Exam tip

You need to have knowledge of at least one contrasting place. You could contrast the example above with your home place.

Today the place is distinct because it is an urban area defined and given identity by the Bay and Belmont Slough, a tidal watercourse. The city covers 50 km² but almost 40 km² of the area comprises seawater lagoons and the Slough, created when the city was first developed. The local people navigate these with small (electric, sail or human-powered) vessels.

The 'city' is primarily a medium-to-high-earner residential community (Figure 1) although, with the passage of time, the proportion of the retired population is growing. There is no city centre in a European sense — it only houses the city administration and regional offices for Visa and IBM. There are several small retail areas, but the main shopping is in malls either at the edge of, or beyond, the city limits. Employment is often elsewhere, leading to a daily outflow of commuters to Silicon Valley headquarters (page 52). Quaternary work and the knowledge economy dominate, as firms move into the area and cluster near the main road access routes from the dispersed Bay City. By 2017, 16,000 people worked here, many commuting in from cities in the Bay area. Almost 26% of the population work in professional, scientific and technical services, compared with an average of 6.7% for the USA.

The population composition enhances the uniqueness (**identity**) of Foster City. In 2017, 48% were of Asian origin, the majority of whom were born in China (including Hong Kong), India, Japan and Taiwan (**interdependence**). They have the highest average earnings. The white US and European population is 41% of the total (20% were born outside of the USA and only 38% born in California). A further 6.5% are Hispanic, a far lower proportion than in the rest of California. The African-American population is 2.1% of the total; on average, they are the lowest earners. Foster City is a city of immigrants with a multicultural identity. The cost of living here is 2.5 times that of the US average. The average household income is US\$130,000 — over double the US average. House prices average US\$1.6m, which is three times the average for California.

The role of iconic objects

The identity of a place can sometimes be defined by an **object**, such as an iconic building or a work of art. The 'Google bicycle' refers to a fleet of over 1,000 bicycles produced in the colours of Google's logo which are used by 13,000 employees at the Mountain View California HQ to cycle between its buildings. The buildings' functions are not posted outside and therefore the parked bicycles (**representation**) give a spatial extent to the 'Google campus'. A Google journey-to-work region can also be defined by the extent of the routes used by the frequent free Google buses, which bring employees to the site.

Factors that shape the changing identity and characteristics of places

Table 1 lists the factors that affect the changing identity of places ranging from villages and neighbourhoods to regions. These factors may be changes in the flows and connections between people, resources, money and ideas.

Knowledge check 2

Suggest examples of places in the UK that are frequently identified or associated with an iconic object or building.

Table 1 Factors that affect the changing identity of places

Factors	Village	Neighbourhood	Suburbs	City centre	Region
Cultural	New economy	Community-based	Segregation	Leisure quarter	—
Economic	Decline of primary economy and rise of service employment	Adaptation to new or existing demographic	Industrial estates/ office parks	Tertiary and quaternary growth; R&D	Deindustrialisation; global changes, e.g. the web, multinational companies
Investment	Global investors; new rural economy	Renovation	Renovation	New leisure services and retail decline	Inward investment/ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), infrastructure investment
Resources	New land uses	Community-based; specialist retail	—	Knowledge industries; universities	Accessibility nationally and internationally
Demographic	Ageing population	Homogeneity	Ageing, diverse communities	Reurbanisation, gentrification	Unemployment, deprivation
Migration	Young leave and mature move in	Nest builders	Life cycle moves; social segregation	Student flats	In- and out-migration
Planning	Expanded settlement; counterurbanisation	Garden City; neighbourhood units	Green belts	Redevelopment	Development grants
Political	NIMBYism	Neighbourhood Watch	—	Rebranding/ boosterism	Government Regional Policies
Global forces	Global agricultural production	Satellite television	Retail/fast food, e.g. ASDA and McDonald's	Global banks, financial companies, leisure chains; private involvement	FDI

Many multinational corporations (MNCs) are involved in a wide variety of activities and retailing in cities. This investment can lead to a decrease in the uniqueness of some town centres as they become 'clone towns', where over 60% of the shops are recognisable chain stores. This impact can even be global, with identical chain stores, fast-food restaurants and products being recognisable in many countries (Table 2).

Knowledge check 3

How does Table 2 show that the interdependence of towns is influencing their character?

Table 2 MNC ownership of some well-known shops

Name	Type of activity	No. of outlets in UK	No. of outlets worldwide	No. of countries where it operates	Where owned
McDonald's	Fast food	1,249	37,855	120	Oak Brook, Illinois, USA
KFC	Fast food	842	23,000	119	Louisville, Kentucky, USA
Domino's Pizza	Fast food	1,100	16,000	85	Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
Pizza Express	Restaurant	490	640	13	Hony Capital, Hong Kong, China
Starbucks	Coffee shop	335	29,324	76	Seattle, USA
Costa Coffee	Coffee shop	2,389	3,755	31	Dunstable, UK (Part of Coca-Cola Company)
Aldi	Discount supermarket	775	11,234	20	Essen, Germany
Lidl	Discount supermarket	710	10,500	30	Neckarsulm, Germany
Arcadia Group	Clothing (Topshop, Topman, Burton, Dorothy Perkins, Evans, Miss Selfridge, Wallis, Outfit)	2,500	3,760	37	London, UK
Waterstones	Bookshop	275	283	4	Elliott Management, New York, USA

How does continuity and change affect lives?

Continuity or change in any of the factors that shape the characteristic of a place can impact on the lives of the people who live there. Bermondsey, south of the River Thames and situated between London Bridge and Tower Bridge, has experienced many changes that affect lives. The poor inhabited the area even in Shakespeare's time, when the area straddled the road south from the only Thames crossing. It had markets, e.g. Borough Market, wharves along the Thames, which were London's sole docks, and 'noxious industries', as well as tanning, taverns, brothels, coaching inns and slums, which inspired Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*.

By the nineteenth century rail routes crossed the area (which, in the twentieth century, now enclose areas of municipal housing that replaced some of the slums). Industry grew, including a gas works, printing and food processing of goods imported through the port.

In the Second World War, much of the area was destroyed during the Blitz. These areas then became a focus for council housing as a result of comprehensive renewal (**causality**). The docks grew derelict because of new shipping technologies further downstream.

In the 1980s, the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) began to redevelop the area. Commercial developments were housed in converted buildings and private investment attracted a middle-class population into converted warehouses. On the western fringes, the Globe Theatre (1996) and Tate Modern (2000) became part of the South Bank cultural complex. Jobs in the traditional industries declined, replaced by public services and creative industries. By 2011, the population was more cosmopolitan and socially polarised in one of the most deprived areas of the capital (**adaptation** and **time**).

Today, the population is younger and there are many more residents with higher education qualifications than the national average. In 2018, Bermondsey was voted the best place to live in London by the *Sunday Times*.

Serena, an unemployed mother living on a Bermondsey council estate (**community**), states: 'Everybody on the estate knows everybody else. The estate is hospitable because it is small (**attachment**). Other estates don't have community because they are tall blocks. People tend not to give up their flats on this estate.'

In contrast, Henrietta, a management software consultant, lives in a warehouse conversion at Butler's Wharf: 'I love it here — going for a coffee, to the bakery and a drink at All Bar One, and to the good restaurants (**identity**). The flats are really expensive, but you would not talk to the people in the lift.'

These two experiences illustrate how change in the area has affected people's lives in different ways.¹

Events and decisions at a global level can affect people at a local level

In the past, decisions made at a national scale affected people, whereas today, global-level decisions affect local people. Worldwide **interdependence** occurs due to the nature of the modern global economy, trade patterns and communications.

¹The quotes are adapted from Hall, P. (2007) *London Voices, London Lives*, The Policy Press. The text contains many interviews about changing places across London.

In 2015, Volkswagen (VW) was found to have breached regulations concerning emissions from cars. This resulted in fewer people purchasing VW vehicles. The main VW car plant in Wolfsburg, Germany employs 70,000 workers, all of whom received a profit bonus of €5,900 (£4,900) in 2014. The bonus did not occur in 2015 because the firm was forced to cover the costs of selling fewer cars. In 2016 the company restructured and cut the number of employees, many at its Wolfsburg factory. Business in the city that depended on VW employees' spending also had to readjust; for example, osteopaths and chiropractors forecast a 25% drop in patient numbers and income. Redundancy hit shops, supply firms and other services. Workers took fewer holidays, which had an impact on the local tourism economy. The communities in and around Wolfsburg were also affected.

Global technological changes have allowed people to change the way they shop, which has had consequences for people at the local level. Each year, the John Lewis Partnership pays its staff a bonus. In 2019 the bonus was the lowest since 1953 as a result of the company's profits falling by 23% in 2019, much of it due to changing shopping habits. The 2020 coronavirus pandemic has changed many kinds of behaviour in places, which might continue in the future.

Summary

- Place is a part of everyone's life. We all give different places different meanings.
- A place's identity will be seen differently by different groups of people, and by those who seek to manage and represent the place on our behalf.
- People become attached to places at a variety of scales.
- Places adapt and change over time, and contain elements whose identities have been modified by new social and economic events.
- Places are interdependent — increasingly as a consequence of globalisation.
- Always be able to use your home places to illustrate points.

Changing places: meaning and representation

How are places given meaning and represented by people?

People view places differently as a consequence of their differing identities, perspectives and experiences. These include age, economic status, ethnicity, gender, ideology, language, politics, race, religion and social class.

- Jerusalem has a different meaning and significance according to whether you are a Jewish, Muslim or Christian person. It is a divided city, whose divisions reflect the engagement of the Palestinian and Jewish populations with the city over time (**difference**).
- In Gateshead, teenagers expressed a fear of certain areas in the town, with women (**gender**) being more fearful, despite evidence that they were less victimised than men. Visitors to a place perceive it differently from residents (**economic status**, **social class** and **language**).

Exam tip

Remember that a resident may have a perception of a place based on obsolete factors that no longer influence its character. A newcomer to the area may consider such factors unimportant and thus have a very different perception.

Questions & Answers

About this section

The questions below are typical of the style and structure that you can expect to see in the exam papers. Each question is followed by comments that give some guidance about question interpretation. Student responses are then provided with further examiner comments indicating the strengths and weaknesses of the answer and the number of marks that would be awarded.

When examiners mark your work, they use a grid that gives the maximum available mark for each assessment objective (AO). The mark scheme will have an indication of what should be included in the answer as well as marking guidance for the criteria required to reach the different mark bands.

You should make use of examples where appropriate and reference data to support your answers. You can include sketch maps and diagrams, where relevant. For AS exams the answers are written in the examination booklet with the number of lines indicating the level of detail required. When writing in an answer booklet it is important to number your answers in the same way as the examination paper. If you use an extension page you must make a note, such as 'continued on page...', at the end of the previous page. Remember to number the question on the extension page.

The formats of the different examination papers for this theme are given in the table on page 5.

Question 1 (WJEC AS format)

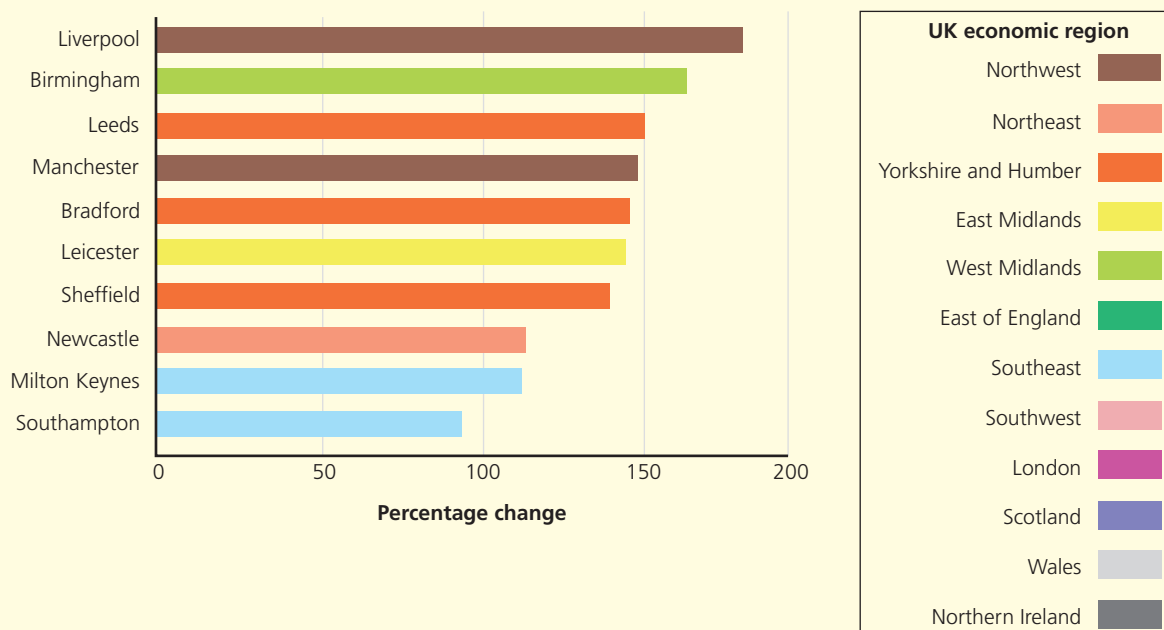


Figure 1 Fastest-growing UK city centre populations 2002–2015

- (a) i Use Figure 1 to describe the pattern of fastest-growing UK city centre populations.

[3 marks]

The command word 'describe' is targeting A03, so you have to interpret and analyse the information shown in Figure 1. You must provide factual detail about the characteristics of the data that have been given and identify the distinctive features. All 3 marks will be awarded for your A03 — your use of skills to interpret and analyse the data.

Student A

Out of the 10 cities, nine have had an increase greater than 100%, with Liverpool being the greatest. There is a concentration in regions of northern England, especially the Northwest and Yorkshire and Humber, with five of the 10 fastest-growing city centre populations. Most are found in old industrial cities where regeneration has occurred. Areas at the edge of the UK such as Northern Ireland, the Southwest and Wales have none of the fastest-growing city centres. Although London has a large city centre, it is not in the top ten.

3/3 marks awarded This answer describes the main patterns concerning the location of the fastest-growing city centres and, to some extent, the rate of growth. There is some use of knowledge when referring to regeneration and the size of London, which is not required in the answer because this information cannot be identified in the data that have been given. Credit is given for identifying areas without the fastest-growing city centres, but it would be better to name them or to use a term such as 'peripheral areas' rather than 'edge of the UK'. 3/3 marks for A03 have been gained.

- ii Justify a suitable alternative method of presenting the data shown in Figure 1.

[3 marks]

The command word 'justify' requires you to explain why your choice of data presentation is a suitable method. It is testing A02 because you are having to apply your knowledge of presentation methods to this subject matter. It is necessary to clearly outline the method you suggest as well as justifying its use. A quick simple sketch of your chosen method could be used for clarification. However, remember that the marks are for justification of its use and not the plotting of data. All 3 marks will be awarded for A02 as you are applying your knowledge and understanding of data presentation methods.

Student A

A method that could be used is to plot the fastest-growing city centres on a map of the UK. The size of the circle for each city could be drawn to represent the size of the population growth and a scale added to the map. An advantage of this method is that it is very easy to see where in the UK the fastest-growing city centre populations are located.

2/3 marks awarded While this answer suggests a method that is suitable and offers limited justification, it is rather simplified, so only 2/3 marks for A02 can be awarded. It would be improved by referring to the method as 'located proportional circles' and noting how spatial patterns can be more easily identified if they are located on a map. Areas with no cities in the top 10 can also be easily identified. While highlighting the ease of seeing the location of the cities, the answer fails to mention how the one diagram would have the advantage of being easy to understand, allowing comparisons between cities and regions.

- (b) Suggest **one** reason to explain why there are variations in the rate of growth of the city centre populations.

[2 marks]

In this question the 2 marks will be awarded for your ability to apply your knowledge and give a plausible reason to explain the trends shown by the graph (A02). There are a number of possible explanations for the variation in growth rates. The question clearly states that *one* reason should be given, so there is no credit for multiple reasons. There are 2 marks for this question, so the answer requires a little elaboration. However, the command word 'suggest' shows that it does not require a lengthy explanation.

Student A

Many of the cities shown in Figure 1 have central areas that have declined, such as the old traditional industries or areas of docks and warehousing. These have been redeveloped to provide new homes, apartments and jobs, which attract large numbers of young professionals who want to live near the city centre. Cities with no redevelopment may still be in decline, attracting fewer people to live there, or encouraging people to move elsewhere, and so have a slower rate of growth.

2/2 marks awarded This is a concise answer, which suggests and elaborates on one reason only, so gaining the maximum mark of 2/2 for A02.

- (c) Examine the role of the reimagining and regeneration of urban places in creating conflicting perceptions.

[8 marks]

This question requires you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of some of the issues that may arise (A01). The command word 'examine' shows that you should consider the interrelationships involved with the issue (A02). Answers should be supported with the use of relevant and up-to-date examples. Where applicable, a learner's 'own place' or examples from fieldwork could be used. Marks are not split evenly between the AOs. 5 marks will be awarded for the demonstration of knowledge and understanding (A01), and 3 marks for how you apply this knowledge to the question (A02).

Student A

When an urban area undergoes reimagining or regeneration this can result in positive or negative perceptions among different parts of the population depending on the impact it has on them. Regeneration can result in run-down areas being improved, with old buildings being demolished or converted into housing. This can improve the appearance of the area and the environment, which may produce a positive perception among locals and visitors. This has happened around the canal basin in central Birmingham.

Reimagined areas can attract modern hi-tech industries, such as in Shoreditch in East London, which in turn attracts young, high-earners to the area. This can lead to a positive perception as an area of growth and a good place to live, which may lead to further regeneration.

The way an area is reimagined or regenerated may attract visitors and tourists. This has happened in Liverpool with the regeneration of the docks area by the River Mersey. The people using the area have a positive perception and perceive it as an attractive place for leisure activities.

However, changes can also result in increasing negative perceptions. People who lived in the area before the regeneration may feel excluded from the jobs and new services that have been created and so do not like the changes. If an area becomes popular with young professionals or tourists this can result in increased house prices and overheating, such as in parts of London. This can create negative perceptions among those who cannot afford to live there. Increasing popularity may also result in a negative perception due to overcrowding and congestion affecting the quality of life.

5/8 marks awarded This answer is a competent attempt to examine the issue of changing perceptions. It highlights how perceptions can be both positive and negative and to some extent relates this to the impact the regeneration can have on different groups of individuals, although it lacks a great deal of detail. This gains 2 of the 3 marks available for A02. While examining what influences perception it would benefit from more factual detail from case studies, which would help it reach the top band of the mark scheme where knowledge of well-developed examples is required. Where examples are used, they are lacking in detail, which impacts on the A01 mark. 3 of the 5 marks available for A01 are awarded.