Urban Issues & Challenges 1: LICs

Question 1 (updated August 2020)

Urbanisation

Urbanisation is the growth of the proportion of a country’s population living in urban areas.

Trends in Urbanisation

- HICs urbanisation has already occurred eg 80+% of UK population live in urban areas. Began in the UK & in many HICs from 1750.
- LICs: It started 200 years later in the 1950s & has grown quicker to much higher numbers, eg most mega cities are now in LICs.

Causes of urbanisation:

UK (& many HICs): from 1750 due to rural to urban migration caused by the industrial revolution creating jobs in factories in towns & cities & the agricultural revolution where new technologies & machinery reduced the number of people needed on farms.

LICs due to:

- Rural to urban migration caused by push & pull factors
  - Push factors: shortage of services eg education, health care & access to water. Food shortages & jobs in rural areas
  - Pull factors: perception of a better standard of living in cities, more jobs, better paid jobs in urban areas
  - Natural Increase: young people tend to move to cities and are the age group who have babies. This increases the population in cities. Better health care in the cities means people live longer there, also increasing the proportion of people.

Impact of rapid urbanisation in LICs

Squatter settlements

What: illegal settlements where people have built homes on land that they do not own:

Where: in most cities in LICs. They grow up in all areas of the cities where ever there is available land. Often because the land is hazardous & not suitable for other uses eg on steep slopes liable to landslide or low & flat at risk of flooding. Some are near factories where there is work.

Example: Rochina is the largest favela with a population of 75,000 in 2010 but now likely to be 3x higher, built on a steep hillside overlooking the wealthy areas of Copacabana.

Conditions in squatter settlements

High unemployment, poor pay, high crime, high infant mortality, build up of waste, no running water, no electricity, no sewage connection, water needs to be collected, houses poorly constructed, disease spreads quickly.

Key Words

Urban: towns & cities
Rural: countryside
Urbanisation—growth in the proportion of people living in urban areas
Rural-urban migration—movement of people from the countryside to cities
Industrial revolution—sudden growth of secondary industry in the UK
Mega cities: towns with populations over 10 million
Deindustrialisation—decline/closure of majority of UK’s secondary industry
Squatter settlements: where people have set up homes illegally on land they do not own
Natural increase: difference between birth & death rate & effects population growth
Brownfield site: land that has already been developed
Greenfield site: land that has never been developed
Urban Sprawl: growth of cities outwards into surrounding areas
Population density: number of people per km

Distribution of the largest cities in the world

The largest cities in the world were once in HICs in Europe & North America. Today the largest & fastest growing cities are in LICs especially South East Asia. They are growing much bigger than cities grew in HICs.
City in an LIC—Rio de Janeiro.

Where: On Guanabara Bay on the Atlantic coast of Brazil, South America

Importance: 2nd largest industrial centre in Brazil; major port exporting coffee, sugar & iron ore; main financial services; manufacturing industries—chemicals & pharmaceuticals, clothing & furniture; tourism: attracts the most tourists in the southern hemisphere due to stunning natural beauty eg Copacabana beach & as well as Christ the Redeemer & Rio Carnival

Changes: Rio has grown rapidly in the last 50 years as it is a major industrial, administrative, commercial & tourist centre; this has attracted many migrants from Brazil & other countries & population has grown to 6.5 million in the city & another 12.5 million in surrounding area

Challenges

Housing: Large proportion of population live in squatter settlements (favelas). 600+ favelas with 60% in suburbs, 25% in outer parts, some 40km away eg Rochina is the largest favela with a population of 75,000 in 2010

Unemployment: Despite a growth in job opportunities there is high unemployment (over 20% in favelas) & causes wide contrasts in wealth: richest 1% earns 12% of the total income but the poorest 50% only 13%. Lots of work is created in the informal sector eg street vendors but pay is poor

Health care: only 55% of the city had a local health clinic; health care for pregnant women & the elderly is very poor especially in the West Zone

Education: Only 50% of children continue education many drop out to work or get involved in drug trafficking; also a shortage of schools & teachers

Water Supply: 12% of population do not have access to running water.

Energy: People in squatter settlements have no electricity or illegally tap into the main supply which is dangerous. There are frequent blackouts

Crime: robbery & violent crime like murder & kidnapping, carjacking & armed assault occur regularly. Street crime is a problem at night. Powerful gangs control drug trafficking in many favelas

Environmental: Houses are poorly built, often built on steep slopes & heavy rain causes landslides (in 2010 224 people killed & 13,000 homes lost)

Air: from exhaust fumes from heavy traffic & pollutants from factories. Mist from Atlantic mixes with these emissions & city is often covered in brown smog & causes approx. 5,000 deaths a year.

Water: 200+ tonnes of raw sewage from the favelas & over 50 tonnes of industrial waste enter the rivers & then into Guanabara Bay each day; ships empty their fuel tanks in the bay as there is no facilities to dispose of it.

...... So Guanabara Bay is highly polluted causing threat to wildlife; commercial fishing has declined by 90% in the last 20 years; could affect Copacabana beaches & damage tourism.

Waste Pollution: many favelas have no roads making access very difficult for waste collection lorries. Most waste is therefore dumped/left in the streets polluting water system making conditions unsanitary causing diseases like cholera which spread easily in cramped conditions

Opportunities

- Pacifying Police Units (PPUs) were set up in 2013 to reclaim favelas from drug dealers & now have control of Complexo de Alemão & 30 smaller favelas

- The Schools of Tomorrow Programme set up to improve education for children in poor & violent areas; aims to prevent them joining gangs. It improves their chances of a job

- The metro system to the South Zone was extended & new toll-roads installed to reduce congestion, & the coast road made one way to improve traffic flow

- A power plant has been set up using methane gas from rotting rubbish consuming 1,000s of tonnes of rubbish a day & produces electricity for 1000 homes, making energy supply more efficient & affordable. Also helps the problem of waste pollution

- 2nd largest industrial centre in Brazil, major port & large tourist industry creating jobs.

- Favela Bairro Project: A bottom up approach to squatter settlement redevelopment. Started in 1995 to improve the lives of 1 million people (1% of population) that live in 1 of the 600 squatter settlements. Cost $300 million from the Local Authority & the Inter-American Development Bank. Residents were involved in deciding what improvements were made, including:

  - Daycare & after schools schemes to look after children so parents could work

  - Adult education & training schemes to improve adult literacy & skills to improve their chances of finding work/get better paid jobs

  - Grants given to help poor families meet the costs of keeping children in school to help improve their chances of a job in the future

  - Services provided to help overcome drug & alcohol addiction & domestic violence

  - 100% mortgages made available so more could afford to buy their own home legally, & creating greater security as they cannot be evicted

  - Wooden buildings replaced with brick & streets widened & paved to allow access (for police/waste collection etc) & lit to make them safer e.g. Row 4

  - Improved services such as clean water, sewage electricity & rubbish collection improving quality of life.

  - All new services are staffed by residents providing them with income

  - 1 free return ticket a day provided on cable car to help people get to areas with work

Success/failure

- The standard of living & health has improved but not all favelas have been helped. The property values have increased by 80-120% but now makes it harder for people to buy. The new infrastructure is not being maintained & could easily deteriorate again

- The number of business in the favelas have doubled but more training is still required
Urban Issues & Challenges 2: HICs
Paper 2 Question 1 (updated July 2020)

**Areas of a City**
- **CBD** – usually the city centre with large shops & services & offices. High land prices so building density is very high, and there can be lots high rise building. Few or no homes. Good access via road & rail.
- **Inner city**—next to the CBD with mixed use. Area of greatest change. Originally the location of factories & homes for factory workers. High density buildings, often poor quality terrace houses in a grid like pattern with no gardens. Some areas are still abandoned & derelict following **deindustrialisation**. While have been developed into providing new services, industry or housing eg Harbourside, Bristol & Canary Wharf, London
- **Suburbs**—spreading out towards the edge of the city. Mainly used for housing with their own smaller shops & services. Land prices cheaper so houses are larger & detached & semi detached with gardens & garages. In commuting distance of CBD
- **Rural Urban Fringe**: on the outer edge of the city with mixed land use; homes, out of town shopping centres & business parks, airports & hospitals, agriculture. Area that sees a lot of change; land prices cheaper so lots of space for new developments.

**Environment:** Businesses relocated or closed & left factories, warehouses & dockland empty which quickly became derelict wastelands. This attracted the homeless, crime, vandalism & areas to dump waste, making the area look worse. As people lost their jobs, they couldn’t afford to update their homes & gardens which reduced the environmental quality further.

**Economic:** with no jobs & less money, people spent less on other services eg shops so many of these closed too, especially in the inner cities & also in the CBD making even more people unemployed. CBDs deteriorated further as people from outside the city didn’t want to travel through the inner city to get there & attracted to the new out of town shopping centres so CBDs in the UK also declined.

**Social:** those with skills left to find work else where, leaving the very poorest behind. The poor conditions lowered people’s aspirations & children achieved less at school reducing their chances of a job & making it difficult to escape the situation. The low skilled workforce reduced the chances of new businesses locating in the areas. People turned to crime making others feel unsafe. Many new migrants to the country moved to the deprived inner city as they could not afford to live anywhere else.

**Challenges:**
- **Deindustrialisation** caused people who were most employable to move away from the inner city leaving the poorest, the unskilled & elderly people there
- Deprived areas often have poor access to health care, education & job opportunities but have high rates of crime, vandalism & drugs trafficking. The environment is often run-down & unattractive
- These conditions can lead to lack of aspiration & achievement at school which continues the downward spiral; increasing anti-social behaviour & crime
- Tensions that can lead to social unrest can form as people see the difference between their poor quality of life & those living in the suburbs.
- Decline following deindustrialisation + competition from new out of town shopping centres with free parking has seen a decline in CBDs

**Opportunities**
A range of redevelopment schemes have helped to:
- Improve the environment & standard of housing,
- Retraining schemes helping people back into the city
- Attracting new business & industries to provide jobs eg Harbourside Bristol
- Redeveloping old industrial areas into high value housing attracting wealthy people back into the city eg Harbourside, Bristol
- Revitalised CBDs with pedestrianised areas & new shops & services including entertainment to attract people back eg Cabots Circus, Bristol

**UK’s Population distribution**
- Unevenly distributed.
  - Largest urban area is **London** (10% of UK’s population, capital & a world financial centre)
  - High density: on low land as its easier to build eg **Birmingham**
  - Near resources eg coal & metal & industry grew eg **Leeds/Sheffield**
  - Many on the coast next to sheltered bays & river estuaries suitable for trade eg **Bristol & Cardiff**
- Low density:
  - In upland areas—difficult to farm/have few resources eg **Scotland**

**Changes to UK Cities**

From 1750 UK cities grew very quickly due to urbanisation caused by the industrial revolution pulling people to the cities & the agricultural revolution pushing them from the rural areas. Factories were built in the towns & small cramped terrace houses were built next to them to house the workers. (inner city)

Inner cities were crowded busy, noisy dirty places & people who could afford to moved further out to the edge of the city & travelled into the centre. Cities grew sprawled outwards into the countryside as the suburbs got bigger.

After WW2 lots of different urban development schemes eg New Towns, slum clearance, high rise council housing & the formation of greenbelts were introduced to help some of the urban problems at the time including bomb damage, overcrowding, smog, poor living conditions & urban sprawl.
Social Issues—Multi-culturalism

Many migrants live in urban areas as it is where there are the most job opportunities, & services. This increases the ethnic population there. Migrants, new to the UK can often only afford to live in the old, low cost, inner-city housing. People prefer to live close to others with the same background, religion & language often resulting in large ethnic groups living in the same area of the city.

Challenges

Has led to limited mixing between communities (segregation) & this together with deprivation & social inequalities has lead to tensions.

Opportunities

UK cities are very multi-cultural & add vibrancy & diversity as they offer a wider range of services such as shops, restaurants eg Indian, Chinese, Turkish etc as well as lots of entertainment eg music & festivals which everyone can enjoy eg Notting Hill Festival, London.

Housing Issue

The UK needs 200,000 + new homes because people are living longer, leaving home earlier & there are more split families.

Challenges: where to build these homes?

- Brownfield limited number of sites & cost a lot of money to clear. It can be difficult to plan around existing roads/buildings etc
- Greenfield leads to urban sprawl engulfing smaller towns & villages that lose their rural identity & can become busy & congested. It also uses up natural habitats/farm land, sometimes leading to a lot of opposition

Opportunities

- Greenfield: plenty of space in the rural urban fringe; more space to plan & cheaper
- Brownfield: reduces need to build on greenfield; improves the environment of old industrial areas in inner cities; can use existing infrastructure

Environmental Issues

Challenges

- Demand for new houses & desire to live in the suburbs means there is pressure to building on greenfield sites in rural urban fringe (see housing issue)
- Deindustrialisation resulted in large areas of abandoned factories, warehouses & dockland in the inner city areas & became ugly derelict wastelands made worse by vandalism, crime & the dumping of waste
- Increased car use has increased congestion leading to air, noise & visual pollution (see traffic issues)

Opportunities

- See issues of ‘housing’ & ‘traffic’
- Urban greening— city planning includes the preservation of open spaces such as parks & gardens & also aims to increase open spaces by turning old industrial wastelands into parkland etc

Traffic Issues: More cars on the road due to population increase & higher standards living so more people can afford to drive

Challenges: causes pollution—noise, visual & air which leads to health issues & climate change putting people off visiting the CBD. Congestion causes delays leading to loss of production across the city when workers are late, & causes lots of stress. It also increases the risk of accidents & puts pressure on parking.

Opportunities:

- Public transport using buses, trains & trams reduces the number of cars on the road; but people like to be independent, not all parts of the city are served, times are inconvenient etc
- Increased car parking & congestion charges discourages car use & encourages use of public services, but those who can afford it will still pay, causing inequalities & cars still being used
- Bus priority lanes encourages people to use public transport as it makes the journey quicker than using a car
- Pedestrianising the CBD removes traffic completely but increases the problem elsewhere
- Integrated Transport System— links many forms of public transport together making it more efficient, easier to use & enables people to access more places of the city.

Sustainability

Living in a way that meets the needs of the people today without reducing the ability of people in the future to meet their needs

Features of a sustainable city

- Schemes to reduce waste & dispose of it safely
- Conserving the natural environment & historic buildings
- Building on brownfield sites
- Building carbon-neutral homes
- Creating efficient public transport systems
- Providing/maintaining public green space in cities

BedZ—a sustainably community

What: Sustainable urban living
Where: Beddington, South London
When: Began in 1997, completed in 2002
Why: to develop a community that lives in a sustainable way; to make the green choice an easier one.

- Energy efficient houses. All are well insulated, ventilated by wind power, use lots of natural light, use of AA appliances—all reduces electricity or heating energy.
- Meters are at eye level so residents are conscious of how much electricity they use
- Reduces the use of water by using dual flush toilets with water recycled from waste sink water & low flow taps
- Waste is recycled & segregated bins used to make it easy
- Green transport strategy—community is situated close to tram, rail & bus stops making public transport easy. Bike sheds make cycling convenient. Car club where residents share cars. Replaces 5 cars with 1; makes residents think twice about the need of using a car
- Biodiversity is increased & reduces food miles as most homes have gardens & plants are grown on the roof
Bristol’s Social Opportunities

- Immigration provides a larger, hard working & motivated workforce & improves the level of skills especially where there are shortages in industries eg hospitality, retail, health & transport. Therefore, makes a massive contribution to Bristol & the UK’s economy
- Immigrants have enriched the cultural life in music, art, literature & food. The large African & Afro-Caribbean population has created a strong community spirit & is responsible for St Paul’s carnival & attracts 40,000 visitors to Bristol.
- Cabbots Circus, a recent CBD redevelopment with 120 shops in a covered & pedestrianised area, along with Cribs Causeway, & out-of-town shopping & leisure park offers lots of shopping & leisure opportunities
- Large & vibrant music & entertainment scene including 3 theatres (Old Vic, Hippodrome & Colston Hall)
- Redeveloped Harbourside (see separate section) offers lots of cultural opportunities with restaurants, museums & art galleries

Bristol’s Economic Opportunities

- Two universities provide a high skilled workforce & advanced research to support the new hi tech industries
- New quaternary (high tech) industries including Aardman Animations, Hewlett Packard, Toshiba & Airbus provide lots of jobs, many highly skilled & therefore highly paid contributing to the economy.
- Redeveloped Harbourside (see separate section on right) provides lots of jobs & draws in tourists who spend money in Bristol.
- New waste disposal scheme provides jobs & creates an income from recycling and energy production

Bristol’s Environmental Opportunities

- Bristol is developing an integrated transport system
  - Rapid Transit Network—3 bus routes linking the main Temple Meads railway station with the City park & Ride sites using dedicated bus lanes
  - Installed 100 electric car charging points in 40 public car parks
  - 57% of Bristol people walk or cycle & Bristol aims to double the number of cyclists by 2020 introducing more safe routes eg the Frome Gateway, a walking & cycling route to the city centre.
  - Extending the ‘poo bus’ service which runs on methane from human & food waste, from Bath to Bristol Airport to 110 buses
- Bristol is trying to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites by
  - Increasing recycling to 50% by educating children & improving kerbside collection
  - Sending 200,000 tonnes of unrecyclable waste to an energy recovery plant in Avonmouth: producing electricity for 25,000 homes & 4.2 million litres of diesel from plastics
- ‘Urban Greening’ has become an important part of planning in Bristol & is aiming to get 27% of the city to be part of a wildlife network & 30% of the city covered in trees. It has 8 nature reserves & 300 parks including the conversion of an old dual carriage way into a green open space.

Harbourside, Bristol an example of a redevelopment project

Why: Bristol old port, in the city centre, was once a thriving dock with many associated industries. This included a once thriving ship building industry, Harvey’s Bristol Cream Sherry & Fry’s Chocolate. It also housed many warehouses for storage, a sand dredging industry and a lead shot works. The dockland area went into decline initially when modern ships became too big to get up the River Avon. New docks were built at Avonmouth & Portbury and many industries that were once located around the City docks began to move away or closed down. The few remaining businesses finally closed due to deindustrialisation in the 1970s. Bristol was faced with many social, economic & environmental problems and the old City Port area had become a wasteland with lots of derelict buildings, including some that were listed (ones that should be conserved as they have historic &/or architectural importance).

When: Project began in 1980s - ongoing

What: Aim was to turn the old derelict wasteland into a ‘creative quarter’ for Bristol with leisure facilities, housing & offices. It cost in excess of £240 million.

Who: It was financed by a mixture of public funding including £44.3 million from Bristol City Council, the South West Region Development Agency & the Millennium Council as well as from companies such as Nestle & also private developers.

How: Over 40 years the area has undergone major changes resulting in the opening of a new IMAX theatre, ‘We the Curious’ science museum (was ‘At Bristol’, an Aquarium, the Millennium Square, & has many bars, cafes, restaurants & nightclubs including Zsa Zsa Bazaar.

Successes

- It has attracted over £300 million of further investment into the area
- Provided 3000 new jobs
- Created a vibrant cultural area for leisure & entertainment attracting over a million visitors every year. It provides a venue for events & festivals eg the 3 day annual Harbour Festival which attracts around 300,000 spectators
- A once derelict eyesore has been rejuvenated & a number of listed buildings are now in use & have been preserved eg Watershed which was once a rice warehouse retains the look of a warehouse on the outside but houses a cinema, studio, art gallery &, café & bar inside.
- Residential development has provided much needed housing on brownfield sites
- Rated as one of the best harbour-side redevelopments in the UK & has been well received
- People still live in the centre so the city does not have a ‘dead’ heart in the evenings

Failures

- Has been very expensive costing £240 million much of which has been funded by tax payers when it could have been spent on more important needs eg health & social inequality
- The area is dependent on entertainment & could be hit badly in an economic downturn eg Covid 19—watch this space
- Millennium Square has been criticised as being featureless & area has increased congestion
Where: In the South West UK on the estuary of the River Avon as it enters the Bristol Channel

Importance
- **Two universities** creating higher education, jobs & research opportunities & attracts many overseas students
- **Two cathedrals**
- Good access, internationally by air & by rail & by road—M4 & M5
- Large centre for entertainment & leisure eg 3 Theatres
- Lots of global industries including finance, high tech, media & aero space
- Two large ports—Royal Portbury & Avonmouth—importing & exporting all over world

Changes
- Bristol’s industries were once based on its functions as a busy dock, - ship building, cigarette factories, Harvey’s Bristol Cream (sherry), Fry’s Chocolate. When these closed it left the City Dock (Harbourside) in the inner city empty & derelict.
- Bristol’s CBD, Broadmead became outdated & run down due to competition from Cribbs Causeway

Population
- In 2016 Bristol’s population was 450,000. An increase of 10.8% since 2005 (2% more than the national average).
- Large working age population that has increased by 10% since 2005; 68% are aged between 20-34 years. Also increased by immigration from within the UK & from abroad; in 2015 internal net migration was 1,300 people, & internationally 2,500 people.
- Bristol has a large ethnic mix. 2011 census recorded 91 main languages were spoken; Polish, Somali, Chinese, Panjabi & Urdu were the top 5 non-English languages spoken
- Bristol’s birth rate is above the UK average due to the high proportion of young adults; Bristol elderly population is lower in comparison to the rest of the UK
- Bristol hosts an additional 10,000 students during term time

Social challenges
- Increased population means increased need for housing; immigration puts pressure on properties to rent making them difficult to find (great economic opportunity for landlords though!). Some new housing is too expensive for those most in need eg Harbourside flats
- More school places are required for young population & an increased need for specialist education when more children’s main language is not English
- Ethnic Segregation can be a problem—60% of Eston & St Pauls are from different ethnicities. Integration into the wider community can be a challenge & can cause resentment

Environmental Challenges
- Growth in population & industry creates more waste; 1/2 million tonnes a year & many methods of disposal are not sustainable eg landfill sites are running out
- Urban growth has led to an increase in cars & Bristol is the 2nd most congested city in the UK resulting in longer journey times & delays making people late for work costing £millions for businesses. Also leads to stress, & air, noise & visual pollution
- Growth in new industry, especially those located in Avonmouth, together with the prevailing SW winds blows pollutants across the city causing ill health & accounts for 200 deaths in Bristol a year.
- Population growth has led to urban sprawl; new housing estates to the north & NW of Bristol eg Bradley Stoke, the largest housing developing in Europe in the 1990s, leads to a loss of natural habitat & farmland & makes more land impermeable increasing the risk of flooding & creates more
- in more areas of the city.
- Some areas of derelict wasteland still remain from the closure of traditional secondary industry with disused buildings falling into disrepair, like parts of the Temple Quarter & the old Royal Mail building that is an eyesore. They can be dangerous as these areas become a magnet for crime & vandalism, the homeless, & for dumping waste. This can put people off visiting, or businesses setting up in nearby areas.

Social challenges
- Social inequality exists between areas within Bristol. Eg between Filwood & Stoke Bishop. People see the differences between the quality of life leading to a further lack of aspiration affecting education & increasing crime & anti-social behaviour
  - Filwood 36% of students achieve A*-C, in Stoke Bishop 94%;
  - Filwood 1300 crimes were reported (of which 325 were violent) in Stoke 300
  - 1/3 of Filwood’s population live in very low income households with less than 50% owning their own home; in Stoke Bishop 81% own their own home with many millionaires
- Life expectancy in Filwood is 78, in Stoke Bishop. 83
- 33% of 16-24 year olds unemployed in Filwood only 3% in Stoke Bishop

Environmental Challenges
- Decline of city port & traditional secondary industries lead to social, environmental & economic decline. Redevelopment has been slow & costs a lot of money
- Cost of introducing more sustainable transport systems/waste disposal
- Cost of providing affordable housing