Edexcel Geography A-level

Regeneration

Essential Notes

Variation in Place Characteristics

Economies

➔ Changes to economies and societies occur due to **local, national and global** processes such as the movement of people, capital, information and resources. An abundance of these factors can make places become **economically wealthy** whilst other places are **marginalised**.

➔ Globally and regionally, there are economic **inequalities** which are considered when regeneration programmes are produced.

➔ Economic activity can be classified by **sector**; be it **primary** (agricultural based), **secondary** (manufacture based), **tertiary** (service based) and **quaternary** (information based). It can also be classified by type: part time/full time, temporary/permanent and employed/self-employed.

➔ Places vary according to their economic activity which can be analysed using employment data and output data.

➔ Differences in economic activity occur from variations in social factors, such as **health, life expectancy** and **education** levels, determining a person's ability to work.

➔ Inequalities in pay levels are reflected in **quality of life indices**. Families with a low income are ranked to have a lower quality of life than richer families.

Function and Characteristics of Places

➔ As places develop, **functions and demographic** characteristics change. Overtime, employment may change between administration, commercial, retail or industry whilst age structures and ethnic compositions alter demographics.

➔ **Gentrification** is the process of renovating a place to make it more attractive to the middle class and business world. An example of a place which has undergone gentrification is the London Docklands (shown on the left).

➔ Physical factors, accessibility and connectedness, historical development and the role of local/national planning contribute to the changes of places.

➔ These changes can be measured using **employment trends**, **demographic changes**, land use changes and levels of **deprivation**. Useful sources include area reports released by local councils.

➔ Deprivation is a **complex** concept and can be measured using the **multiple deprivation index**, taking into account income and health deprivation, crime, quality of the living environment and abandoned/derelict land.

Past and Present Connections

➔ Regional and **national influences** shape characteristics of places and this can be viewed visually by **images**, either contrasting two places or tracking before/after changes in one place.

➔ International and **global influences** can also shape places e.g. demographics may change if there is free movement of migration. Demographics can be analysed **statistically** and presented using graphs. Changes to an area can affect the lives of people and work to shape their identity, analysed through questionnaires/interviews.

Regeneration Purpose

Economic and Social Inequalities

➔ Successful regions, such as the San Francisco Bay area, have high rates of employment, inward migration (both internal and international) and low levels of multiple deprivation. This, alongside high property prices and skills shortages in urban and rural areas, creates a wealthy and developing region.

➔ However, other places face a **cycle of decline** where one factor exacerbates another. In places such as the Rust Belt in the USA, **economic restructuring** has caused increasing levels of social deprivation, worsening education, health, crime, access to services and the living environment. This is the case in both deindustrialised urban areas and rural settlements which were once dominated by primary economic activities such as agriculture and manufacturing.

➔ Regeneration is thus done to create a **balance** and **eradicate social and economic inequalities**. By regenerating an area, business opportunities arise which improve social facilities and overall quality of life and wellbeing.

➔ There are priorities for regeneration due to the large variations in economic and social inequalities. Gated communities, 'sink estates', commuter villages and declining rural settlements are high priority areas.

Engagement and Experience of a Place

➔ There are also variations in the level of **community engagement**. This is measured through local and nation **election attendance**, the number of community activities and the number of developed and supported **local community groups**. If an areas is said to be more deprived, it will have a weaker and poorly integrated community. This can be managed by creating social groups and encouraging members to join.

➔ The **lived experience** and attachment of places varies according to:
  o Age
  o Gender
  o Ethnicity
  o Length of residence (student, migrant)
  o Levels of Deprivation & Economic Background

➔ These factors in turn impact on levels of engagement and community involvement.

➔ **Conflicts** can occur between different groups in communities who have contrasting views on priorities and strategies for regeneration. The causes to these conflicts are often complex but

can be due to the lack of **political engagement** and representation, **ethnic tensions**, inequality and **lack of economic opportunity**.

Evaluating the Need for Regeneration

➔ You can determine whether your local area requires regeneration by collecting **statistical evidence** on community strength, deprivation scores and the lived experience and attachment of individuals (can be done as a **tally** on whether people like living in the area along with what age group they are in, ethnicity, gender and length of residence).

➔ The more statistical evidence you collect, the more reliable and valid your conclusions will be. The stronger the evidence, the better the conclusions and the higher the mark!

➔ You can also use **media** to discover the presentation of your local area. Media can provide **contrasting evidence** and question whether your chosen area requires regeneration.

➔ It is also important to understand **different representations** of your area and how this can influence the need for regeneration.

Management & Governance of Regeneration

The Role of UK Government Policies

➔ By **investing in infrastructure**, such as high speed rails and airport developments, UK governments can maintain growth and improve accessibility to regenerate regions. It is often the role of national governments to **facilitate regeneration projects** in partnership with charities and developers.

➔ Rate and type of development, such as planning laws, creating house building targets, considering **housing affordability** and gaining permissions, affect economic regeneration of both rural and urban regions. Government actions may **prioritise national over local needs** and opinions which can delay regeneration projects and thus worsen inequalities.

➔ UK government decisions about **international migration** and the **deregulation of capital markets** (allowing for foreign investment in London real estate) significantly impact growth and direct/indirect investment. This can be done by the government, for instance, creating open door migration policies.

Local Government Policies

➔ Local governments compete to create **business environments** with designated areas for development to attract domestic and foreign investors. It is the actions of these local authorities that will determine the success of the regeneration projects.

➔ **Local interest groups** are vital in decision-making and creating regeneration project. This can include groups such as 'Chambers of Commerce', local preservation societies and trade unions. However, there is often conflict between these groups as interests differ; some may wish to preserve urban landscapes whilst others seek to change it.

➔ For instance, investment for the London Olympic Games provided regeneration for London but some argued that it was a case of rebuilding rather than regenerating whilst others despised

the programme entirely it missed the chance of creating a 'living and working neighbourhood'. (BBC, 2012)

➔ Urban and rural regeneration strategies include:
   o **Retail-led Plans**: Creates business and job opportunities.
   o **Tourism**: Brings money into the area and provides a flow of culture and positive media attention, propelling the area onto a global stage.
   o **Leisure and Sport**: Allows for community integration and social wellbeing.

Changing Public Perception

➔ **Rebranding** attempts to represent areas as being more attractive by improving public perception of them. This involves re-imaging places using media coverage, art and events to enhance the image of urban and rural locations. This works to invite investors which add to the wealth of the area.

➔ For UK deindustrialised cities, rebranding can stress the attraction of places, creating an identity by focusing on their industrial heritage. This creates national and international tourists and visitors whilst providing local income and media coverage. For instance there is the 'Scotland with Style' program in Glasgow.

➔ Rural rebranding strategies in the post-production countryside are based on farm diversification, specialised products, outdoor pursuits and adventure in both accessible and remote areas. This again invites tourism, particular sites being the Brontë country and the Kielder Forest.

Measuring Success of Regeneration

➔ The success of **economic regeneration** can be assessed using measures of:
   - Income
   - Poverty
   - Employment

➔ Different areas can then be compared by looking at the variations within each measure. This will help understand which regeneration project has been more successful, allowing for further analysis of why this is the case and how well it would work elsewhere (**evaluation**: a higher level geographic skill).

➔ **Social progress** can be measured by looking at the **reductions in inequalities** between and within areas. Social progress can be measured through scores within the multiple deprivation index and in demographic changes which can result in life expectancy improvements, population growth and reductions in health deprivation.

➔ Regeneration will be **most** successful if it also leads to **improvements in the living environment** as this in turn improves **social and economic security**. Improvements can be monitored through reductions in pollution levels and the number of abandoned and derelict warehouses/land.