# Edexcel Geography A-level

# Diverse Places
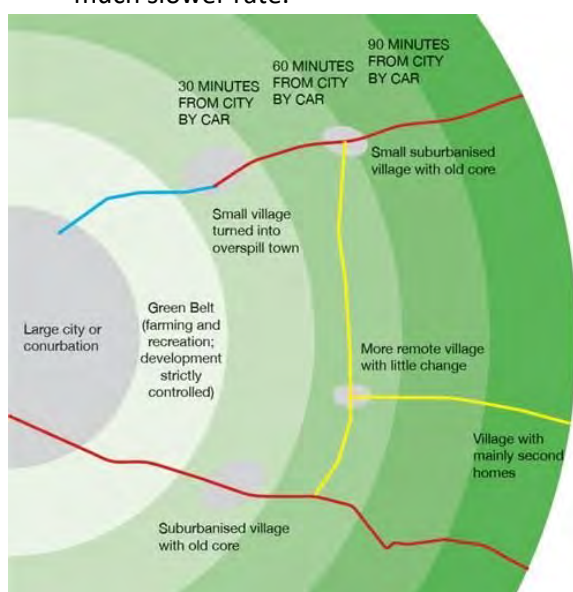
## Essential Notes

## Enquiry question 1: How do population structures vary?

### Population Structures

➔ Change is driven by local, national and global processes which affect the demographic and cultures of local places. These processes include the movement of people, capital, information and resources and make places demographically and culturally heterogeneous whilst others remain less dynamic. The differences in areas create social inequalities.

➔ Population structures vary from place to place and over time. Globally, population growth has seen exponential growth since 1500. Places may have increasing population due to increasing birth rates, decreasing death rates and a large number of migrants coming in.

➔ The UK population has grown unevenly in the last 50 years and is overall an ageing population, meaning the proportion of over 65s is greater than the younger working population. London and the south-east have seen a rapid population growth rate whilst north-east England has been growing at a much slower rate.



➔ The rural-urban continuum is a classification that distinguishes metropolitan counties by their population size, and nonmetropolitan counties by their degree of urbanisation and closeness to metro areas, seen in the image on the left. The right image shows how urban and rural areas differ.

➔ Population structure and density therefore varies according to placement in the rural-urban continuum. If you are in a rural area, the population will be sparser than that of an urban area.

➔ Accessibility, physical factors, historical development and planning determine the rural-urban divide and so have an influence over population settlements.

➔ Population structures and dynamics are also a result of differences in fertility and mortality rates and international and internal migration. Places with high fertility rates, such as Niger, will have larger family sizes and a growing population with young dependents. Places with high mortality rates, such as Ukraine, will face natural decreases and a declining population.

### Population Characteristics

➔ Population characteristics can have variations in gender and ethnicity. China's population, for instance, has a gender imbalance where there are more females than males. This is a result of the legacy of the One Child Policy causing couples to abandon daughters in favour of having sons instead.



➔ Cultural diversity can be explained by social clustering, accessibility to key cities, physical factors and government planning policies which can suppress or foster diversity. Usually, migrants tend to cluster in one area, creating a culturally rich place (such as Southall in London being called 'Little India' shown above).

## 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 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.

## Enquiry question 2: How do different people view diverse living spaces?

### Urban Places

→ Perception of places is dependent on lived experience and understanding of the area. During industrialisation, urban places were perceived as being dangerous and threatening (Victorian London), as they were the hotspots of crime, prostitution and corruption.

→ Urban areas today in the UK may be seen as more attractive than previously as they are retail based, invite tourism and attract young people and migrants, due to the range of economic and social-leisure activities on show.

→ Some urban areas, such as Newham, are still seen as undesirable and threatening by residents/outsiders because of high crime rates, low environmental quality, high deprivation rates and poor population characteristics and reputation. This is gathered through quantitative data, media representation and from those who have lived experiences.

→ Suburban areas are family-based residential areas whilst inner city areas are populated by commuters and workers of the city. The desirability of these regions are perceived differently depending on demographic groups by age, ethnicity and life-cycle stage. For instance, the inner city may be desirable for a migrant due to being in close proximity to the city and having a large cultural base. However, the inner city may not be perceived well for an elderly resident due to the busy nature and potential lack of care opportunities.

### Rural Places

→ Like urban areas, rural places are seen differently by groups of people because of their lived experience and perception of those places.

→ Rural places are often seen as idyllic because of their tranquillity, natural landscape and historical/cultural associations. For instance, Hardy's Wessex and the Bronte landscape are famous for being home to popular British authors.

→ Others view the rural regions unfavourably because of their remoteness, limited social opportunities, limited range of services, high transport costs, population characteristics and reputation, gathered through quantitative data, media representation and lived experiences. For instance, in Taunton, Somerset, the nearest hospital is at least 50 to 70 minutes away from the village centre.

→ Some view rural areas as remote areas, others see them as retirement villages and holiday landscapes. It is clear that attitudes vary greatly and this can be further explored through undertaking questionnaires or interviews to gain knowledge on how people view rural areas.

### Evaluating Living Spaces

→ You can determine whether people have a positive or negative view of you chosen area by collecting statistical evidence on opinions, 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. Stronger the evidence, better the conclusions and higher the mark!

→ You can also use media to discover the presentation of your area. Media can provide contrasting evidence and pinpoint characteristics of your area and how people view it.

→ It is also important to understand different representations of your area and how this can influence the perception of cultural and demographic issues and conflict.

## Enquiry question 3: Why are there demographic and cultural tensions in diverse places?

### Culture and Society in the UK



→ Significant internal movement of people had created uneven demographic and cultural patterns. For instance, London is highly diverse with a mix of British, Indian, African, Chinese and Caribbean cultures.

→ Culture and society has changed in the UK because of international migration flows from former colonies. For example, from the 1950s onwards, the UK accepted migrants from the Indian sub-continent and the West Indies to fill the industrial jobs.

→ Later on, from around the 1990s and 2000s, migrants came to the UK from the EU due to the free movement of people agreement. This encouraged more than half a million Poles to come to the UK between 2004 and 2007.



→ The main 'gatekeeper' player is the government, who control and allow such flows. The government can further encourage the acceptance of migrants by investing in integration programmes, encouraging companies to print flyers in multiple languages and having specific cultural facilities available (such as specific foods/religious places of worship).

→ For instance, David Cameron (shown on left) visited places of worship in the UK and abroad to create a sense of unity and acceptance. By doing this, the government inspire the integration of migrants and new cultures, which reduces cultural tensions.

→ Some international migrants choose to live in rural areas. This could be due to background, such as living in a village environment in their own country, or for other specific reasons, such as employment opportunities in the agricultural sector. This can create social challenges as migrants will be the minority in rural areas (since the majority move to urban regions for work).

### Levels of Segregation

→ Segregation levels reflect cultural, economic and social variation and change over time. International migrants tend to live in distinctive places, often termed as enclaves.

→ Ethnic segregation is closely related to economic indicators, such as income and employment, and social indicators such as health, crime and

education. Segregation then leads to stereotypes and perceptions to form, which creates bias and injustice within society.

→ Diverse living spaces in urban areas have social characteristics that reflect ethnicity and culture. This can be in the form of distinctive retail outlets, such as an abundance of Indian takeaway restaurants and Polish kiosks, as well as places of worship and leisure.

→ A walk down Kingstreet in Southall will display a myriad of cultures, places of worship and cuisines, displaying the social characteristics of the population inhabiting the area.

→ Communities evolve economically and culturally as new attitudes and values are brought in. This can change the experiences and perceptions of living spaces over generations, leading to intergenerational attitudes and norms to change.

### Changes to Diverse Places

→ A sudden arrival of migrants can cause conflicts and riots. For instance there have been riots within the UK from British workers who feel denied from jobs as European workers are better skilled for the jobs.

→ Different community groups, local and national governments and TNCs may make land use changes (e.g. build places of worship) which may cause tension, as locals may disapprove. Migrants may thus face social exclusion which has been in the case in Glasgow.

## Enquiry question 4: How successfully are cultural and demographic issues managed?

### Measuring Management Techniques

→ The success of economic management can be assessed using measures of:
- Income
- Employment

→ Different areas can then be compared by looking at the variations within each measure. This will track what management techniques are in place and how successful they are. Further analysis involves why management has worked 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.

→ Assimilation of different cultures can be measured by levels of political engagement (measured through voter turnout and whether migrants chose to vote), the number of cultural features (you could tally places of worship, different food cuisines, languages on leaflets), the development of local community groups and reductions in 'hate' crime and racism.

### Urban Changes and Stakeholders

→ You need to study the contesting ways in which different demographic and ethnic groups view an urban living space and the impact of national and local strategies in resolving issues within your chosen area.

→ For example, Aik Saath (meaning 'as one/ side by side' in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu) in Slough is a charity focused on integrating people from 'all communities, faiths and backgrounds to encourage conflict resolution and community cohesion' (Aik Saath Website).

→ This is achieved through training, campaigns and projects and was set up to stop gang violence and 'hate' crime amongst young people from Asian backgrounds. The charity works in schools, colleges, universities and local events to reach a wide audience and create a social identity.

→ Changes in the local area can be judged using economic, social, demographic and environmental variable in an urban area. This can be collected through observing census data, online statistics and taking surveys.

→ Stakeholders can involve local/national governments, local businesses and residents and will have contrasting opinions on the success of schemes. Their views will be shaped depending on their lived experience and attachment to the area and whether the identity of the area is similar or changed from how they wanted it.

## Rural Changes and Stakeholders

→ You will need to study the contrasting ways in which demographic and ethnic groups view a rural living space and the impact of national and local strategies. This can then be compared to you urban area research.

→ For instance there is the 'Lake District Rural Revival Partnerships' aimed at developing land management and diversification, developing opportunities to create social awareness, investigating the ways young people can be involved and have their skills developed, working together to create a greener environment and ensuring mobile coverage and Wi-Fi service for communities to keep in close contact.