

Edexcel Geography GCSE

The UK's Evolving Human Landscape Detailed Notes

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Describing Rural and Urban Places

The Rural-Urban Continuum



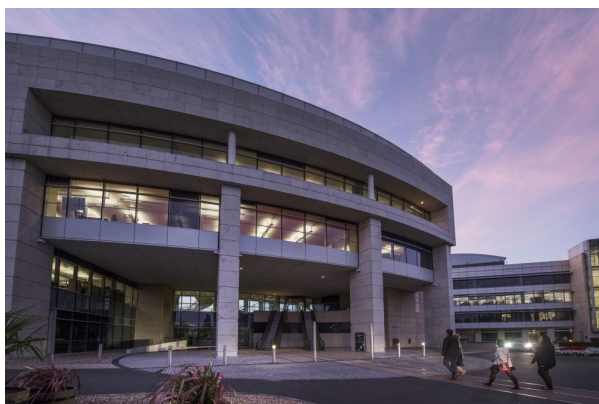
The **characteristics** of the land changes depending on how far you live from the **centre of town**. In the diagram above, each square represents a different type of rural or urban land. We are going to look at the type of **people** and **lifestyles** at the far end of this continuum - the **rural** and **urban** cores.

Rural	Urban
Low population density - Few people live in rural areas, and the space between houses can be large.	High population density - There is a large population who live in the city, especially around the centre, and houses are built close together or stacked on top of each other (e.g. flats).
Population Characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large portion of population are over 50, as many come to retire in rural areas - Those who aren't retired tend to work in agriculture and tourism - There is a small number of families, as most couples move to rural areas after their children have moved out (called empty nesters!) 	Population Characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the urban population are working age (20-40 years old) - Many families live just on the periphery of the city centre. This is because in urban areas, families have great access to services (education, healthcare). - Most people work in offices in the centre, or manufacturing industry on the periphery of the city.
Houses are typically detached cottages or barn conversions . There are few new housing developments. This is because, even though rural living seems idyllic, not many people want to move here!	Houses in the city tend to be terraced or apartments , because there is limited free space. There are many new housing developments under construction.



The government may want to encourage people to move to urban or rural areas, to help growth and develop the economy. However, most businesses set up in urban cities, where there is a large market of customers and better opportunities for international trade. In the UK, there have been a variety of strategies to encourage growth in both urban and rural regions, without causing inequality between areas.

Enterprise Zones



Source: Discovery Park

Description: Regions can be given **tax break** or **start-up costs** paid for by the government, to encourage businesses to set up here. This is especially the case for **science and technology** businesses, that can provide many jobs for a rural area.

- 👍 New job opportunities for locals, including construction of the park and working in businesses
- 👍 Attracts high-earning scientists, who can afford to live in rural areas
- 👎 Rural land lost to build offices, which destroys habitats for wildlife
- 👎 Not all businesses can relocate to rural areas, especially if they need good transport links or shipping.

EU Grants for Rural Regions



Source: The Business Desk

Description: The EU provided **millions of pounds** in grants to rural areas, to **reduce inequality** between urban and rural regions. This includes **agricultural grants** for farms to stay in business, and **tourism grants** to develop attractions (which can boost the rural economy).

- 👍 Tourism provides job opportunities and local businesses can profit too (gift shops, farm shops, hotels and holiday rentals).
- 👍 Keeping British farms running will provide good produce without importing food into the UK.
- 👎 Grants can be difficult to apply for and receive, so some of the smallest businesses cannot benefit.



Transport Links



Source: Gov.uk

Description: People who live in rural areas - especially the elderly - can become isolated if they cannot drive. Public transport is really important for some people to travel to work, to access services or to reach help if they are in need.

The government is investing in new bus links, since buses are the easiest and cheapest way to access isolated villages.

- 👍 Public transport stops isolation in the community, which can lead to loneliness or not being able to get help
- 👍 Buses are cheaper than constructing train lines.
- 👎 The government cannot afford buses between every house, so some households will still be isolated

Education and Training Scholarships



Source: University of Manchester

Description: Rural workers and families can be offered scholarships and bursaries to come to university. This enables them to train for other jobs, beside agriculture.

If more rural people were able to get a degree or high-level training, they could get higher paying jobs and so rural poverty decreases..

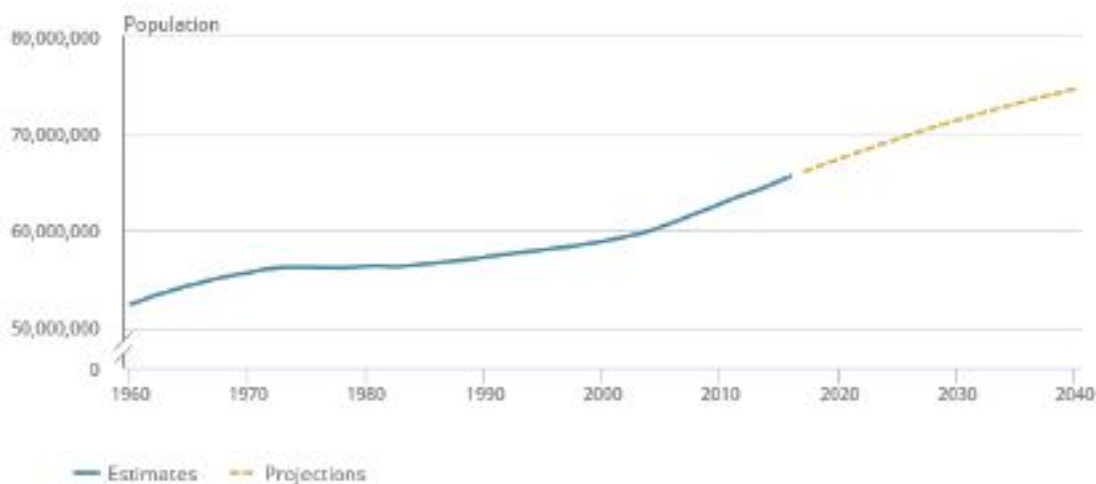
- 👍 Enabling families that wouldn't otherwise think they could go to university
- 👎 Young people from rural families may wish to leave to live permanently in the city, which wouldn't benefit rural areas
- 👎 If more young people leave rural regions, there will be fewer people of working age to fill jobs, which could lead to services worsening.



The UK's Changing Population

Since WW2, the UK has had an open immigration policy to migrants moving to the UK. There has not been any control on population growth like in other countries - for example, China's one child policy or Sweden paying women to have children.

The graph below shows the increase in the UK population since 1960.



Source: Office for National Statistics

We can see from the graph that the UK's population has steadily grown in the last 60 years.

- We can see an increased growth from 1960-1970. This is because there was a **baby boom** in the 1960s.
- Between 1980 and 1990 there was a slower growth.
- From 1990 the population growth started increasing again. This is due to **migration**. According to the Migration Observatory *"More than half (56%) of the **increase of the UK population** between 1991 and 2018 was due to the direct contribution of net migration."*

Alongside baby booms and immigration, the UK population has also been increasing due to a decreased death rate. The death rate has decreased due to:

- Advancement in **medicine** - Many diseases have been eradicated, and access to healthcare has improved (especially in urban cities). **Vaccination programmes** in schools have led to less infectious diseases at a young age, so fewer infant mortalities. In addition, **technological advancements** have led to cancer treatments and **stem cell** research which extends people's lives.
- **Clean water and sanitation** - 96% of UK households are connected to the main sewage system and 100% have access to clean water, hence reducing the risk of water-borne diseases and diarrhoea.



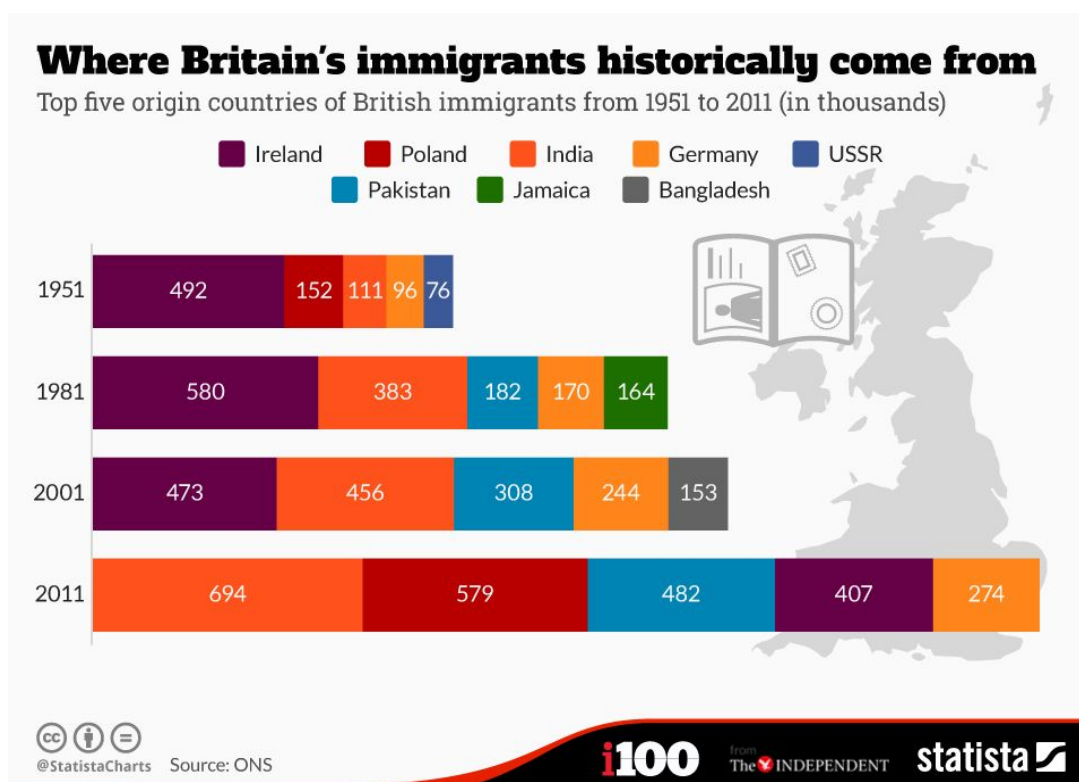
Why has there been such a large **increase** in **inward international migration** to the UK, since WWII?

- **Political alliances**, especially with Commonwealth countries.
- The cost of **long-distance travel** has reduced, and people can travel to many countries through airlines and cruise ships.
- **Employment opportunities** for migrants in the UK, including skilled doctors for the NHS and labour workers to pick fruit from UK farms in summer.

The UK has an **open immigration policy** - nearly all nationalities are welcome to migrate to the UK. This means cities can become mixing pots of different **nationalities**, cultures and religions.

Remember! **Migration** is the movement of people within a country, whereas **immigration** involves people moving from one country to another

Historically, immigrants that settled in the 1950s were from countries with **strong political connections** with the UK, such as countries in the **commonwealth**. In the 1980s, there was a peak in **Caribbean immigrants** during the **Windrush Era**. More recently, there has been a large volume of Eastern European immigrants coming to the UK. For example, many **Polish immigrants** work on farms picking the harvest.



Immigrants have come from across the world at different stages of the UK's development.



Below is a timeline of the last fifty years, with the most prominent flows of migration shown.

1960s

- Inward international migration from **Pakistan and India**.
- **Commonwealth Act of 1962** - Restricts the flow of Commonwealth migrants to those with skills, encouraging economic migration.



1970s

- Inward international migration from **Vietnam, Bangladesh and Chile** (following a military coup).



1980s

- **Economic recession** continues to cause unemployment and deindustrialisation in many towns and cities. This discourages some international migrants, who are interested in better employment opportunities in the UK.
- Inward international migration from **China, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Somalia and Australia**.



1990s

- Growth in the UK population is mainly due to **net migration**.
- Conflict in **The Congo, Balkans, Yemen and Kosovo** encourages international migration to the UK. The collapse of the Soviet Union also encourages migration to the UK, as migrants wish to improve their quality of life.
- The NHS begins **recruiting overseas**, trying to use migrants to fill their skills gaps.



2000s

- **EU Freedom of Movement** - Increased migrants from the UK due to reduced limitations
- **Expansion of the EU** to include previously Soviet states increases the number of Polish, Slovakian and Lithuanian migrants.



2010s

- Conflict in Syria pushes **asylum seekers** into the UK.
- **Brexit** causes uncertainty for migrants, which slows the rate of migration to the UK. Some jobs - such as fruit picking - which rely on migrant workers cannot find employees.



However, not everyone believes that immigration and multicultural cities are good for the UK. This has caused **tensions** between communities and hate crime against **ethnic minorities**, which escalated recently during Brexit.



Advantages of Multicultural Cities	Negative Perceptions of Multicultural Cities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👍 Skilled migrants can fill gaps in the economy and services, so everyone can have access to doctors and dentists 👍 Multicultural events such as Chinese New Year, Notting Hill Carnival and Eid are becoming very popular in some cities. Tourists come to stay to watch these events, bringing extra revenue. 👍 New foods are introduced, which makes the restaurant market more diverse and encourages people from a young age to learn about different cultures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👎 Some people worry that more people moving to the city will make job opportunities more rare, and so unemployment might rise 👎 Some ethnic groups are targeted for attacks and hate crime, such as Jewish and Muslim communities. 👎 In some cities, ethnic groups remain segregated. Therefore culture isn't shared and instead hostilities can rise.

Changes in the UK's Industry

There are many different types of jobs that workers can have in the UK. These jobs can be **grouped** into four categories: **primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary**. The proportion of people working in these sectors can change over time, and this will affect the rest of the **economy**. Each industry has different **advantages** and **disadvantages**:

Primary

Industry associated with producing **raw materials**, crops or unmanufactured produce. Examples of primary industries include:

Farming and Agriculture	Fishing	Mining
 Source: Farming.uk	 Source: Express	 Source: ft.com

- 👍 Jobs in the primary industry require **little training**, and the skills tend to be passed down through families.
- 👍 Some primary industries can be established at low cost, so new business starters can try farming or fishing without bank loans.
- 👎 Primary industry work tends to be **high labour** which can lead to injuries, ageing more quickly and **shorter life expectancy**.
- 👎 Many jobs in the primary industry have **unreliable pay**, with little job security and no paid time off - limited maternity leave, unpaid holidays and limited sick pay.



Secondary

The **manufacturing** industry, which turns raw materials into produce and goods. For example, mills turning cotton into fabric or factories that construct mobile phones. Secondary industry requires **electricity** and **infrastructure**, so countries have a small secondary industry until they start to **develop**. Examples of secondary industry jobs include:



- 👍 Jobs in the secondary industry provide a **reliable income** throughout the year, rather than relying on seasonal farming.
- 👍 Production jobs require **little training**, so the poorest families can work to earn a living.
- 🗨️ Production lines can be **boring** and **repetitive** work, with **limited opportunities** to progress in your career.
- 🗨️ Some factories **exploit workers**: giving them long shifts, exposing them to dangerous chemicals, limiting toilet breaks.

Tertiary

Jobs relating to **services** and **working with people** are considered to be in the tertiary industry. Examples of tertiary jobs include:



- 👍 The tertiary industry has **reliable jobs** - as the population grows, the more demand there is for the tertiary industry and so the more job opportunities there are.
- 👍 Some tertiary jobs provide **good salaries** as employees are **well trained** and knowledgeable (they have **degrees** or high-level training).
- 🗨️ Tertiary services provided by the government are under **increasing pressure**, as funding is being cut in schools and hospitals.
- 🗨️ Tertiary services **rely on goods** and resources to provide their service - such as bandages in the hospital or fruit and vegetables in a restaurant - and so they rely on primary and secondary workers.



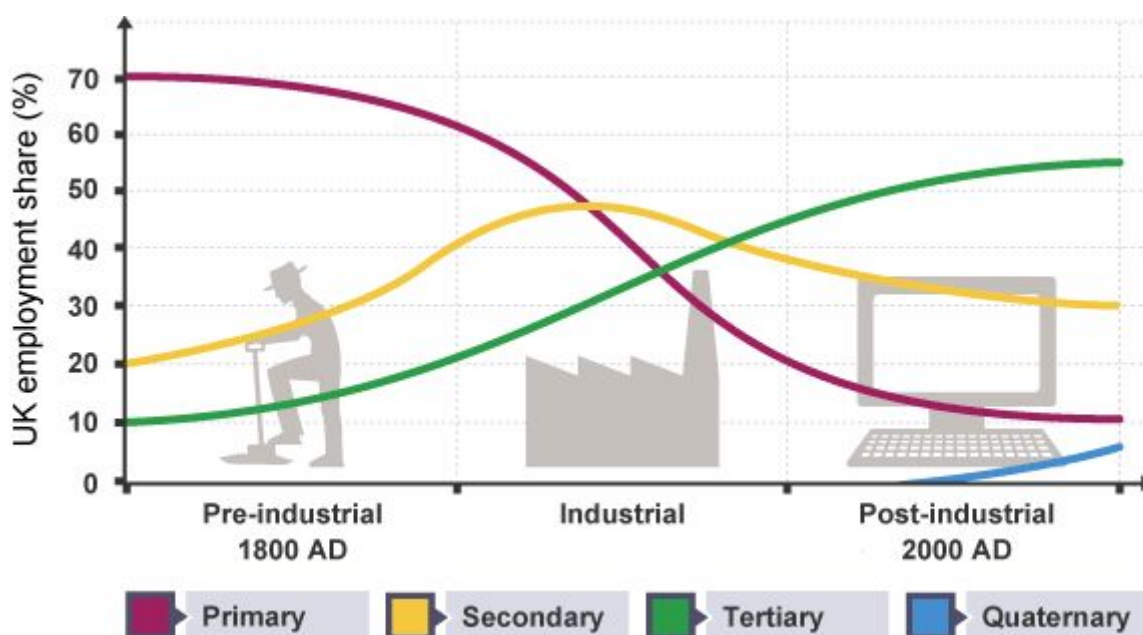
Quaternary

The final industry type only develops in the **most developed** countries (**MICs**). This is because the quaternary industry is based around **technology**. It also includes jobs relating to the **economy** and **design** (from product design to architecture). Examples of quaternary jobs include:

<p align="center">Finance and Banking</p>  <p align="center"><i>Source: The Guardian</i></p>	<p align="center">IT Support</p>  <p align="center"><i>Source: Soposted.com</i></p>	<p align="center">Inventing New Products</p>  <p align="center"><i>Source: yorksj.ac.uk</i></p>
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- 👍 Jobs in the quaternary industry are some of the **highest earning** wages.
- 👍 Currently, there is a **large demand** for quaternary workers with the right training and creative thinking. This means that there are **low unemployment** rates for workers with these skills
- 👎 Quaternary work is **office based** which can lead to **high stress**, long hours and limited outdoor time during the day.
- 👎 There are a few **health problems** that can develop from office work - poor eyesight, back and posture problems, overweight from limited exercise.

Over time, the **economy** will grow and the country will develop. As this happens, the vast majority of the population will change jobs - often, they shift to **less labour intensive** jobs or to earn a **higher wage**. The diagram below shows how the number of workers for each type of industry peaks and falls as time passes and the **country develops**:



Source: BBC Bitesize



Investing in the UK

It's not just the government that has an effect on the **UK's economy**. Trans-national companies (TNC) provide **job opportunities** and can strengthen the economy, and foreign direct investment will improve the surroundings and provide **new opportunities** for a foreign TNC.

Trans-National Companies

Trans-national companies (TNCs) have a large influence on **employment**, profit and the economy. There are quite a few TNCs that have headquarters or operate in the UK, such as:



There are more and more TNCs that operate in the UK. The number of TNCs has **increased** largely in the last 50 years because of **globalisation**.

Globalisation

Globalisation is the process of the world becoming more connected through **trade**, **international agreements** and **migration**. Globalisation makes the world feel smaller and more accessible to us, which this effect is known as the '**Shrinking World**'.

TNCs have wanted to move to the UK because it is a globalised country, which means:

- The UK has an **open immigration policy** and so there is a good **supply of workers**. TNCs need a large supply of workers, this could be for their production and **manufacturing**. They may also want highly skilled workers for **research/new product development** and management.
- UK cities are **reputable** and have good transport links to the rest of the world. For example, Manchester, London and Birmingham all have busy **international airports** and many office spaces for TNCs headquarters.
- Until recently, the UK has been part of the **European Union** (EU) which is a **trade bloc**. This meant that the UK had **free trade** between other countries in the EU without any trade tariffs - charges and taxes applied to imported goods. This is good for TNCs because easy trade means they have a **large customer market** to sell their product to.



On a whole, TNCs use the UK as a stepping stone to selling to the rest of the world. Goods and services from the UK are seen as high end and reputable, so many countries will trade with the UK.

Foreign Direct Investment

Overseas companies or foreign investors may want to **invest** in the UK, to earn **profits** in the future. There are many examples of **foreign direct investment (FDI)** in the UK, including:

Investors may buy **high-end property** in UK cities, which they may use when they travel to the UK or rent out for profit. This is increasing **house prices** but provides many opportunities for **construction** and **developers** to build high-end properties.

A foreign company may buy a **british business** if the business is struggling to develop. This **investment** will keep british jobs safe and give the manager the opportunity to invest and develop, without getting any **loans**. This is the case for **Tetley Tea**, who were bought out by Tata Steel (an Indian TNC).



Privatisation

Some governments in the world run **essential services** for their people: rubbish removal, providing water and electricity, railways and public transport, etc.

However, governments may not have the **time** to run these services effectively. If they are run poorly, the population may become **angry** at the government and it could be very **costly** to try to improve.

Instead, in some countries, the government gives essential services to a **private company**. This is called **privatisation**.

There are pros and cons to privatisation:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>👍 The government can focus on other responsibilities, such as improving poverty and international politics.</p> <p>👍 Since the company will make a profit, it is able to afford to reinvest and continually improve the service. Privatisation enables services to improve over time.</p>	<p>🗨️ Some people feel it is unethical to make a profit out of a service that is essential. For example, people can't survive without water, so should a business make a profit to sell it?</p> <p>🗨️ Often services don't improve after privatisation. For example, the UK railways haven't improved even after privatisation.</p>



In the UK, there are many services that have been **privatised**:

- **Railways** are owned by different private organisations, which each control a region in the UK - Northern Rail, Virgin Trains, Avanti, TransPennine Express.
- **Rubbish** bins are taken each week by a private company.
- **Water** is provided by United Utilities, which charges households for water but is responsible for maintaining all reservoirs, pipelines and fixing leakages.
- **Electricity** is provided by the National Grid, but is generated by a series of companies (some are foreign TNCs) - Eon, EDF, Scottish Power.

