Your notes

KS3 Geography: revision notes

Cities and urbanisation

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Urban growth

- **Urbanisation** is the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities. Over half the world's people now live in urban areas.
- It is fastest in lower-income countries in Africa and Asia, because of **rural-urban migration** and natural increase.
- People leave the countryside because of few jobs, poor services and failed harvests (push factors), and move to cities for jobs, schools and hospitals (pull factors).
- A **megacity** has more than 10 million people, such as Tokyo, Delhi or Lagos.

Problems in growing cities

- Many new arrivals live in **squatter settlements** (slums), such as the favelas of Brazil: homes built illegally from scrap materials, often without clean water, sanitation or electricity.
- Many people work in the **informal sector**, such as street selling, with no contracts or taxes.
- Growing cities face traffic congestion, air pollution and pressure on water and waste services.

Cities in richer countries

- A typical city has a central business district (CBD) of shops and offices, an inner city of older housing and industry, **suburbs**, and a rural-urban fringe at the edge.
- **Counter-urbanisation** is when people move out of cities to smaller towns and the countryside.
- Regeneration improves run-down areas. Building on **brownfield sites** (land used before) protects **greenfield sites** (land never built on).
- Sustainable cities have good public transport, cycle lanes, green spaces, renewable energy and recycling.

Key terms

Urbanisation	The increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities.
Rural-urban migration	People moving from the countryside to cities.
Megacity	A city with more than 10 million people.
Squatter settlement	An area of poor housing built illegally on land people don't own.
Informal sector	Jobs that aren't officially recorded or taxed.
CBD	The central business district, with shops and offices.
Suburbs	Residential areas towards the edge of a city.
Counter-urbanisation	People moving out of cities to the countryside.
Brownfield site	Land that has been built on before.
Greenfield site	Land that has never been built on.
Sustainable city	A city that meets people's needs without harming the environment for the future.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What is urbanisation?
2. About what proportion of the world's people live in urban areas today?
3. What is a megacity?
4. What is rural-urban migration?
5. What is a squatter settlement?
6. What are the favelas?
7. What is the CBD?
8. What is counter-urbanisation?

Answers

1. The increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities
2. Over half
3. A city with more than 10 million people
4. People moving from the countryside to cities
5. An area of poor-quality housing built illegally on land people don't own
6. Squatter settlements in Brazilian cities
7. The central business district, with shops and offices
8. People moving out of cities to the countryside

What to do next

Practise 12 questions on this topic

Your notes

Try 4 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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