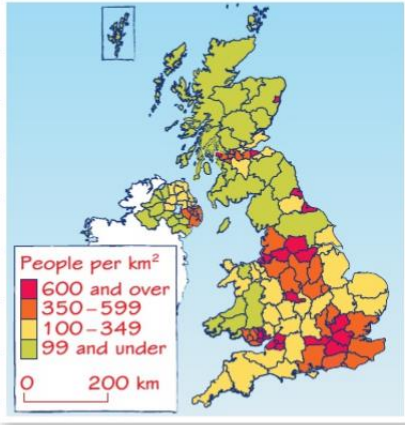


# Urban and rural UK

You need to know some key differences between urban core and rural places and how UK and EU government policies have attempted to reduce these differences.

## UK population density



### Definitions

**Rural settlements** – in the UK, settlements with fewer than 10 000 inhabitants (fewer than 3 000 in Scotland)

**Conurbation** – when a city has expanded outwards and absorbed smaller settlements that used to be separate

**Urban core** – the central part of a conurbation: high population density

**Urban fringe** – the settlement areas around the edge of the urban core: lower density

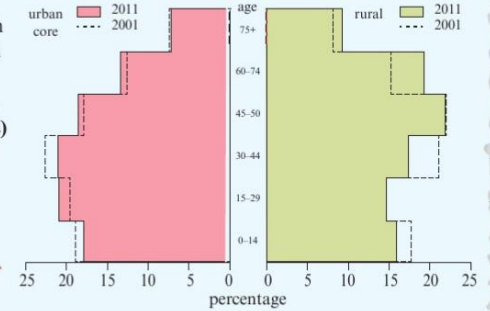
**Population density** – the number of people per square kilometre

## Worked example

Study the population structure diagram opposite, which shows the age structure of UK urban and rural areas in 2001 and 2011.

Explain **two** reasons why the rural population structure has changed between 2001 and 2011. (4 marks)

People who work in cities often move to rural areas when they retire because of rural area attractions: quieter, less congested, natural. Younger people who grow up in rural areas tend to move to urban areas because of wider job opportunities, higher pay, better services.



## Economic differences

- There are more people working in the primary sector in rural areas: agriculture, forestry and fishing.
- Many of the people who live in rural areas work in urban areas.
- Rural settlements have lower average wages than urban cores.

## UK and EU policies

Policies to reduce economic differences between urban and rural places include:

- The EU's European Regional Development Fund – £2.6 billion (England). The EU invests in businesses in poorer regions to help them grow.
- Enterprise Zones – tax cuts to attract businesses to specific regions, plus superfast broadband.

## Now try this

The average hourly pay in Wales in 2011 was £9.10 while in London it was £17.00.

Describe **two** ways in which the UK government aims to reduce regional differences like this within the UK.

(2 marks)

### Population density is highest in urban cores

1. Population density is highest in cities like London, Glasgow and Birmingham. It is also high around major cities, or where cities have developed into conurbations-towns that have merged to form continuous urban areas.
2. Upland areas such as northern Scotland and central Wales are mainly rural. Rural areas are sparsely populated. Other rural areas include the south west and the north of England and Northern Ireland.

### Urban cores have more economic activity

1. 60% of jobs are found in the urban core. The main employment opportunities are in the tertiary sector e.g. retail and finance, and in manufacturing e.g. electronics and food and drink. Lots of people live in cities because there are more jobs available.

### Urban cores have a younger population

1. There is a higher proportion of younger people living in cities such as London, Bristol and Manchester. A high proportion of the people are of working age or are 'economically active'.
2. There is a higher proportion of older people in rural areas such as Northern Ireland and Scotland. Younger people leave rural areas to find better opportunities in urban areas, whereas, older people retire and eventually leave urban areas to move to rural areas for a more peaceful life.

### Some rural areas in the UK have high levels of poverty.

1. Isolated rural areas of the periphery (edge) of the UK e.g. north Wales and North West Scotland, which are relatively inaccessible. There are few employment opportunities because they are difficult to farm and have few natural resources. Young people have to leave to find jobs elsewhere – depopulation leads to loss of services e.g. shops and doctors surgeries. Loss of manufacturing e.g. in the north east of England caused high unemployment.

# The UK and migration

You need to know about migration numbers, distribution and age structure, and ways that immigration has increased ethnic and cultural diversity.

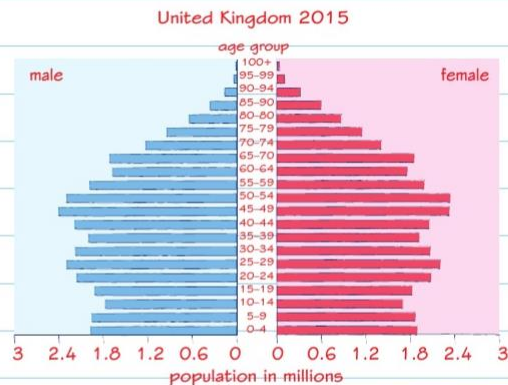
## International migration to the UK

Immigration has increased over the last 50 years.

- ✓ In 1961, 3 per cent of people living in the UK were born in another country.
- ✓ In 2015, 13 per cent of UK residents were born in another country.
- ✓ In 2015, 8 million people born outside the UK lived here.
- ✓ In 2015, UK net immigration (the difference between those immigrating and those emigrating) was estimated at 336 000.

## Immigration and age structure

Most immigrants are young and therefore more likely to have children. This influences UK age structure.



## Immigration policy

- Current (2016) UK government policy is to reduce the level of net migration to 100 000 people per year.
- However, while the UK is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA), the government cannot restrict the movement of EEA citizens to the UK.
- This means the UK's policy is to make immigration by non-EU people more difficult.

Immigrants come from many different EU and non-EU countries: the top five are India, Poland, Pakistan, Ireland and Germany. London was the most popular destination for immigrants to the UK in 2012. Northern Ireland was the only UK region with more emigrants than immigrants.

## Now try this

Explain **one** way in which European policy on immigration influences cultural and ethnic diversity in the UK. (2 marks)

- In 2014, 25 per cent of people living in Inner London were aged 25 to 34 compared with 13 per cent in the rest of England.
- 27 per cent of births in the UK in 2014 were to mothers born outside the UK.

## Worked example

Study the age structure diagram for the UK in 2015 above.

Describe **two** ways in which immigration influences age structure. (2 marks)

Immigrants are usually young – in their 20s. This means immigrants can increase the number of 20 to 30-year-olds in a population structure.

This age is when most people have families, so immigration also tends to increase the number of babies and young children in a population.

Two clear points that correctly describe two influences.

## Migration influences the age structure and distribution of people in the UK.

1. Roughly half of the UK's population growth is driven by 'natural increase' (more births than deaths) and about half by migration.
2. Between 1970 and 1982 more people left the UK than moved to the UK. There has been a constant flow of British people leaving the UK since 1970 – mostly to Australia, the USA, France and Spain.
3. Overall since 1983 more people have moved to the UK than have left and net migration has been increasing – Net migration has more than doubled in the last two years.
4. National and international migration can affect the distribution and age structure of the population.

**Distribution:** Young migrants move to major cities for jobs and universities. E.g. London and Birmingham. There has been lots of counter-urbanisation as wealthy people move out of cities to seek a better quality of life in rural areas. Many older people move to coastal areas in the East and south west of England when they retire.

**Age structure** – The large number of young migrants (20-29) increases the population in this age group. Migration also affects the age structure of the UK by increasing the birth rate, because many migrants are of child-bearing age. Immigrants make up about 13% of the UK population, but account for 27% of babies being born.

## The UK immigration policy has increased diversity

After WW2 the UK encouraged migration from countries such as the Caribbean, India and Pakistan to fill job shortages. Later entry was restricted but work permits for migrants with desirable skills were made available. This means that the UK has a high proportion of Caribbean and Asian ethnicity – nearly 10%. This is much higher in some regions e.g. 29% of the population of Leicester are of Indian heritage. Since 1995 the EU has allowed free movement of people e.g. from places like Europe and Germany.

In 2004 new countries joined the EU and lots of people moved from countries like Poland and Hungary. Between Polish people are now one of the largest non-UK born groups. New languages, food, arts, festivals and fashions give the UK a diverse mix.



# Economic changes

Some regions of the UK that depended on primary and secondary sectors have now become successful tertiary centres, while other regions have not. You need to know about the differences in contrasting UK regions, for example north-east and south-east England.

There has been a big growth in the importance of tertiary and quaternary industry in the UK in the last 50 years.



## The decline of the coal industry

In 2015 the last deep coal mine in the UK was closed. Although coal is still an important fuel in the UK, it is much cheaper to import it from other countries than use coal mined in the UK.

Some regions in the UK, such as the North East and South Wales, had a long history of coal mining. Whole communities depended on coal mining for work.

Where pits have closed down, new service industries have grown up, such as warehousing. However, wages in these industries are much lower than the coal miners had been able to earn previously.



Miners at Kellingley Colliery in December 2015 as the pit – the last UK deep coal mine – was closed.

## Worked example

Study the fact file about the London Docklands.

Explain **one** reason why London has been able to deal with the decline in secondary industry.

(2 marks)

London was already a global financial centre as well as an important manufacturing city. When secondary sector employment declined, London's population declined too. Government investment (£1.8 billion) to encourage the redevelopment of the London Docklands allowed the financial industry (tertiary sector) to expand and create new jobs.

### Fact file: London Docklands

- In the 1930s, the London docks were the world's largest. Products came to London from all over the British Empire.
- Global trade moved to container ships: these ships were too big for London docks.
- Between 1951 and 1981, 100 000 jobs dropped to just 27 000 in the Docklands.
- Jobs in manufacturing declined by 80 per cent in London after 1960 as manufacturing moved out of London and then abroad.
- In 1981, the government invested £1.8 billion on regenerating the Docklands.
- There was high demand for new offices. 100 000 new jobs were created in financial services and business services.

This answer uses relevant detail (e.g. £1.8 billion) to enhance the reason given.

## Now try this

Describe **two** reasons why the number of people employed in the primary sector has declined in the UK. (2 marks)

## UK and EU government policies aim to reduce differences in wealth

1. **Creating Enterprise Zones** – The UK government has created 55 enterprise zones across England, Scotland and Wales. These offer companies a range of benefits including reduced taxes, simpler planning rules, and improved infrastructure e.g. superfast broadband. These measures can be used to encourage companies to locate in areas of high unemployment, bringing jobs and income which could help rural areas develop. For example the new Dorset Green Enterprise Zone already has two high tech engineering companies and hopes to attract 55 more businesses, creating 2000 new jobs in the region.

2. **Transport Infrastructure** – The UK government plans to link London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester with a new high-speed rail line, HS2. This will increase capacity and allow faster journeys into major cities – promoting industry and jobs in poorer rural areas in the north of England. On a local scale Lancashire county council has built a new road to link the port to the M6. This will encourage businesses to invest by reducing travel times and easing congestion, creating more job opportunities for people in surrounding areas.

3. **Regional Development** – The EU has used the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to promote growth in poorer rural areas by investing in small high-tech businesses, providing training to improve local people's skills and funding infrastructure, e.g. high-speed broadband to attract businesses. For examples, the EU funded superfast broadband in Cornwall. This attracts digital businesses, such as Gravitas and links regeneration projects and new research and development centres in the region. This is creating skilled jobs in the area, attracting young graduates and boosting the local economy. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is an EU initiative to make sure EU farmers can earn a living. It includes training and subsidies for rural diversification projects e.g. farm shops. In 2016 the UK voted to leave the EU which means plans for future regional development are uncertain.







# City challenges and opportunities



As the city changes it creates different challenges and opportunities – for example, regeneration of deindustrialised inner city areas.

## Decline and decentralisation

In the second half of the 20th century, many UK cities went into decline: losing population. This was because of **deindustrialisation** – industries moving out of cities to cheaper locations.

**Decentralisation** also occurred. Land was cheaper and more space was available in the suburbs, so out-of-town shopping centres and business parks developed away from the urban core.

## Worked example

Study the OS 1:25 000 map extract below, which includes the Birmingham Business Park. Identify **two** opportunities that this city location offers for a business park development. **(2 marks)**  
 This location on the urban-rural fringe has excellent transport links (a motorway and major roads) and plenty of flat land for business park expansion.



Ordnance Survey Maps, © Crown copyright 2016, OS 100030901 and supplied by courtesy of Maps International

Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre (NEC) brings £2 billion to the regional economy each year.

## Economic and population growth

Growth in cities occurs because economic opportunities attract people to live and work in city areas.

- **Sprawl on the rural-urban fringe** is driven by demand for housing, especially more expensive housing with a rural character.
- While manufacturing industry has declined in cities, **financial and business services** have expanded to replace lost jobs in the CBD and inner city. Globalisation means finance TNCs locate in major UK CBDs.
- **Gentrification** occurs when wealthier people move into deprived city areas where property is cheap. As these areas get more investment, poor residents are pushed out as rents and house prices rise.
- **Studentification** occurs in cities with universities when large numbers of young people become residents in student accommodation or other houses and flats. This can mean changes to land use with the construction of university accommodation blocks, and also social and cultural changes resulting from areas of the city becoming dominated by students.
- **Culture and leisure:** city authorities and private investors have built landmark cultural buildings and leisure facilities in city centres and on city outskirts.



The Selfridges Building in Birmingham's CBD is a city landmark that gives Birmingham a modern, exciting image. This encourages more investment in the city.

## Now try this

Identify **one** example for your case study city of decentralisation or one example of growth/expansion. **(1 mark)**  
 Can you find these two examples on OS maps of your city?

# Improving city life



There are different strategies that can improve ways of life in a city. Regeneration schemes can redevelop deprived areas, while environmental initiatives can improve quality of life.

## Positive impacts of regeneration

- 👍 New job opportunities in the area.
- 👍 Residents have better access to services – new retail outlets, cinemas, leisure services.
- 👍 Derelict buildings get repurposed or rebuilt.

## Negative impacts of regeneration

- 👎 The area becomes too expensive for poorer residents to live in.
- 👎 New jobs may be low-paid service jobs – bar work, café work – not higher-wage skilled jobs.
- 👎 Regeneration strategies have been similar in many UK cities; cities lose individuality.

## Affordable housing

City authorities run **affordable housing** schemes.

- Property developers must include a set number of affordable homes when they are building new housing estates.
- Landlords who rent property also work with the city authorities to make low-rent housing available to poorer people.
- City authorities provide support to help people find affordable housing.

Sustainable cities are more pleasant places to live in: greener, less polluted, easier to get around in and less expensive to live in.

## Use brownfield sites for development to:

- improve appearance of these areas
- create new green spaces in the city.

## Reduce waste by:

- recycling – 90% of household waste is recyclable
- reusing, e.g. bottles, plastic bags, etc.

## Renovate old buildings to:

- enhance the appeal of the area
- improve energy efficiency.

## Ways to make urban living in the UK more sustainable

## New housing that is:

- affordable to rent or buy
- energy efficient.

## Improve public transport systems by:

- linking bus, tram and rail routes
- providing feeder services to housing estates
- using environmentally friendly vehicles.

## Involve communities in local decision making:

- consult local people instead of imposing plans
- put people first; ask for and act on their ideas
- foster the growth of a community spirit.

## Worked example

Explain two ways in which quality of life in urban areas can be improved. **(4 marks)**  
 Investing in public transport, introducing congestion charging and pedestrianising shopping streets significantly improves urban quality of life.  
 Encouraging developers to include entertainment facilities like theatres and restaurants in new CBD retail developments improves quality of life because it means these areas are used at night as well as in the day.

## Now try this

Describe **two** examples from your case study city of how quality of life has been improved. **(3 marks)**



# The city and rural areas



The city and the rural areas around it (accessible rural areas) are linked together so that changes in the city affect the rural areas too.

There are flows between rural and urban areas.

## migration

rural-urban: for jobs, lifestyle, education  
urban-rural: for quality of life (commuters)

## services

rural residents use urban hospitals, universities  
urban residents use rural areas for recreation

## goods

rural residents get consumer goods from cities  
urban residents get food from rural areas

money flows between urban and rural areas  
people flow between urban and rural areas

The relationship between urban areas and accessible rural areas has costs and benefits.

👉 **Economic:** people living in rural areas but working in the city can get higher wages.

👉 **Social:** people in accessible rural areas can access urban centralised services, like hospitals.

👉 **Environmental:** urban residents can access pleasant rural landscapes for recreation.

👉 **Economic:** urban decentralisation as developments move to the rural-urban fringe.

👉 **Social:** rural locations become too expensive for local young people to buy homes.

👉 **Environmental:** development of greenfield sites makes rural areas more urban.

## Commuter villages

richer newcomers and poorer locals  
many young families  
many older people who have retired from the city

**Features of an expanding commuter village**

You need to know why a rural area has experienced economic and social changes.

**Pressure on housing.** People moving from the city can afford to pay more for houses. This pushes up house prices so that there is less housing available that local people can afford.

**Population change.** Young people move from rural areas to the city; older people move from the city to rural areas.

**Change in services.** There has been a growth in recreation and leisure services in rural settlements but fewer people are going into farming jobs. Rural services like banks, post offices, pubs and shops have closed in many villages.

**Commuter lifestyles.** Because commuters leave early and get back late, commuter villages can seem empty during the week, only to become congested again at the weekends.

## Worked example

Explain **two** ways in which cities and their surrounding rural areas are interdependent. (4 marks)

Cities that use renewable energy can be dependent on rural areas for power – for example, from wind farms or bioenergy.

Rural areas depend on cities for financial services like banks: they might have local cashpoints, but the banks that run them are in cities.

## Now try this

For the rural area you have studied for your case study, describe **three** ways in which changes in the city have caused changes in the rural area. (3 marks)

## The UK Economy - Overview

### Primary and secondary industries have declined –

- Since 1960 jobs in primary industries have decreased. Farming has become more mechanised so fewer people are needed. The mining industry also declined due to competition from abroad and cheaper alternative fuels.
- Jobs in secondary industries have also decreased – people employed in manufacturing fell from 36% of the workforce in 1961 to just 9% in 2011. This was due to globalisation.
- Employment in the service sector (retail, banking, healthcare and education) has increased. Retail is the UK's largest sector employing 2.9 million people. People have more disposable income to spend. Finance is also an important part of the economy particularly in London.
- Quaternary industries e.g. ICT and research and development (R&D) are increasing, making use of the UK's skilled university graduates.

### Exam style questions:

1. Which areas of the UK have a high population density?
2. Describe the main economic activities in rural areas.
3. Describe the difference in age structure between urban cores and rural areas.
4. What is an enterprise zone?
5. Give two ways that transport infrastructure can reduce differences in wealth in urban and rural areas.
6. Name one of the main countries that people from the UK emigrate to.
7. 'The UK has positive net migration' what does this mean?
8. Give two ways that national migration affects the distribution of population in the UK.
9. How does international migration affect the age structure of the UK?
10. Give two examples of the UK immigration policy.
11. Describe how the proportion of people employed in the secondary sector in the UK has changed since 1960.
12. Describe two other changes to the employment structure of the UK over the last 50 years.
13. Describe the land use in the inner city of a city you have studied.
14. Describe the variations in environmental quality in Birmingham.
15. What is gentrification?



# Investigating dynamic urban areas: techniques and methods

You will have used several different fieldwork techniques and methods in your investigation. You need to know what these techniques and methods are appropriate for, and what things to watch out for when using them to avoid making errors in the field.

## Worked examples

Explain **one** reason why the method you used to measure environmental quality in the urban area you studied was appropriate to the task. (2 marks)  
Name of method used: An environmental quality survey

It was appropriate because using the same survey questions between sites allowed me to make meaningful comparisons.

You have used census data in your investigation. Explain **one** way using census data supported your investigation. (2 marks)

The census data gave us information such as the percentage unemployed in each ward, and the percentage with no qualifications or with degree level qualifications. Using this information helped us select wards with contrasting socio-economic profiles to include in our investigation.

Explain **one** possible source of error when you collected data on perceptions of quality of life. (2 marks)

One possible source of error was my sampling strategy. I find it easier to talk to people who are about the same age as me so I didn't ask many older people to do the survey questionnaire. So the sample would be biased toward the perceptions of younger people and was therefore not 100% representative.

For the exam you need to know about:

- one **qualitative** fieldwork method to collect data on the views and perceptions of quality of life. Qualitative methods record descriptive data such as how people feel.
- one **quantitative** fieldwork method to collect data on environmental quality. Quantitative methods record data that can be measured as numbers.
- you need to be able to **say** why the method that you used was appropriate: there isn't just one correct method.

For the exam you need to know about two secondary data sources:

- census data such as the **Office for National Statistics** Neighbourhood Statistics
  - one other source, which your teacher is likely to suggest for you.
- Secondary data are data someone else has already collected. It will be useful for you to know about the different ways in which secondary data sources supported your investigation, and also about any particular advantages and disadvantages of your secondary data sources.

You may be asked questions that require you to reflect on the methods you used and consider any ways in which problems could have occurred. For the exam, it will be useful to revise possible disadvantages of your urban fieldwork methods.

## Now try this

One indicator of urban quality of life is 'burglability' – how secure an area is. Name **three** things you would look for in an urban area to measure 'burglability'. (3 marks)



# Investigating dynamic urban areas: working with data

You need to know about ways to process and present fieldwork data, how to analyse it and how to make conclusions and summaries backed up by evidence from the data.

## Worked example



A student investigated variations in environmental quality in different urban locations. She presented her data using a radar graph, one graph for each location. Explain **one** advantage of using a radar graph to present these data. (2 marks)

An advantage of a radar graph is that it can display data on several different variables so it is a good way to compare the different characteristics of an area.

The exam may ask questions about how the presentation of fieldwork data could be improved. Use your knowledge of what the advantages and disadvantages are of different types of data presentation.

## Data presentation advantages

This is a list of the top five disadvantages. You might be able to think of others, too.

- 1 Isopleth maps: ideal for showing gradual change over an area.
- 2 Proportional symbols map: very accessible and easy to understand.
- 3 Kite diagrams: show changes over distance (e.g. transect data).
- 4 Dot maps: give a clear indication of differences in density for a geographic distribution (e.g. tourist signage).
- 5 Flow maps: show direction and volume of movement (e.g. for vehicle counts).

This answer has correctly identified one advantage of radar graphs.

## Using GIS (geographical information system)

Advantages of using GIS (if available):

- Great for showing spatial changes
- Different options and tools help with data analysis
- Can speed up data presentation

## Now try this

The student who used the radar graphs to present her data on environmental quality used a separate radar graph for each of the five sites in her survey. Suggest **one** disadvantage of her presenting her data this way. (1 mark)

## Familiar and unfamiliar

Some of the questions in the fieldwork sections of your Geographical investigations (Paper 2) exam will ask about the fieldwork that you did.

Questions for this 'familiar' fieldwork will ask things like: 'Explain one reason why the method you used...'

Other questions will be about fieldwork that is unfamiliar to you. Here you need to apply what you know to fieldwork done by other people. These questions will often start by saying what 'A group of students' did in their fieldwork.