GCSE GEOGRAPHY (9-1) – URBAN CHALLENGES – URBAN TRENDS & RIO - KNOWLEDGE NAVIGATOR

Urban Trends

- Over half of the world's population now lives in cities. This is called urbanisation.
- The world's largest cities with 10 million people or more is a megacity.
- There are 20 megacities and in 1975 there were only 4.
- London is not expected to become a megacity until 2030.
- The highest rates of urbanisation are in LIC's due to rural-urban migration
- Urban areas in HIC's not growing – already industrialised and urban areas established. Not much rural-urban migration.

Factors Affect Population Growth

- When the birth rate is higher than the death rate the population grows (this is natural increase)

Factors Affect Urbanisation

- Rural-urban migration in search of jobs
- Cities are growing economically

Rio-De Janerio (NEE)

Location and importance

Rio de Janeiro is situated on Brazil's Atlantic coast.

Rio De Janeiro was once the capital of Brazil and is home to12.5 million in the surrounding. Rio has grown rapidly in the last 50 years to become a major industrial, administrative, commercial and tourist centre. These economic activities have attracted many migrants from Brazil and other countries to swell the population of the city. These migrants have contributed to Rio's continuing economic development. As a result, Rio has a racially mixed population. Migrants have come to Rio from many different places. From other parts of Brazil such as the Amazon Basin

Opportunities in Rio

Economic opportunities

jobs available in: Financial sector, Port facilities, retail (shops) industrial areas, oil related industries.

The city now provides more than 6 per cent of all employment in Brazil. Rio has one of the highest incomes per head in the country.

Social opportunities

Jobs, Housing, Access to education and healthcare services. Access to services and a much easier life than living on a farm in rural areas.

Challenges in Rio De Janeiro

Economic challenges (in the favelas)

High unemployment rates, high numbers of jobs in the informal economy, About one-third of Rio's 3.5 million workers don't have a formal employment contract, and many are without any insurance cover or unemployment benefit.

Social challenges (in the favela's)

Services & construction: Around 12% of home have no running water, 30% have no electricity, 50% have no sewage connections. Houses are poorly constructed from basic materials, limited road access into the favelas, many houses built on steep slopes are at risk from landslides.

Health: Infant mortality rates are as high as 50 per 1000. Waste cannot be disposed of and builds up in the street, increasing the danger of disease. Burning rubbish often sets fire to the wooden houses. Smoke is harmful to health.

Crime: There is a high murder rate of 20 per 1000 people in many favelas. Drug gangs dominate many favelas. Many inhabitants distrust the police because of violence and corruption.

Environmental challenges

Water pollution: many of the 55 rivers flowing into the bay are heavily polluted. Rivers are polluted by run off from open sewers in the favelas Over 200 tonnes of raw sewage pours into the bay each day. over 50 tonnes of industrial waste enters the bay each day there have been oil spills from the Petrobras oil refinery. Ships empty their fuel tanks in the bay.

Air pollution: Heavy traffic and congestion on roads causes air pollution. Fumes and pollutants from factory chimneys pollute the air.

Traffic: Steep mountains – roads can only be built on coastal lowland. Main transport routes become very congested. Tunnels through the mountains are needed to connect different areas of the city. The number of cars in Rio has grown by over 40 per cent in the last decade. High crime levels mean that many people prefer to travel by car.

Waste pollution: The worst waste problems are in the favelas. Many are built on steep slopes and have few proper roads, making access difficult for waste collection lorries. Most waste is therefore dumped and pollutes the water system. This causes diseases like cholera and encourages rats.

Rio Urban Planning (NEE) –improving an urban area in an NEE - The Favela Barrio Project

Favela barrio project

Site and service scheme, local authority provides land and services for residents to build homes.

Improvements made:

Paved and formally named Roads. Access to a water supply and drainage system to improve sanitation. Hillsides secured to prevent landslides, or people relocated. Building of new health, leisure & education facilities.

Installation of a cable car system. Access to credit to buy materials to improve their homes 100 per cent mortgages available for people to buy their homes A Pacifying Police Unit (UPP) set up, with police patrolling the community to help reduce crime

Has the Favela Bairro Project been a success or failure?
Yes, quality of life, mobility & employment prospects have improved. Recognised as a model by the UN and been used in other Brazilian cities.
However, it has not been a complete success, and there are still problems: The budget of US$1 billion may not cover every favela. The newly-built infrastructure is not being maintained. Residents lack the skills and resources to make repairs. More training is needed to improve literacy and employment. Rents rise in the improved favelas and the poorest inhabitants are even worse off.

The Olympics in Rio – improving parts of Rio

Advantages:

Areas of the favelas were cleared and people were rehomed in a new town - Campo Grande

Improved services

New facilities and infrastructure

Businesses benefited sue to increased revenue

Disadvantages:

Some people that were moved to the new homes felt that the new houses lacked a community feel

Campo Grande is too far from the city

The environment was not improved in preparation for the Olympics and Guanabaro bay is still heavily polluted

Parts of a city

Rural-urban fringe

Suburbs

Inner city

Central Business District (CBD)

Where people live in the UK

Upland regions such as the north of Scotland are sparsely-populated they are difficult to farm and have few natural resources.

Coastal areas attracted human settlement — especially where there are sheltered bays and river estuaries for building harbours.

London is the UK's biggest city over 8.6 million people.

Most urban areas developed in lowland area, easy to build on and have a milder climate than upland areas.