

Urban Change in London

Where is London?	South East England on the banks of the river Thames. Ships used the Thames as a port before they became too big.	
Why is London important?	London was an important dock and centre of trade. Manufacturing industries developed. London is the main UK transport hub with two large airports which give it global connections. It's the capital city and the wealthiest city by far. It is a well know global hub city as one of the most important financial centres in the world along with New York. It has many international headquarters, media networks, universities, legal and medical facilities and a centre for culture and entertainments.	
Reasons for the change:	The south east is the fastest growing part of he UK with a population over 8.5 million. The population as many young graduates who move to London for work in their 20s and 30s. Migrants are also attracted to London due to its global connections. As the population is young it also has a high natural increase. London is very ethnically diverse and so has rich cultural opportunities.	
	Opportunities	Challenges
	<p>Shoreditch has developed as a centre for culture with bars, restaurants and art galleries now filling the old factories.</p> <p>Hi tech companies have located at silicone roundabout.</p> <p>There are many jobs in creative industries such as web design, film making and art.</p> <p>Regeneration of the docks and creation of Canary Wharf has led to private investment and creation of many jobs in finance. The area is home to the headquarters of many banks. This also helped improve brown field sites in the city.</p> <p>London has a well-integrated transport system and improvements such as Cross-rail are planned which will half some journey times.</p> <p>London is one of the world's greenest cities 47% is green space. Park such as Hyde Park are popular.</p> <p>Urban Greening is a big project to make London greener and cleaner.</p> <p>New cycle superhighways are planned to reduce congestion and improve air quality in the city.</p> <p>Recycling is improving with a target of zero landfill by 2020.</p>	<p>Gentrification has happened so property prices have risen and older residents have been forced out of Shoreditch. A flat may cost around £330 per week.</p> <p>Traditional manufacturing jobs have gone into decline and many people have been forced out of the Docklands area.</p> <p>There is a lot of inequality and deprivation. Life expectancy between west and east is 12 years younger.</p> <p>Areas such as Newham have very high unemployment at 9.4%.</p> <p>2 million people live in poverty lacking the things essential for a decent life.</p> <p>There is a severe housing shortage and so house prices are very high and increasing.</p> <p>Urban sprawl is causing us to build on green field sites a green belt has had to be put in place.</p> <p>London has worse pollution than most other European cities and often has lower air quality than is recommended.</p> <p>Almost a quarter of London's waste goes into landfill.</p>
	<p>Urban Regeneration of the Olympic Park:</p> <p>It was an old industrial brown field site with lots of unused, polluted, derelict land. There was already an International station in the area. There was a large area of available land which was bought under one owner, some businesses and homes were forced to move. There was a very diverse population in the area and so it was seen as a good are to host guests from around the world. London spent £9.3 billion of public money.</p>	
Why it was needed?	<p>Old factories closed down leading to unemployment.</p> <p>Derelict land and overgrown sites</p> <p>Contaminated soil and polluted waterways.</p> <p>However many of the new jobs and facilities created have been criticised as not being suited to the original population and forcing the original residents out.</p>	<p>Features of the project:</p> <p>Stunning new sports venues</p> <p>Landscaped park with tourist attractions and natural habitats.</p> <p>Athletes village converted into a residential community, with 2,800 homes</p> <p>Cleaned soils and water ways.</p> <p>Creative media centre with 5,000 jobs.</p> <p>High rise offices to employ 25,000 people</p>

