Key Terms: Urban Issues & Challenges

Global Urban Trends

Urbanisation: Increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas.
HICs: High-income countries, typically more urbanised.
LICs: Low-income countries, experiencing rapid urbanisation.
NEEs: Newly emerging economies with fast-growing cities.
Push Factors: Reasons people leave rural areas (e.g., lack of jobs, poor services).
Pull Factors: Reasons people move to urban areas (e.g., better jobs, healthcare).
Natural Increase: Population growth when birth rates exceed death rates.
Megacities: Urban areas with populations exceeding 10 million.

Urban Growth in LICs/NEEs

Social Opportunities: Access to services (e.g., education, healthcare) in cities.
Economic Opportunities: Job creation and economic growth in urban areas.
Slums: Poor, overcrowded urban settlements lacking basic services.
Squatter Settlements: Informal housing areas built without permission.
Sanitation Systems: Infrastructure for clean water and sewage disposal.
Urban Unemployment: Lack of jobs in fast-growing urban areas.
Urban Crime: Illegal activities in densely populated cities.
Environmental Challenges: Issues like waste disposal, air pollution, and traffic.
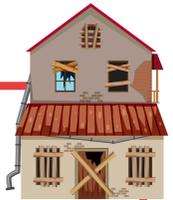**Urban Planning**: Designing urban areas to improve living conditions.

Urban Change in the UK

Urban Distribution: Pattern of cities and population density in the UK.
Cultural Mix: Diversity of ethnicities and cultures in cities.
Recreation: Leisure and entertainment facilities in urban areas.
Integrated Transport: Systems linking different modes of transport (e.g., buses, trains).
Urban Greening: Creating green spaces like parks and tree-lined streets.
Urban Deprivation: Lack of basic services and opportunities in some urban areas.
Brownfield Sites: Previously developed land, often derelict, suitable for regeneration.
Greenfield Sites: Undeveloped land, often used for new housing or industrial sites.
Urban Sprawl: Expansion of urban areas into surrounding rural land.
Rural–Urban Fringe: Boundary zone where urban and rural areas meet.
Commuter Settlements: Towns where people live but travel to cities for work.

Urban Regeneration and Sustainability

Urban Regeneration: Revitalising areas of a city to improve conditions.
Dereliction: Abandoned and deteriorating buildings or land.
Waste Recycling: Processing waste into reusable materials.
Water Conservation: Reducing water use and managing supply.
Energy Conservation: Efficient use of energy and renewable sources.
Green Spaces: Parks, gardens, and natural areas in cities.
Sustainable Urban Living: Meeting current urban needs without harming future generations.
Traffic Congestion: Overcrowding of vehicles causing delays and pollution.