

The UK in the 21st Century

UK Physical Characteristics

- Most mountains are located in the **North** and **West**, such as Wales and Scotland.
- These areas have **few roads** and **settlements** but beautiful scenery and are *sparsely populated*.
- **South** and **East** of the UK is **flat** with a few hilly areas.
- These areas are suited for **settlements, roads** and **railways** and are *densely populated*.
- Rivers flow from mountainous areas down to the sea.



UK Rainfall Patterns

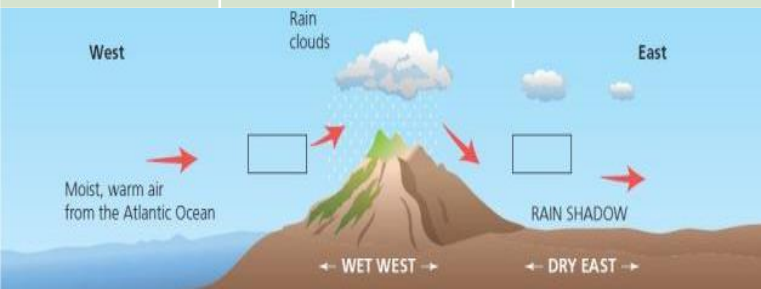
- Highest rainfall in the North and West; average rainfall is 2500mm.
- Lowest rainfall in the South and East; average rainfall 500 – 625mm.

UK Relief Rainfall

Most UK rainfall is caused by prevailing wind blowing from the South West.

Moist air reaches upland areas and is forced upwards. It cools and condenses to produce relief rainfall.

The other side of the upland area has little moisture. This is called the rain shadow.



Land use in the UK

Land use varies throughout the UK. However, our land is always changing. Nonetheless, the vast majority of the UK is farmland.

UK mountain areas (Scotland) have rough pastures and moorlands. The climate is harsh and soil is poor for crops.

Grasslands are found in the West. It is ideal for cattle and sheep because of the mild and wet climate.



Arable farmland dominates the South and East because of the warm, sunny and dry climate. Crops such as cereals and vegetables are found here.

Coniferous woodlands are found in Northern England, Wales and Scotland. These areas have poor soils and are very remote.

Urban areas are growing. This outward growth of sprawling urban developments is caused by population growth.

Grasses	52%
Arable	20%
Urban	14%
Forest	12%
Water	1%
Other	1%

UK Population Distribution

Low

Much of Northern Scotland is sparse due to a mountainous landscape and difficult climate.

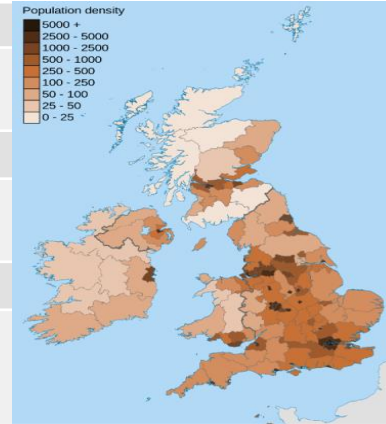
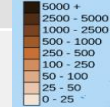
High

Rest of the UK because of the gentle hills, moderate climate and good transport routes.

Very High

Population is concentrated around the South East of England, in cities such as London, due to attractions of employment, shops and entertainment.

Population density



Water stress in the UK

Water stress is when areas have limited water supply.

Problems

- Most rainfall occurs in North and West but least rainfall in the South and East.
- South and East UK therefore have high demands.
- Demands involve domestic, industrial and agricultural uses.

Solutions

- Water can be transferred from the wetter West to drier East by pipelines or rivers.
- Construct new reservoirs in the East to capture/store more water.
- Greater water conservation.

Population in the UK



The UK population is 65 million and still rising. It is predicted to reach 70 million by 2030.

Reasons for growth

Future of growth

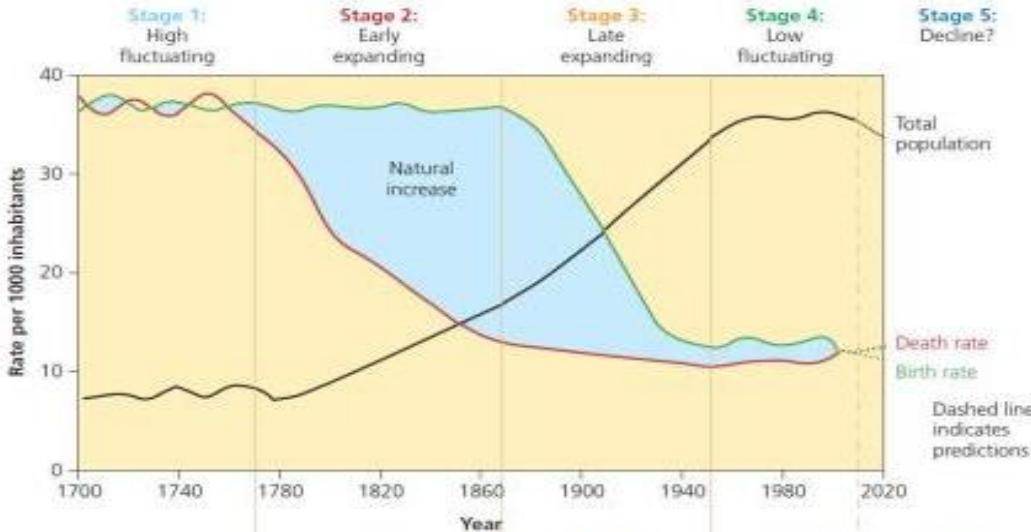
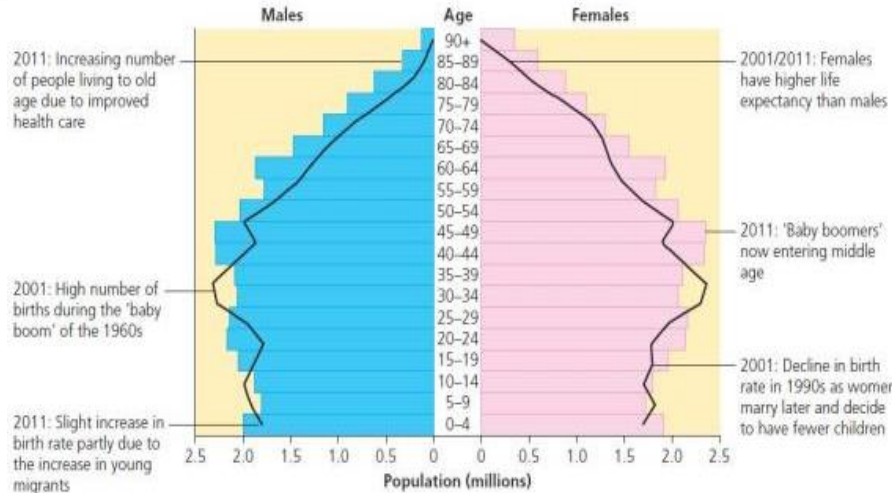
Natural increase – The difference between deaths and births.

Net migration – The difference between immigration to the UK and emigration from the UK.

Life expectancy – The average age someone will live up to.

The UK's population pyramid shows that the country's birth rate is fairly low and death rate is also low meaning there are more elderly people.

Population pyramids are useful to help plan for the future.



Factors affecting population density

Moderate climate.	Remote and poor communications.	Opportunities for work
A presence of raw materials.	Steep and mountainous.	Fertile and suitable for farming.
Poor quality of soil.	Plentiful supplies of water.	Flat land for farming.

UK Housing Shortage

Problem and Reasons

- The UK population is rising and therefore more houses are needed.
- UK needs to build 240,000 homes a year, but only half that are built.
- As a result, house prices are rising and becoming too expensive.
- Planning permission for new houses leads to local opposition.
- Green belt areas prevents urban areas becoming bigger.
- The price of lands keeps rising due to demand.

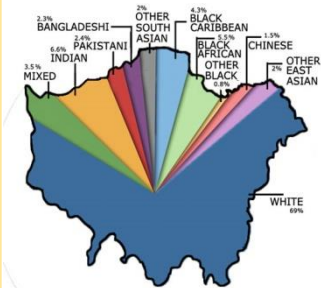
Demographic Transition Model (DTM)

As countries experience economic development they also go through stages of population transition. The DTM describes this change and shows the UK in stage 4.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Birth rates high and death rates fluctuates. |
| 2 | Birth rate high but death rate is falling rapidly. Natural change increases. |
| 3 | Birth rate and death rate falling rapidly. Natural change is rapid. |
| 4 | Birth rate and death rate is low and fluctuating. Little Natural changes. |
| 5 | Birth rate is falling and death rate is rising slightly. Natural change falls. |

Ethnic Diversity in the UK

- **13%** of the population in the UK where **born in another country**.
- In **London**, this value is about **37%**. This has increased between 2001 and the present day.
- The change was driven by an increase in **white non-British, Black African and Asian** people.



UK Ageing Population

Distribution of Ageing Population

Around 18% of the population are over 65. The distribution of older people is high in coastal areas, especially in East and South-West England. However, it is lower in Northern Ireland and Scotland and generally in big cities.

Causes

- Large number of people were born after the WW2 and are now moving into old age – Baby boomers.
- Improved healthcare and new treatments to prolong life.
- Greater awareness of the benefits of a good diet and exercise.

Effects

- Healthcare cost are very high and will increase with an increasing ageing population.
- Shortage of places in care homes, many of which are becoming increasingly expensive.
- Many older people join clubs and spend on travel therefore helping to boost the economy – the grey pound.

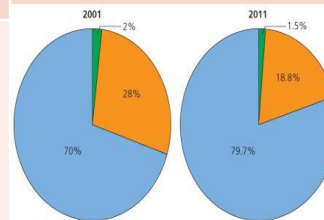
Response

- Government pension bonds to encourage older people to save money for the future.
- Pensioners receive support in care, transport and heating allowance to make life more comfortable.
- Allowing more immigration will provide the demand needed of a younger workforce needed for the economy.

UK Employment Sector

Key changes since 2001

- The quaternary (hi-tech) industry has increased, whilst secondary has decreased.
- Number of people employed in primary and tertiary industry has stayed steady.
- Big increase in professional and technical jobs.
- Employment in manufacturing has decreased the most due to cheaper labour costs abroad e.g. China



UK Working Hours

- In 2011 the average number of hours worked in the UK was 42.7.
- This figure is the 3rd highest figure within the EU.
- Fathers now work fewer hours to look after children.
- Number of mothers in fulltime work has increased.

UK's Changing Economy

- UK has one of the largest economies in the world.
- The last few decades, heavy manufacturing industries have declined due to competition from abroad.
- Now the UK is moving into the service industry such as finances, technology and media.

Political Changes

- Between 1997-2007, the UK economy grew strongly and unemployment decreased. This was due to increase investment in education and technology.
- In 2008 the UK entered a recession and unemployment increased. Recession ended in 2009, creating a strong focus for decreasing the national debt occurred in 2010 elections. An age of austerity has followed with cuts to public services including education and emergency services.

Manchester Population Change

Reasons for population growth in Manchester

- 1 – Net migration increases
 - 2 – Natural increase = more births than deaths leading to internal growth
- Regeneration efforts have transformed Manchester into a thriving place to live and work. More people travelling from other parts of the country to study and work in Manchester. Birth rate increased and the number of over 65s has bucked the national trend, failing to rise despite an ageing population nationally.

Ethnic make up of Manchester

In 2011:
 White is the largest with 86% nationally but 66% in Manchester
 Asian is the second largest with 8% nationally but 17% in Manchester
 Black is 3% nationally but 9% in Manchester
 Mixed/multiple ethnicities is 2% but 5% in Manchester
 Other ethnic groups is 1% nationally and 3% in Manchester

The UK's Role in the World

The UK may be a small island state, but it does play a significant role in the wider world. It is also part of several key international organisations.

NATO

A group of 28 countries who work militarily and politically to resolve conflict as a last resort.

UN

193 member states with the aim of maintaining peace and resolving issues. UK is part of the Security Council.

G7

Involves seven of the wealthiest Western countries to discuss relevant issues and come to economic agreements.

Case Study: Resolving Conflict in Somalia

Basic background

- On East coast of Africa on the Indian Ocean; often referred to as the 'Horn of Africa' due to its shape.
- Formed in 1960 having previously been controlled by UK and Italy; disputes with neighbouring countries;
- 1991 – Pres. Barre overthrown; country thrown into turmoil with rival warlords looking for control.
- Droughts and famines e.g. 2011-12 led to 0.5m deaths; tens of thousands of refugees;



UK involvement

- The UK, as part of a UN taskforce, sent troops in 1992, but withdrew 3 years later. Working with the government to address issues with food shortages; piracy; employment and healthcare; estimated cost is £500m for this programme
- Oxfam, Save the Children help to reduce poverty and improve women's rights

UK Media Exports



- The UK exports many different types of media products such as films (Skyfall), TV (Downton Abbey) and music and books.
- Exporting media is key to the UK economy as it employs 1.7 million people and generates £17 billion.
- Example: Harry Potter sold 400 million copies to 200 territories.

UK's Media's influences

- Most exports are in English, meaning it develops other's understanding of our language.
- Many people around the world copy fashion and styles seen in UK media.
- Can attract people to visit the UK.

Multicultural UK

The UK is a multicultural country due to many ethnic minorities moving here from India, Pakistan, Caribbean and parts of Africa. These groups have shared their culture and have influenced the UK in many ways.

Fashion



Many shops sell traditional clothing, which are then often Westernized e.g. Saris
Hair styles from other cultures.

Media



Many ethnic minorities have influenced music (i.e. dubstep) and television (i.e. Bollywood).

Food



Chinese = most popular takeaway and Tikka Masala the most popular takeaway meal (replacing Fish and chips)
Many supermarkets sell a great range of ingredients, ready made foods and sauces from other cultures- Success of Reggae Reggae foods.
Recent buzz around street food scene – West Indian; Vietnamese etc.
Range of 'international' restaurants e.g. Yo Sushi; Wagamama; Chiquito's
Manchester Rusholme 'Curry Mile' and Birmingham's 'Balti Triangle'.

Oxford Economic Hub

With a population of around 680,000, centred on the city of Oxford (the UK's 12th fastest growing city), the area is known for its world class universities and hi-tech industries.

Change over time

1920s- industry took off. The motor industry in particular established Oxford as a success – the Mini is still made here but Formula 1 is now dominant e.g. Williams Racing. Agricultural machinery and printing (Oxford University Press) were also popular.
Science, technology and research has become increasingly important to the region and with it science and business parks e.g. Harwell Campus.
New road networks and plans to build a link between A40 and A44 to ease congestion as growth continues.

Significance to the UK

Many hi-tech companies have global connections resulting in foreign investment and overseas visitors.
Area brings prestige to the country.
E.g. Oxford Instruments now a global company.
Knock-on effect and boost to local economy as jobs created led to more spending in retail and leisure (e.g. hotels and restaurants)