
Extra space:

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writing tips & tricks:

This is a theoretical question, but you need to include case studies or examples where appropriate. When answering this question, I'd first make sure to mention the key terms of 'counter-urbanisation', where you might witness it, and what socioeconomic changes might be observed.

Don't forget to follow the PEEL Structure.

1. I.E. A very short intro **EXPLAINING** the above key terms and stating your opinion. **You must have an opinion** or be capped to limited marks.

2. Follow up with opening paragraph on one side of the argument – make a point, explain, give brief evidence through the use of a named example, then **don't forget to link back** to the topic.

3. **Vice versa for 2nd paragraph** – arguing alternate point. They don't have to have equal weight if you agree one side of the argument strongly, but it is useful to show **a broad understanding of others' viewpoints**.

4. It is also crucial to be **concise** yet use a variety of **relevant terminology** and have a few lines concluding your answer.

In this conclusion, the best answers often may make a statement about the future, or a hypothesis as to what may be different in 20 or 30 years' time etc... it shows a broadness in your geographical understanding beyond the question's convention!

a-level exam questions & answers: contemporary urban environments (section c) >

mark scheme | 9-mark question #1

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Q.:	Sp. Ref.:	Information For Markers:	B'down:	Marks:
1)	3.2.3.1 3. 2.3.3 	<p>Assess the extent to which counter-urbanisation leads to social and economic change.</p> <p>AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of the process of counter urbanisation and social and economic issues associated with urbanisation.</p> <p>AO2 – Application of knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the link between the process of counter-urbanisation and social and economic change.</p> <p>Mark scheme</p> <p>Level 3 (7–9 marks) AO1 – Demonstrates detailed knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change. These underpin the response throughout. AO2 – Applies knowledge and understanding appropriately with detail. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are fully developed with complete relevance. Evaluation is detailed and well supported with appropriate evidence.</p> <p>Level 2 (4–6 marks) AO1 – Demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change. These are mostly relevant though there may be some minor inaccuracy. AO2 – Applies clear knowledge and understanding appropriately. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are evident with some relevance. Evaluation is evident and supported with clear and appropriate evidence.</p> <p>Level 1 (1–3 marks) AO1 – Demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change. This offers limited relevance with inaccuracy. AO2 – Applies limited knowledge and understanding. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are basic with limited relevance. Evaluation is basic and supported with limited appropriate evidence.</p> <p>Notes for answers</p> <p>The question links two aspects of the contemporary urban environments section of the specification, namely global patterns</p>	AO1=4 AO2=5	9

of urbanisation since 1945 and social and economic issues associated with urbanisation.

AO1

- Understanding of the process of counter-urbanisation, the migration of people from major urban areas to smaller urban settlements and rural areas.
- Factors that have led to the growth of counter-urbanisation such as the negative reaction to city life/nature of built environment in cities; car ownership and greater affluence allowing people to commute to work from such areas.
- Understanding of issues associated with economic inequality, social segregation and cultural diversity, and the factors that cause them.
- Evidence for counter-urbanisation, which may include modern housing estates, the construction of more executive housing in the area, often on newly designated building land, and conversions of former farm buildings to exclusive residences.

AO2

- Evaluation of the extent of social and demographic changes resulting from counter-urbanisation. Rising demand for second homes and earlier retirement into rural areas may result in the outmigration of young village-born adults seeking education and employment opportunities elsewhere. It may also lead to the immigration of young to middle-aged married couples or families with children or increased numbers of older residents and second home owners.
- Analysis of possible social outcomes, which may include tension between the newcomers and local people. Conflict may be caused by closure of local services, bus services to many rural communities may be reduced, and schools, churches and post offices may close. This may be because newcomers have the wealth and mobility to continue to use the urban services some distance away.
- Analysis of possible economic and social change in urban areas from which people move. Loss of population, especially higher income groups could lead to deterioration in urban environment. Area may decline as housing stock falls into disrepair, with resulting donut effect. Economic activities may follow, as loss may lead to closure of schools, health care provision. Positive impacts could also be described, such as reduction of housing pressure, reduced congestion. Changes in cultural/ethnic mix as new groups arrive.
- Evaluation of the effects of an influx of more affluent newcomers, which may lead to increased pressure on agricultural land for building and outward expansion of suburbanised villages which could result in increased land values and higher house prices. Locals may be unable to compete for housing, causing further tension and conflict.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extent of social change may depend on rate of expansion and development, changes to age structures and income groups and degree of disruption to existing communities. Allow consideration of benefits such as greater diversity in local communities.• Overall evaluation of the extent of economic change. This will depend on the degree to which local services are supported and whether employment patterns change. Improvements in technology such as the internet allow more freedom of location for employment, so local services may be supported. Newer residents may be professionals or retired people who have higher disposable income. Advantages might include benefits to companies who have the opportunity to locate their companies in edge-of-town shopping areas and business parks. However there is likely to be more commuting, which will increase journey time and congestion, with resulting economic impacts.		
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