

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. – Sparsely populated.
- South and east** of the UK is **flat** with a few hilly areas.
- These areas are suited for **settlements, roads and railways** – Densely populated.
- Rivers flow from mountainous areas down to the sea.



UK Rainfall Patterns

- Highest rainfall is in the north and west** where average rainfall is **2500mm**.
- Lowest rainfall is in the south and east** with average rainfall of **500 – 625mm**.

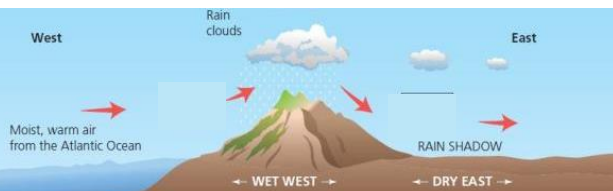


UK Relief Rainfall

Most UK rainfall is caused by **prevailing wind** blowing from the southwest.

When air carrying moisture reaches upland areas, it is **forced up** to produce **relief rainfall**.

The other side of the upland area has **little moisture**, this is called the **rain shadow**.



Water stress in the UK

Water stress is when areas have limited water supply.

Problems

- Most rainfall occurs in **North & West** but least rainfall in **South & East**.
- South & East UK therefore have **High demands**.
- Demands involve domestic, industrial & 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**.

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

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

Coniferous woodland are found in northern England, Wales and Scotland. There areas have poor soils and are remote.

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

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

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

Topic 7

UK in the 21st Century

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

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.

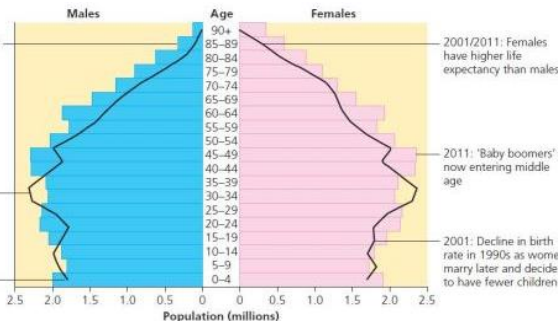
Future of growth

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.

2011: Increasing number of people living to old age due to improved health care

2001: High number of births during the 'baby boom' of the 1960s

2011: Slight increase in birth rate partly due to the increase in young migrants



2001/2011: Females have higher life expectancy than males

2011: 'Baby boomers' now entering middle age

2001: Decline in birth rate in 1990s as women marry later and decide to have fewer children

UK Population Distribution

Low

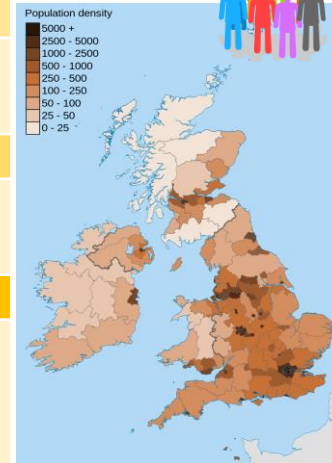
Much of Northern Scotland is **sparse** due to a **mountainous landscape** and **difficult climate**.

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**.



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.

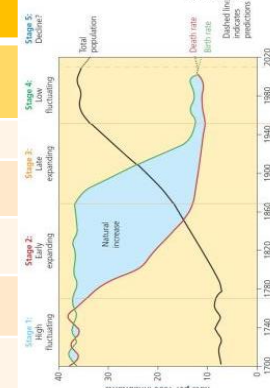
- Planning permission for new houses leads to **local opposition**.
- Green belt areas** prevents urban areas becoming bigger.
- The **price of lands keeps rising** due to demand.



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.

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



Ethnic Diversity in the UK

- **13%** of the UK population were **born in another country**.
- In **Bristol**, this value is **15%**. This has increased between 2001 and the present day.
- The change was driven by an increase in **white non-British (Polish)**, **Black African (Somalian)** and **Asian (Indian)** 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'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.

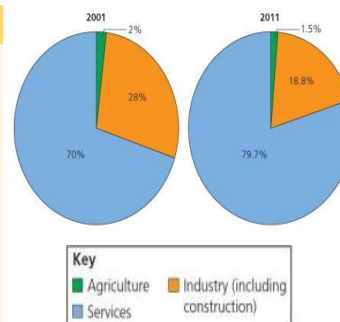
Political Changes

- Between **1997-2007**, the **UK economy grew strongly & unemployment decreased**. This was due to increase investment in **education & 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**.

UK Employment Sector

Key changes since 2001

- The **quaternary industry** has **increased**, whilst **secondary** has **decreased**.
- Number of people employed in **primary and tertiary industry** has **stayed the steady**.
- Big increase in **professional and technical jobs**.
- Employment in **manufacturing** has **decreased** the most due to **cheap labour abroad**.



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 Core Economic Hubs

An economic hub is a central point or area associated with economic success and innovation. Many of these economic hubs are located near universities. Below is a selection of economic hubs throughout the UK.

Belfast Titanic Quarter
Film studio, offices and education based on the old shipyard.

Salford
Media industry including BBC and ITV.
Manufacturing of chemicals.

Bristol
Creative and digital industries. Key services such as law and finance.



Aberdeen

Centre for the North Sea oil and gas industry, now developing as a research and development hub.

Silicon Glen

High-tech industries based in key Scottish cities. They focus on electronics and software.

Silicon Fen

High tech research hubs associated with Cambridge University.

Case Study: UK Economic Hub - Bristol

With a population of , Bristol is an economic hub for the UK, and has a global economic influence as well. It is a key location for high performance engineering, aerospace and digital technologies.

Change Over Time

- Key trade conducted through its **docklands have declined**.
- New investment in communication infrastructure and transport links.
- Bristol has become a **major science city** with key **scientific and technological industries** in Bristol Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone and Bristol and Bath Science Park.

Significance to the UK

- Bristol has a population of 440, 000 making it the 10th largest city in the UK
- Bristol contributes 4.8 billion to the UK economy.
- Many **start-up companies in hi-tech industries**, along with **well established companies** such as Hewlett Packard are based here.

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



Is made up of **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: The UK in Resolving Conflict in Somalia



Basic Background

- Somalia is in the far east of Africa
- Since 1960 it has been at war with its neighbours over land. In 1991 the President was overthrown and there was civil war for 20 years.
- Droughts and famines killed 500,000 people in 1992 and 2010 – 2012
- Linked with piracy and terrorism



UK Involvement

- Early 1990s as part of UN peacekeeping force (withdrew 1995).
- Supports vulnerable vessels from pirates as part of the EU Naval Force
- Governments working together to support food, education and health care

UK Media Exports

- The UK exports many different types of media products such as **films, TV 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 & 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**.
- As these traditional clothing become **more common**, other cultures have started to wear them too. i.e. Saris
- **Hair styles** from other cultures such as dreadlocks from the Jamaica.

Media



- Many ethnic minorities have **influenced music** (i.e. dubstep) and **television** (i.e. Bollywood).
- With greater influence, **greater understanding** from other ethnic groups have been established.

Food



- Food that has originated from other countries have **become very established** (i.e. Curry and Pizza).
- Many mainstream **supermarkets** sell a great range of **ingredients** and ready made **foods** from **other cultures**.