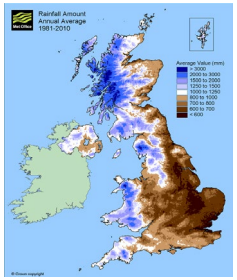
UK Physical Characteristics

- 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 shallow**.



Water stress in the UK

Water stress is when areas have limited water supply.

Problems	Solutions
• 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.	• 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.



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

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

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 cased by population growth.

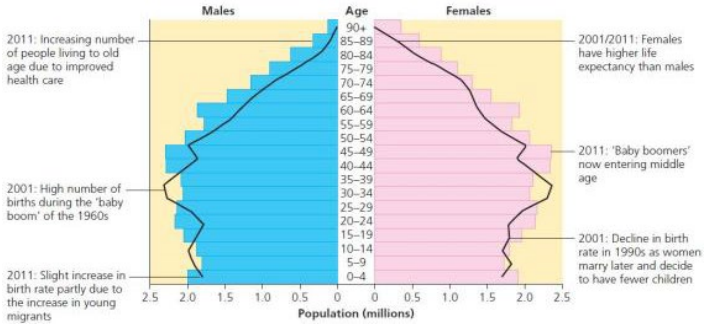
Topic 7

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	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.



UK Population Distribution

Low

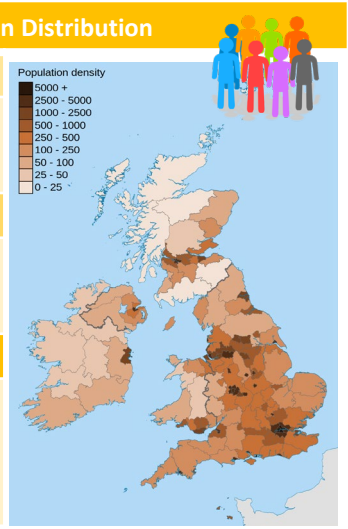
Much of Northern Scotland is **sparse** due to a **mountainous landscape** and **difficult climate**.

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

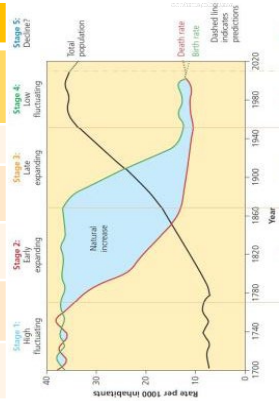
Problem and Reasons

- 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)

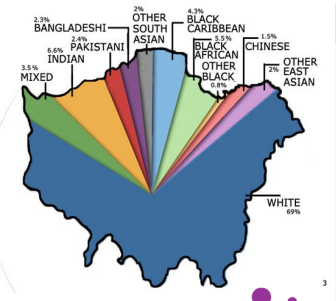
As countries experience economic development they also go through stages of population transition. The DTM describes this change and shows the UK in stage 4.

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 boast 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 aboard.**
- **Now the UK is moving into the service industry such as finances, technology and media.**

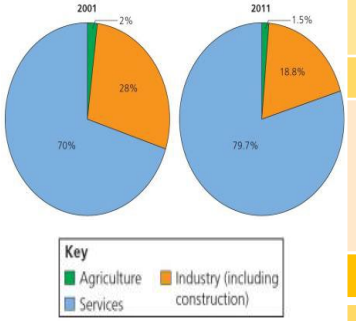
Political Changes

- 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 - London

With a population of 8.6 million, London is the economic hub for the UK, and has a global economic influence as well. It is a key location for trade and financial markets with many headquarters of major banks and other businesses located there.

Change Over Time

- Key trade conducted through its **docklands have declined**.
- New investment in communication infrastructure and transport links such as **Crossrail**.
- London has become a **major world city** with a **key financial industry** in the City of London & Canary Wharf.

Significance to the UK

- London has **13% of the UK's population** and **produces 22%** of the **country's wealth**.
- London **ranks higher** than other UK cities for **economic performance**.
- Many **start-up companies** in **media** and **hi-tech industries**, along with **well established companies** such as Amazon and Facebook.

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 Ukraine

Basic Background

- Ukraine is in **Eastern Europe**, **bordering Russia**.
- In **2013**, many Ukrainians were **displeased** with their government becoming **closer to Russia**.
- In **2014**, the Russian president took control of **Crimea** and **supported Russian separatists**.



UK Involvement

- The UK, as part of NATO, **sent troops and the RAF to neighbouring countries**.
- In 2015, the UK **gave £15 million in aid to Ukraine** as well as military support.
- The UK, as part of the G7, **imposed sanctions** on Russian banks and trade.

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 ethic minorities moving here from India, Pakistan, Caribbean and parts of Africa. These groups have shared there 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**.