Theme 1: CHANGING PLACES - CHANGING ECONOMIES
Key Idea 1.1: Urbanisation: global patterns and global cities

GLOBAL SCALE PATTERNS OF URBANISATION

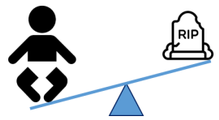
The process of **urbanisation** is defined as the physical growth of towns and cities as a result of population growth.

CAUSES OF URBANISATION

Urbanisation has been **caused** by a combination of:

1) **Rural-urban migration** (migration of people from rural to urban areas), due to **push/pull factors** (see below)

(2) **Natural increase** of population of urban areas (where birth rate per 1000 is greater than death rate per 1000 of the population)

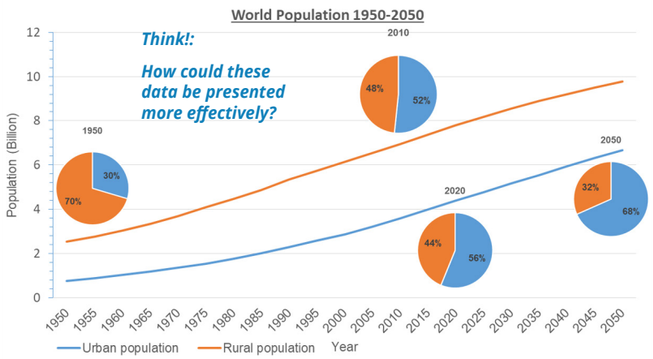


PULL (to urban): Good: clean running water, sanitation, education, food supply, job opportunities and prospects

PUSH (from rural): Lack of: clean water, sanitation, education, food supply, jobs and prospects

VARIATION AND CHANGES OVER TIME AND SPACE

Urbanisation is a global phenomenon in that it is happening in every country across the globe. However, there are significant variations in urban growth observed in both time and space. As can be seen in the graphs below (with data from the United Nations' World Urbanisation Prospects), as the world population has increased from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 7.8 billion in 2020 there has been a population shift from rural to urban areas. In 1950 the urban percentage just 30%, with 70% living in rural areas.



The year 2010 marked a turning point in time as the global urban population passed 50%. According to the UN, the 2020 urban population is 56%, and they project that it will increase to 68% by 2050.

Megacities are those with a *population of more than 10 million residents*. As the top ten megacities data table shows (see right), there were only two megacities in 1950 (New York, USA and Tokyo, Japan), both of which are in **High Income Countries (HICs)** today.

Recently, the process of urbanisation has been most rapid in **Newly Industrialised Countries (NICs)**, and this is predicted to continue into the future. In 2020, of the 33 megacities worldwide, 27 were in **Low Income Countries (LICs)** or NICs, with six in China and five in India. Nine out of the 10 cities projected to become megacities by 2030 are in LICs or NICs. However, projections show that the fastest future rates of city growth will not occur in megacities, but in those with a population of less than 500,000, many of which are LICs in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Year	London, UK, HIC	Mumbai, India, NIC	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, LIC
1950	8.36	3.09	0.39
1960	8.20	4.41	0.52
1970	7.51	6.41	0.73
1980	6.75	9.20	1.18
1990	6.79	12.36	1.79
2000	7.27	16.15	2.38
2010	8.04	18.26	3.13
2020	9.30	20.41	4.79
2030	10.23	24.57	7.35

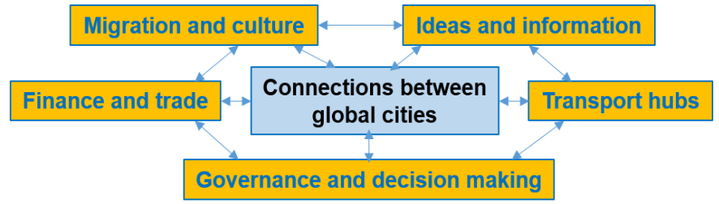
Population (millions) of London (HIC), Mumbai (NIC) and Addis Ababa (LIC).

Urbanisation in a named HIC, NIC and LIC. Are these data discrete or continuous? What type(s) of graph would be most appropriate to use?

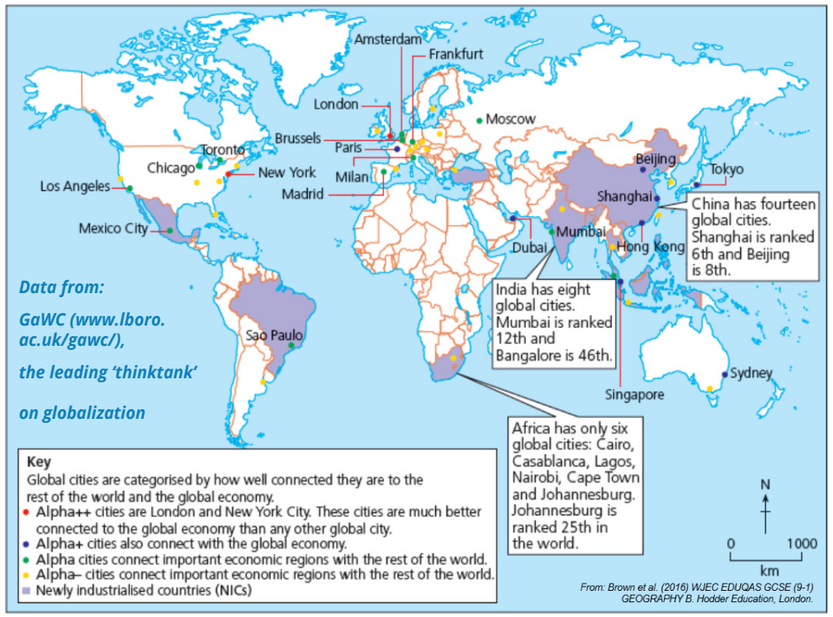
GLOBAL CITIES

Global cities are those which play an important role in the global economic system of finance and trade. They exist due to the processes of **interdependence** (connection with other countries) and **globalisation** (the world becoming increasingly interconnected economically, socially, politically and/or culturally).

Use the flow diagram (right) to make specific notes on the connections between the global cities that you have been taught. Remember: one will be in the UK, one in a NIC and one in a LIC.



They are not connected to population size, as global cities do not have to have huge populations (but usually do) to have such a huge influence and they do not have to be capital cities. Indeed, a global city is a city generally considered to be an important focal point in the global economic system, such as London, New York and Mumbai. The location of global cities has not altered much over time.



- Describe the distribution of alpha++ and alpha+ cities.

- Why are so many in India and China?

Visit the website to learn more about the Globalization and World Cities Research Network. www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/

1950		2020		2050	
New York-Newark, USA	12.34	Tokyo, Japan	37.39	Delhi, India	43.35
Tokyo, Japan	11.27	Delhi, India	30.29	Tokyo, Japan	36.01
London, UK	8.36	Shanghai, China	27.06	Shanghai, China	34.34
Osaka, Japan	7.01	São Paulo, Brazil	22.04	Dhaka, Bangladesh	31.23
Paris, France	6.28	Mexico City, Mexico	21.78	Cairo, Egypt	28.50
Moscow, Russia	5.36	Dhaka, Bangladesh	21.01	Mumbai, India	27.34
Buenos Aires, Argentina	5.17	Cairo, Egypt	20.90	Kinshasa, DRC	26.68
Chicago, USA	5.00	Beijing, China	20.46	Mexico City, Mexico	25.41
Kolkata, India	4.60	Mumbai, India	20.41	Beijing, China	25.37
Shanghai, China	4.29	Osaka, Japan	19.17	São Paulo, Brazil	24.49

The world's 10 most populated megacities, population in millions.

Use graph paper or Excel to plot these changes in population through time. Use the graphs to describe the pattern of urbanisation. In the future, are most megacities projected to be in HICs, NICs or LICs? Why? Suggest reasons for your answer.