Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College

Geography

Get ready for a successful start!

What will I study?	Geography A level covers people's connection to places and the natural world. Some of the topics you will study are • Contemporary urban environments - this covers modern cities and the issues they face, including climate and drainage issues. Fieldwork visit to Leicester • Coasts, which covers the processes creating landforms and the management of the coast. Fieldwork to Sheringham in Norfolk • Changing Places, which covers how a local and far place have changed. Fieldwork in Leicester and Clarendon Park • Water and carbon cycle, which covers how water and carbon are stored and flow on the Earth and the issues particularly with increased carbon. • Hazards of volcanoes, earthquakes, storms, fires and their impact on people and environments. • Global systems and global governance which includes globalisation and its impacts, world trade, transnational corporations and how the world is governed by global laws Coursework on a geographical topic of your choice
Who teaches this course?	Mr Knight Mrs Richmond
What resources or equipment will I need?	
Reading List	
How can I extend my learning?	

Taster Activity: To be completed and brought to your first lesson

Resources needed to complete the activity:	• Laptop (or pen and paper) • Internet
Estimated time to complete the activity:	3 hours

Geography A Level Assignment:

- Read the information below which is about sustainability in cities 'Geography Bridging Task'
- Complete the tasks on this sheet
- Some of the tasks require you to watch and access information from the internet

All the geographical content you learn here will support your induction task, which will be set when you enrol onto the geography course at WQE

Here is some work on sustainable cities which the A level geography teachers at WQE have set for you.

The tasks set are A level type tasks and will require you to 'Think like a geographer'. It is not a test, but you need to engage, read and watch the links, then complete the different types of tasks as best as you can.

When you enrol onto the A level geography course for your first year at WQE you will be set an induction task on sustainability and analysis type tasks, so all of these 'taster tasks' will help you to make a good start on your A Level Geography and achieve higher grades.

What is a sustainable city?

Sustainable cities, as I am sure you know already, are sometimes known as ecological or 'eco' cities, and are settlements designed to have as little impact on the environment as possible today and in the future.

They aim to reduce their inputs of energy, water and food – which are the flows going into the city.

They aim to reduce their outputs of heat, water and pollution – which are the flows going out of the city.

Reference: J Okie 2012

Cities can be sustainable in three areas…

- **Socially** – to do with people
- **Economically** – to do with money spent
- **Environmentally** – to do with our planet and the natural world

Reference: B Malt 2019

Watch this to learn more, it will help you add ideas to the box below
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ygw2L-Qi0c

Student task - Write as many ideas as you can think of in one minute, that would make a city more sustainable

Answers on the next page

- Using solar, wind power and bio-mass (burning food and human waste) to produce electricity
- Create more open green spaces and plant more trees. These green areas turn carbon dioxide back into oxygen and create pleasant areas for people to spend time in
- Reduce car numbers by ensuring public transport is used by the population, so make it cheap and efficient. This reduces air pollution
- Encourage people to cycle, so create safe cycle lanes and bike hire schemes. Again, this reduces air pollution
- Producing food on farms near to cities, so the distance the food travels is reduced before people buy it

Which cities are the most sustainable?

The top five most sustainable cities are…

1. Frankfurt
2. London
3. Copenhagen
4. Amsterdam
5. Rotterdam

What makes these cities sustainable?

- Low levels of air pollution, clean water
- Large areas of green space – for eg parks
- Life expectancy is high – people live longer
- High literacy rate – high percentage of inhabitants can read and write
- Waste is managed effectively

The least sustainable cities, from the top 50 are…

46. Jakarta
47. Mumbai
48. Wuhan
49. New Delhi
50. Nairobi

What makes these cities low on levels of sustainability?

- High levels of air pollution from cars and industry
- Waste is dumped openly
- People live in slums where there is no sanitation, high infant mortality (high infant deaths), overcrowding

Higher level skill – from the reasons above for making these cities sustainable can you write down one example of

- **Social sustainability**
- **Economic sustainability**
- **Environmental sustainability**

London – why is it ranked number four in the world's sustainable cities?

So, London is ranked number four in the world's most sustainable cities! Your image of London may be that it is heavily populated, traffic jams at every junction, busy underground trains and buses. But it must be doing something right to have gained this number two ranking.

Watch this You tube video and listen for the ways in which London is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and add your ideas to the grid below. Some ideas will fit into more than one slot

London socially, economically sustainable

Skip to 11 minutes on the video

Type of sustainability	**Examples of how London achieves this type of sustainability**
Social sustainability – to do with people	
Economic sustainability – to do with money spent	
Environmental sustainability – to do with our planet and the natural world	

Higher level skills

As a potential A Level Geography student you have to be able to read information, analyse, understand it and write at length about it. This can be assessed in the exams through articles, photographs and graphs.

Sometimes the ideas and diagrams will be complex. So, to improve your skills here there are two more tasks

1. **Read the article 'Green city: London (a sustainable metropolis)'** from the Green City Times up to 'London's renewable energy and energy efficient goals. https://www.greencitytimes.com/london/

   Add some more detail to your grid above from this information on examples of London's sustainability

2. **Write a paragraph for this question, which is asking for a higher level of geographical thinking!**

- Why might sustainability be a more attainable goal for some cities and not others?

Extra reading - interesting article

- Read the article which illustrates, through photographs, Delhi's pollution levels during the Coronavirus outbreak compared to before

  https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/apr/11/positively-alpine-disbelief-air-pollution-falls-lockdown-coronavirus