



# Regeneration Places EQ1: How and why do places vary?

Places are shaped by internal connections (between people. Employment, services and housing) and external connections (such as government policies and globalisation). More specifically, place identity is strongly influenced by what places and their residents do for a living. The economic function of a place will also affect the type of work on offer and that work, in turn, will affect the type of employee. Compare, for example, the labour needs of a coastal resort, such as Torquay, with those of an industrial town, such as Sunderland

## Economies vary from place to place

### Classifying economies and their workers

A key factor in the creation and survival of places is their economy. This will affect important aspects such as identity, income and lifestyles, as well as the socio-economic composition of the local population.

There are four key employment sectors: primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary industries. The emergence of the last of these has been relatively recent (say, since 1975). The UK has seen employment declines in the primary industries and secondary sectors linked to deindustrialisation and the global shift of manufacturing. The tertiary sector now totally dominates the economy. The sectoral shifts are mirrored in the economies of most places.

The type of employment found in all sectors can be classified in several different ways

- Part-time/full time
- Temporary/permanent
- Employed/self-employed.

The workers themselves can also be classified:

- Employees with contracts (permanent or fixed)
- Agency staff and volunteers
- Self-employed (freelancers, consultants and contractors)
- Skilled/semi-skilled/unskilled

### Social impacts

These distinctions on the basis of type of employment and worker have profound impacts on people's lives, particularly on:

- **Health:** for example, long working hours in manual jobs, such as construction and agriculture, lead to an increased risk of accidents and poor health.
- **Life expectancy:** there is a whole range of work-related factors here. Such as levels of stress, exposure to risk, diet etc.
- **Education:** for example, children from poor working-class families still tend to underachieve and are often denied the chance of going to university.
- **Lifestyles:** higher wage and salary levels mean more disposable income to be spent on 'luxuries'. Low levels promote deprivation.

**Inequality** is the outcome of uneven distributions. In this topic, the focus is on the uneven economic and social distributions that exist within societies and communities – for example, the uneven distributions of income and wealth, and of the quality of life and social opportunities. The factors responsible for such differences are complex and resistant to remedy. One of the main aims behind much regeneration is to reduce such inequalities.

### Income inequalities

**Inequalities** in pay levels are linked to differences in the type of employment. Some types of work (in the professions, for example) are more highly paid than others (such as manual work)

There are huge disparities in incomes and costs of living, both nationally and locally. This has always been the case, but the view is that these inequalities are increasing.

Quality of life correlates closely with wage and salary levels. This reflects the fact that many of the things that contribute to the overall quality of life are goods (e.g. housing and household equipment) and services (transport and leisure) that have to be paid for

**Quality of life:** The level of social and economic well-being experienced by individuals and communities, measured by various indicators such as health, happiness, longevity and educational achievement

## Changing functions and characteristics

### Functional and demographic

Over time, the functions of places change and therefore their economies change also. Traditionally, urban places have been involved in one or more of four key functions: administration, commerce, industry and services. Historically, high-order functions (such as banks, department stores, council offices and doctor's surgeries) have been located in larger settlements while lower-order functions (such as grocery stores, post offices and pubs) have been found even in small settlements.

However, commercial functions are now rapidly changing because of internet and broadband services and changing customer habits. The retail landscape has changed enormously with the advent of online shopping and banking, as well as click-and-collect.

While places change what they do for a living, so too do their populations. In many instances, it is the former conditioning the latter. Typical demographic changes include:

- Trends – increasing or decreasing
- Rates of change
- Increasing ethnicity
- Age and gender balances
- Socio-economic structure changing in response to processes such as gentrification, deindustrialisation, deprivation and studentification.

**Gentrification:** The movement of middle-class people back into rundown inner-urban areas, resulting in an improvement of the housing stock and image.

**Deprivation:** A condition when a person's well-being falls below a level generally regarded as a reasonable minimum. Measuring deprivation usually relies on indicators relating to employment, housing, health and education

**Gentrification:** The movement of middle-class people back into rundown inner-urban areas, resulting in an improvement of the housing stock and image.

### Measuring change

Changes within places can be measured in a number of ways, such as

- Land-use conversions
- Employment trends
- Demographic changes
- Levels of deprivation

The last of these is particularly useful and much is made of the index of multiple deprivation (IMD)

**Deindustrialisation:** The process of economic and social change due to a reduction in the industrial capacity or activity of a country, region or city. A process widely experienced in the developed world with the global shift of manufacturing to emerging economies

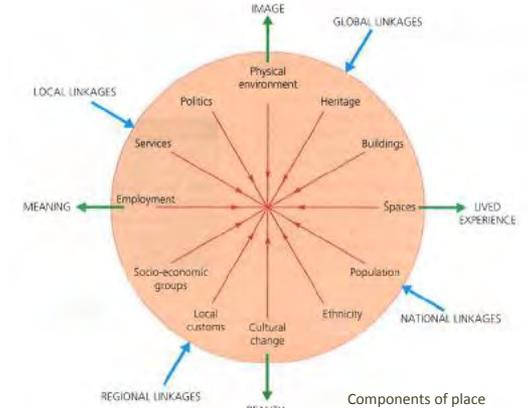
## Places and their connections

This part of your revision focuses on the two place studies you have completed as part of this topic. The figure below shows the main components of place, some of which you have investigated in each of your contrasting place: Malton and Manchester.

The specification recommends that you pay particular attention to:

- The regional and national connection (linkages) of your places
- The international and global connections of your places

To what extent have these connection brought about change in your places? Have those changes impacted on local people?



### Synoptic theme:

Places in the UK, as elsewhere in the world, are being increasingly influenced by two major players TNCs and IGOs. This is part and parcel of globalisation

Your place investigations will have been guided by four groups of questions:

- Those that establish the initial identities of your chosen places
- Those about how their economic and social characteristics have been shaped by regional and national connections
- Those about how their economic and social and economic characteristics have been shaped by international and global connections
- Those about how economic and social change have influenced the identities of people living in those places.

### Synoptic theme:

Attitudes towards place changes can be highly polarised between those that see them as eroding heritage and those that see them as place enriching

### \*Revision activity

It is recommended that you summarise your place studies by creating a table of two columns and four rows. There should be one column for each place and one for each of the four groups of questions: place identity, regional and national influences, international and global influences, and people's identities.