

Exam style answers for A grade candidates

Unit 3 – Similarities and Differences

1.a) 'Describe the main features of the landscape and economy of your place' (8)

"Landscape:

On the Severn Estuary – Avonmouth docks receives international imports and exports. River Avon – Avon Gorge runs through Clifton, Suspension Bridge is a city landmark. Bristol Docks – Historic port now just used for leisure pursuits and cultural festivals. To the North and east – rich agricultural land of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. Easy reach of national parks of Brecon Beacons and the Quantocks.

Economy:

The function of Bristol today is as a major industrial city. Banking and finance is a significant sector of employment with the Lloyds TSB and The Royal Bank of Scotland having HQ's here. Bristol is England's 6th largest city. Engineering and aerospace are also specific industries with airbus and

Retail is also a major part of the economy. Cribbs Causeway regional shopping centre 9 miles north attracts visitors from across the south west and south Wales. Cabot Circus and Clifton village attract higher end shoppers with designer brands.

Tourism is very important to Bristol, the harbourside, bars, cafes, theatres and nightlife attract thousands of visitors per year. Sporting events such as football and international cricket matches are held here. Education is important, Bristol University is the UK's most popular and the uni is Bristol's largest independent employer. UWE also caters for Over 20,000 students".

1.b) 'Use examples to explain why different groups of people might have different opinions about living in your place' (4)

"Students find Bristol a very desirable place to live and study. Bristol University attracts 20 applicants per place. Bristol to students is a vibrant, exciting modern city with many leisure attractions such as nightlife, trendy bars and clubs. Bristol has many popular student areas with older larger housing and local services and restaurants well connected to the centre by bus routes.

Similarly, young professionals see Bristol as an ideal place to settle and work, with a wealth of major employers and desirable locations to live. Consequently house prices in Bristol are higher than the national average.

Young people born into the more impoverished areas of the city will have a very different opinion. Bristol schools are criticised for poor student performance. Many poor families in council estates such as Knowle West see no future for their children in this competitive, fast developing city. Crime rates in such areas are high and drug and alcohol dependency a major problem.

Asylum seekers living in areas such as Easton and St Pauls may see Bristol as a safe haven, as supportive international communities thrive here.

Older residents of Bristol may worry about the growing population, unemployment and traffic pollution. High cost of housing and large number of previously family houses being converted into student properties or buy-to-lets bring down the overall quality of their neighbourhoods"

2.a) 'Describe the explain the level of development of your non-UK location' (6)

"Overall, the level of development of Mumbai in India is far lower than in Bristol. Birth rates are high and life expectancy lower in India at around 60 years. Mumbai is India's wealthiest city, with the financial industries and the 'Bollywood' film industry based here so there are large inequalities in wealth. The very rich and the very poor can be found in close proximity. Homelessness is a massive problem in Mumbai with thousands of families living rough on pavements. Not quite so badly off are the residents of Dharavi, a large slum in the centre of the city. Here people scrape a living in the small-scale recycling or pottery industries but still lack their own toilets or running water. The slum dwellers lack land rights to their homes and face eviction under the Dharavi redevelopment plan which is highly controversial. In contrast, the wealthiest people in Mumbai occupy skyscrapers of luxury apartments. This contrast in wealth is much greater than that in Bristol. Residents of Mumbai lack a national health service or welfare system like in the UK so levels of poverty remain high despite the city as a whole being the wealthiest in India"

2.b) ‘Describe and give examples of the links that exist between ‘your place’ and your non-UK location. You should comment on the quality of these links’ (6)

“India is a large manufacturing nation and much of the clothing and accessories we buy are made in India. This is primarily due to the lower costs of production and cheaper wages paid. Food, machinery and pharmaceuticals are also exported from Mumbai to the UK. The world’s smallest and cheapest car, the Tata Nano is being developed in Mumbai and may soon be exported to the UK.

Similarly in recent years a growing trend has been the relocation of customer call centres for major UK industries to Mumbai. BT is one such example. Many British people are frustrated by this and feel the quality of customer service has decreased due to these non-English speakers being employed for this purpose.

Bollywood is a global film industry based in Mumbai that produce and export films globally from Mumbai. These films are watched and enjoyed by people in Bristol and worldwide. The film ‘slumdog millionaire’ made in 2008 introduced the world to the rapidly changing face of Mumbai.

European banks such as Capita PLC and other corporations have branches in Mumbai and employ both locals of Mumbai and international workers.

Cultural links also exist. In the 1950’s and 1960’s many Indian migrants came to Bristol to work in developing industries and today many Bristolian families have links to Mumbai. Indian food shops and restaurants are plentiful in Bristol”

Using these examples, now try having a go at the following;

‘For a change that is occurring in your non-UK location, describe the change or proposed change and outline the positive and negative impacts this change will have on people’

‘Describe the location of your non-UK location with use of a labelled sketch map’

