

Oxford Revise | Geography | Answers

Chapter 24 The urban core and rural periphery

All exemplar answers given are worth full marks.

1.

a)

- i) A Cardiff; B Edinburgh
- ii) Remote and inaccessible; harsh climate
Accept suitable alternative answers.
- iii) Central lowlands of Scotland; London and SE England
Accept suitable alternative answers.
- iv) D
- v) Major cities are spread relatively evenly in the south of England, but clustered across the north of the UK on the coalfields.

b)

- i) 12.3%
- ii) 18.2%
- iii) 20–40-year-olds often move from rural to urban areas for work. Families with younger children may choose to remain in rural areas because of its 'safer' environment or move from urban areas to the countryside. Those of retirement age often move to rural areas because of the quieter pace of life and the access to outdoors. They no longer have a need to travel to an urban centre for work.

c)

- i) Digital infrastructure means mobile and internet communications that allow constant real-time connections.
- ii) The area is well served with good communications, making it easy for employees to commute to work. They may work from home for long periods and so will be happy to commute quite long distances on the days they have to go into the office. There are many potential customers for a software company in the hi-tech businesses located in the large conurbations of Manchester, Leeds, and Sheffield. Kirklees is in a very well-connected district. Software development is dependent on a reliable digital infrastructure, including the ability to outsource work and connect with employers and employees. The region has nine universities and likely to be a good source of highly skilled labour for the software company.

d)

- i) Because of the attractiveness of the local environment, many sparsely populated areas attract tourists. Rural activities, such as farming offer seasonal or temporary employment and jobs in tourism can work around these hours.
- ii) Policies to reduce the differences between rural and urban areas have had mixed results. Generally, the most isolated and less accessible areas have remained poorer while the economies of the largest urban areas have continued to grow. This is partly because of the benefits of agglomeration in city regions. Employers need significant encouragement to move to rural areas where these benefits do not exist. Whilst government grants and support do help businesses to move to the rural periphery, these grants have either been too small or targeted towards areas that are less isolated and closer to existing urban core regions. However, changes in the workplace, particularly the increase in teleworking, rising costs of commuting and increasing consideration of wellbeing have encouraged greater numbers of people to move to rural areas and so narrow the gap with urban regions.