Contemporary Urban Environments
Geography A-Level Transition Activities

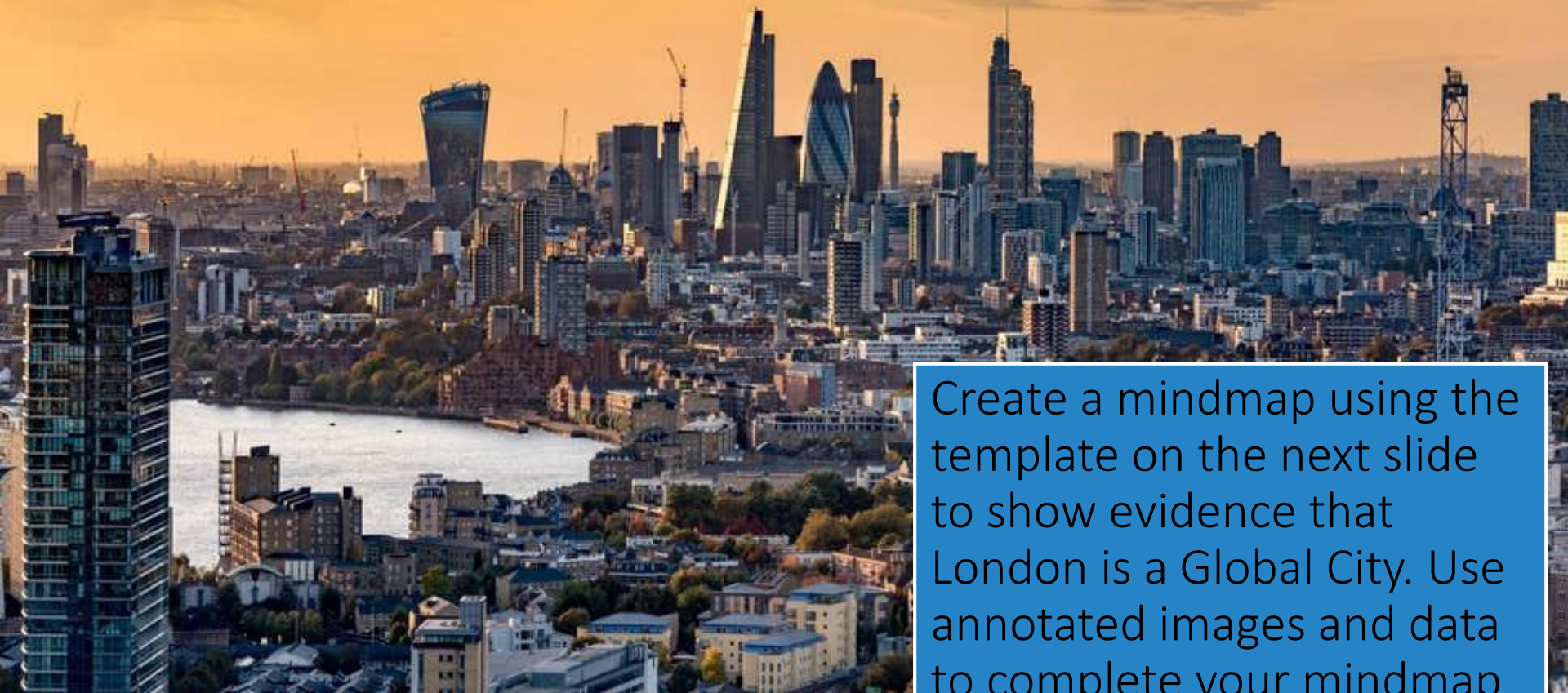## Task 1: Global Patterns of Urbanisation

Conduct some research to find out the largest cities in the world in 1950, 2000 and 2050.
How have the size of the cities changed? How have their location changed

Rank	1950	Population?	2000	Population?	2050	Population?
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

Global City: A city which has great influence on a global scale, because of their financial status and worldwide commercial power.

Create a mindmap using the template on the next slide to show evidence that London is a Global City. Use annotated images and data to complete your mindmap

Task 3: New Urban Landscapes

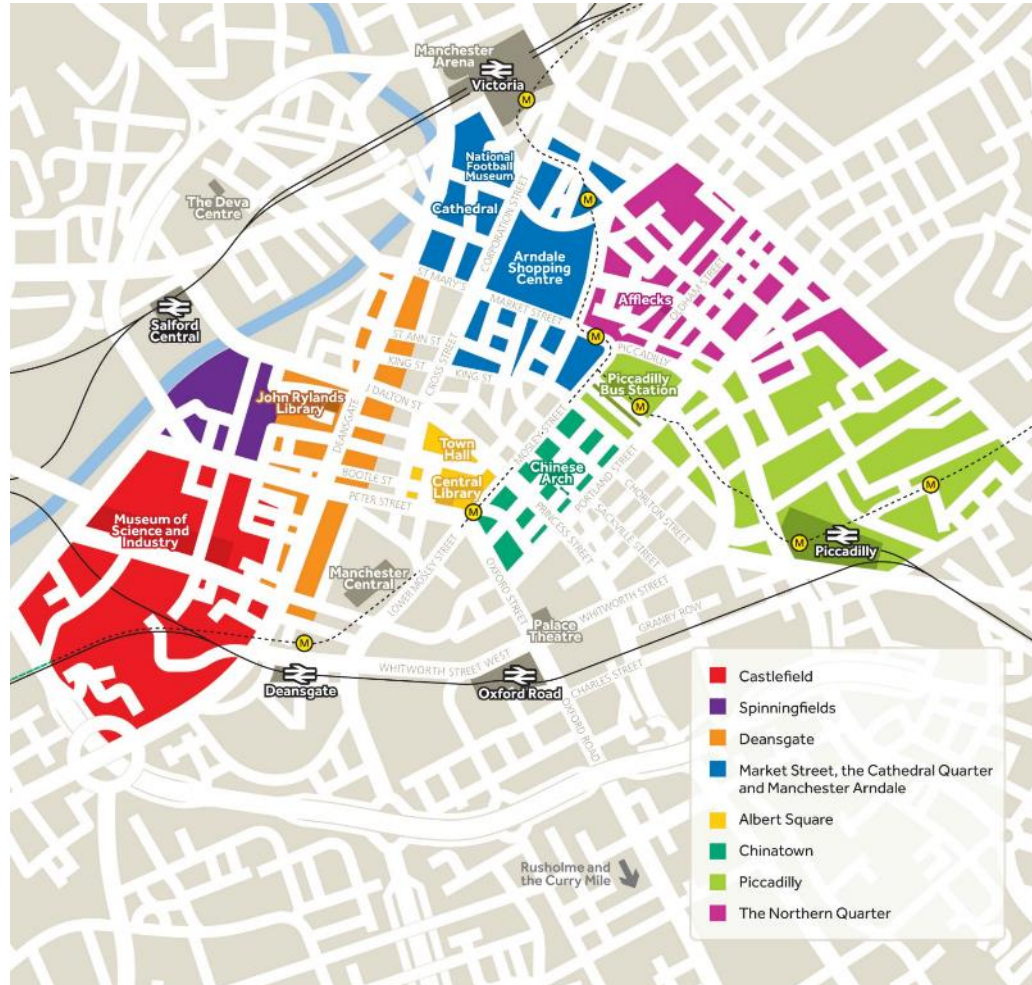Read this webpage summarising different types of New Urban Landscape.

To what extent does Manchester display evidence of having new urban landscapes? Annotate the map on the following slide to show evidence of the following:
- Town centre mixed developments – Spinningfields, Exchange Square, Castlefield, NOMA
- Cultural and heritage quarters – HOME/First Street
- Gentrified areas – Northern Quarter

Stretch and Challenge
Is there any evidence of defensible space/fortress cities in Manchester?

Manchester Arena

Victoria

The Deva Centre

National Football Museum

Cathedral

Arndale Shopping Centre

Afflecks

Salford Central

John Rylands Library

Piccadilly Bus Station

Town Hall

Central Library

Chinese Arch

Piccadilly

Museum of Science and Industry

Manchester Central

Palace Theatre

Deansgate

Oxford Road

Rusholme and the Curry Mile

ST MARY'S

CORPORATION STREET

MARKET STREET

OLDHAM STREET

ST ANN ST

KING ST

CROSS STREET

KING ST

PICCADILLY

DEANSGATE

J DALTON ST

MOSLEY STREET

PORTLAND STREET

CHARLOTTE STREET

CRANBY ROW

HOOTLE ST

PETER STREET

PRINCESS STREET

WHITWORTH STREET

LOWER MOSLEY STREET

OXFORD STREET

WHITWORTH STREET WEST

CHARLES STREET

OXFORD ROAD

Legend

- Castlefield
- Spinningfields
- Deansgate
- Market Street, the Cathedral Quarter and Manchester Arndale
- Albert Square
- Chinatown
- Piccadilly
- The Northern Quarter

Create a Profile showing changes to the urban area of Poynton. Your profile should include

- At least three maps – one from the present day, and two historical to show the changes (take screenshots from this website, the side-by-side function is excellent for comparing historical and present day). These should be annotated
- A timeline of key events relating to the urban area
- Photographs showing to illustrate the changes

Stretch and Challenge
What would the thoughts of the following people be on the change happening in Poynton?
- An elderly local resident
- A middle-aged local resident
- The leader of the Parish Council
- A newcomer to the village
- A council leader in the urban area

'Liveability' is described as the characteristics of a city which improve the quality of life for people living there. Read the article on the next slide.

Research of one of the most and least liveable cities and create a case study using images and words to show makes each city liveable or not.

For each city, comment on the following characteristics:

- Stability
- Healthcare
- Culture and Environment
- Education
- Infrastructure

THE NUMBER ONE The most livable cities

CITY	COUNTRY	RANK
Melbourne	Australia	1
Vienna	Austria	2
Vancouver	Canada	3
Toronto	Canada	4
Calgary	Canada	5
Adelaide	Australia	5
Perth	Australia	7
Auckland	New Zealand	8
Helsinki	Finland	9
Hamburg	Germany	10

Source: EIU

THE NUMBER ONE The least livable cities

CITY	COUNTRY	RANK
Kiev	Ukraine	131
Douala	Cameroon	132
Harare	Zimbabwe	133
Karachi	Pakistan	134
Algiers	Algeria	134
Port Moresby	PNG	136
Dhaka	Bangladesh	137
Lagos	Nigeria	138
Tripoli	Libya	139
Damascus	Syria	140

Source: EIU

- http://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-10-most-livable-cities-in-the-world-2016-08-18

In a study of the world's 140 major cities, not a single U.S. city makes the top 10 list for the "most livable."

The Economist Intelligence Unit published its annual livability report, with Australia and Canada, as usual, dominating the list. The top five cities, located in Austria, Australia and Canada, all remained unchanged from last year's list. One U.S. city, Honolulu, ranked among the top 10 cities with the most improved livability scores over five years (its score is 94).

Increasing instability in the world is causing volatility in the scores of many cities. Violent acts of terrorism in many countries including Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, France, Belgium and the U.S. were responsible for changes in some of the rankings. Paris has dropped 3.7% in its livability score over the past five years to No. 32.

The analysts assigned each city a rating based on more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors, such as health-care availability, social or religious restrictions, quality of public transport, threat of terror attacks and prevalence of crime. Scores range from one, which is considered intolerable conditions, to 100, which is ideal.

What is an ecological footprint?

It is a measure of how much biologically productive land and water an individual, population or activity requires to produce all the resources it consumes, and to absorb the waste it generates.
The Ecological Footprint is usually measured in global hectares (gha)
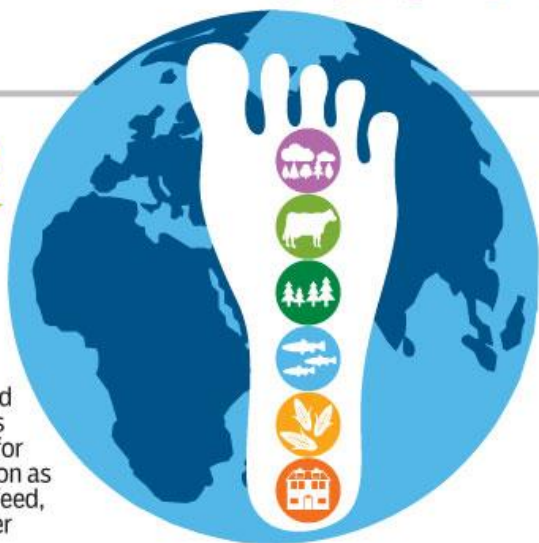
Carbon
Represents the amount of forest land that could sequester CO_2 emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, excluding the fraction absorbed by the oceans which leads to acidification

Cropland
Represents the amount of cropland used to grow crops for food and fibre for human consumption as well as for animal feed, oil crops and rubber

Grazing land
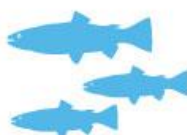Represents the amount of grazing land used to raise livestock for meat, dairy, hide and wool products

Forest
Represents the amount of forest required to supply timber products, pulp and fuel wood

Built-up land
Represents the amount of land covered by human infrastructure, including transportation, housing industrial structures and reservoirs for hydropower

Fishing grounds
Calculated from the estimated primary production required to support the fish and seafood caught, based on catch data for marine and freshwater species

The footprint of a region is the area of land and sea required to maintain its levels of consumption, both to provide food and materials and to absorb waste and pollution

How much land is required to produce the resources a population consumes and absorb the waste produced?

Use the link below to see how much you would need for your lifestyle

http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/calculators/

Task 6: Ecological Footprint

Changing Places
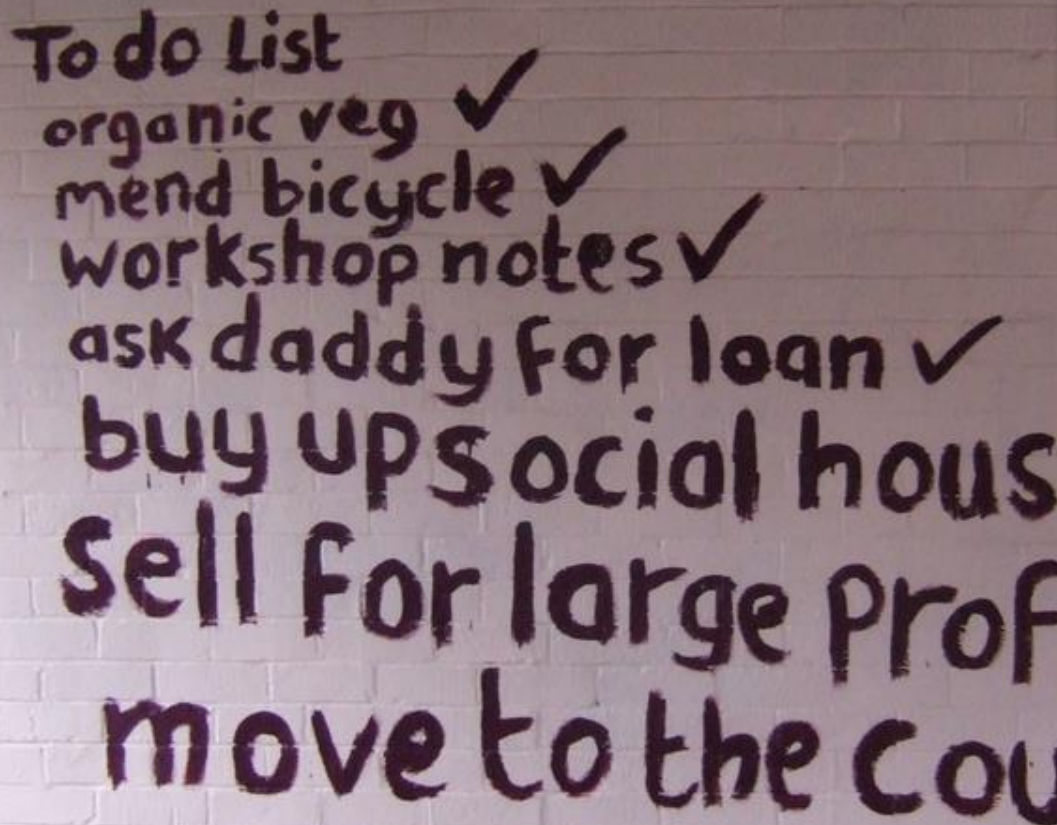## Geography A-Level Transition Activities

Task 1: Sense of Place Toolkit

Create a 'Sense of Place Toolkit' for Poynton (or your local area). This should promote what is special and unique about your area.

You can present this however you choose – it could be collages under different headings, a booklet or a poster. Some information you could use includes:

- Showcasing local landmarks/places of interest

- Photographs and media (this could include literature, music, art, tv and films)

- History and culture

- 'Insider knowledge' or little known facts

- Maps and demographic information

Sense of Place Toolkits are used by businesses in particular areas (often tourist related) to promote what is special about their area to visitors and clients.

There are some examples of Sense of Place Toolkits here and here. These are in much more detail than we are expecting but may give you an idea of what to include.

Task 2:Manchester's Bee-haviour

Manchester has traditionally been represented by the symbol of a bee. This was initially linked to the mills- *'hives of activity'*- with the workers *'as busy as bees'*. More recently it symbolises the city's sense of *invincible unity and pride*.

To what extent is Manchester's emblem of the bee modelled in everyday behaviour in the city?

Create a visual mindmap to demonstrate how the symbol of the bee is modelled in behaviour in Manchester. Include words and annotated images on your mind map. Use the images on the next slide as a starting point. (also use maps, tv, film, music, poetry, photos, data)

Bee mural on The Koffee Pot, Oldham Street (22 bees for the 22 killed in the Manchester Arena attack)

Bee in the City, Manchester Central

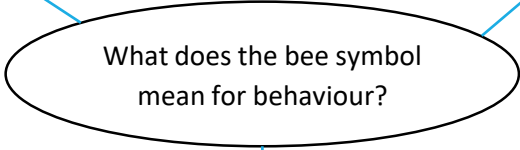A community of street artists decorating a wall

L. S. Lowry "Our Town"

Representations in images

Representations in the space
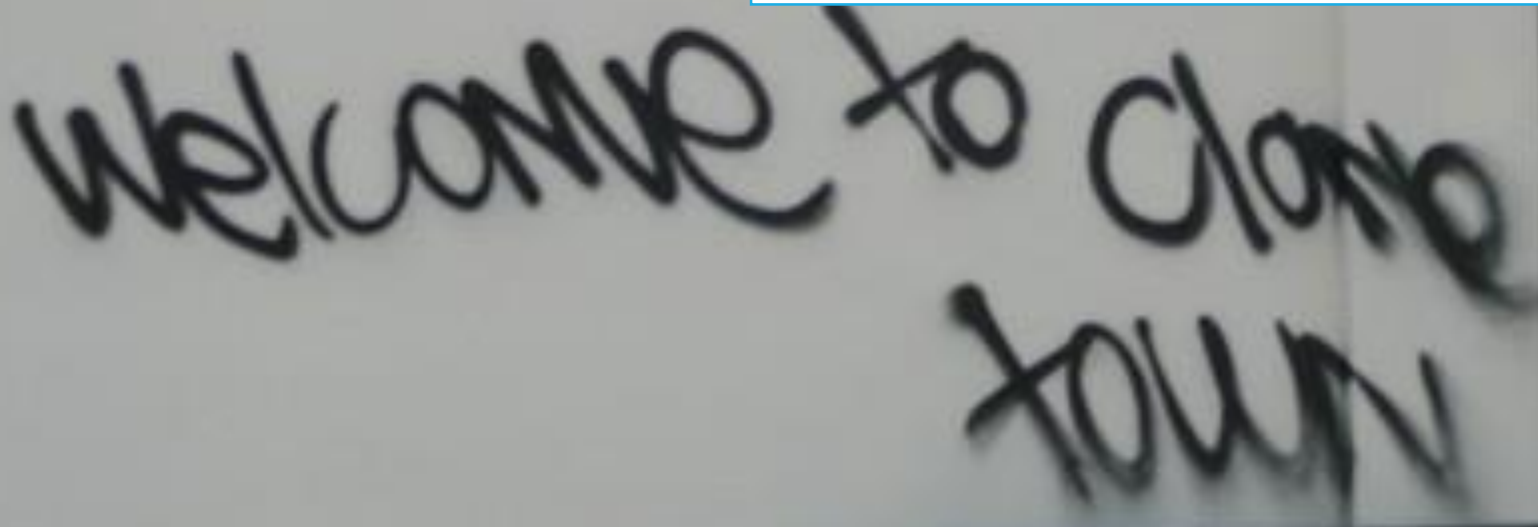
What does the bee symbol
mean for behaviour?

Representations in popular culture

Task 3: Placelessness

Places that lack a "sense of place" are sometimes referred to as "placeless" or "inauthentic." Placeless landscapes are those that have no special relationship to the places in which they are located—they could be anywhere.

1. Read the article on the following two slides, the article referred to in the third line is here.

2. Can you think of any 'placeless' places in and around Manchester? Collect images of three different 'placeless' places in Manchester and explain what it is that makes them 'placeless'.

3. Complete a Clone Town Survey for your local high street using Google Streetview. Link here for survey and instructions.

Place in Action

While many of these issues surrounding place may seem quite abstract, they lie at the heart of what it is to live in the twenty-first century. Consider three examples. First, let us return to the story of the Angel of the South. Behind Rachel Cook's account is a concern that, in the twenty-first century, places are becoming homogeneous. Everywhere we go we see McDonald's and Starbucks. Even in our homes we see the same kinds and styles of furniture, cutlery, foodstuffs and other produce supplied by the likes of Ikea and Tesco. Because of this, she suggests, it is becoming harder to detect the beating pulse of place. Works of public art are one way she believes this can be rectified (a contentious assertion that could be subject to scrutiny by students at school and university). This story is a familiar one. Consider the following extract from a governmental report, High Street 2015:

'Whole categories of shops, including newsagents, non-symbol group grocers and bookshops are likely to become an increasingly rare feature of our high streets. Additionally, the homogenisation of supply will lead to few traditional or niche products being available to consumers. Essentially, the situation highlighted by the New Economics Foundation of "Clone Town Britain" is likely to develop. The range of suppliers is also likely to be diminished. This will reduce the scope of products offered, with many regional products being lost and the retail offer becoming increasingly standardised across the country'

It is noticeable that alongside considerations of the economic and social effects of chain stores such as Tesco there is an emphasis on the aspect of place and the problem of standardisation. The term 'Clone Town Britain' was coined by the New Economics Foundation in their 2004 report (New Economics Foundation, 2004). It signifies places where the high streets are dominated by chain stores and there is a distinct lack of independent stores. The worst offender in a 2005 survey was Exeter, where only one shop on the High Street was identified as independent. While many university students choose to focus on retail issues in their dissertations, they are mostly concerned about the economic effects of out-of-town shopping on small stores. The issue of place, as such, is rarely considered.
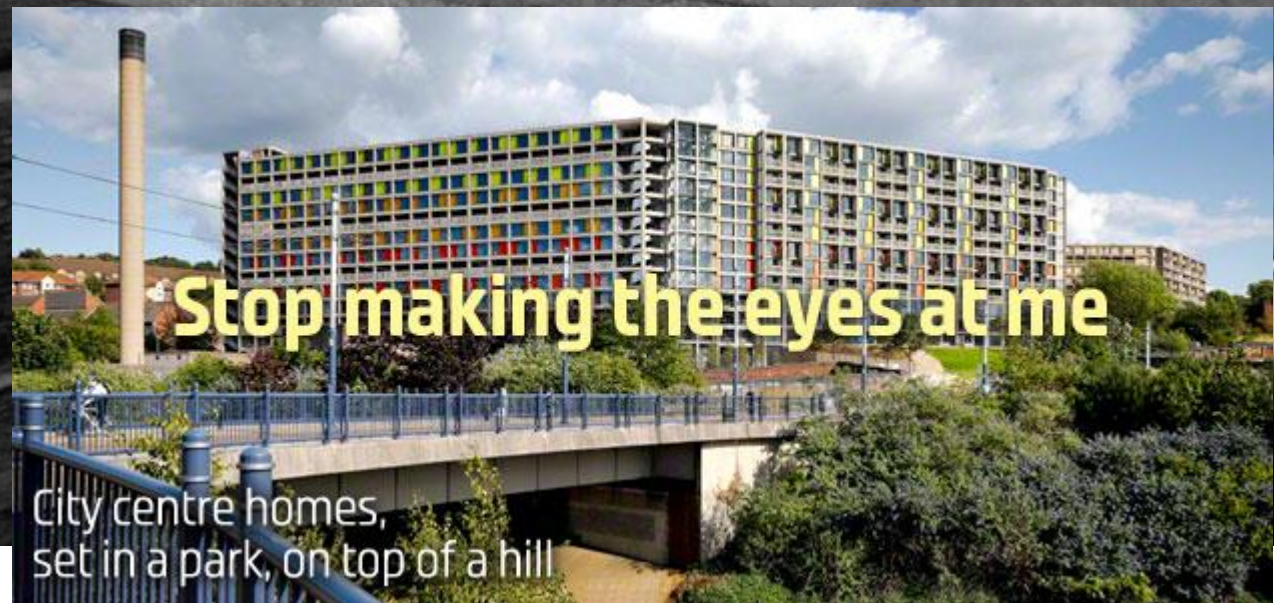
Task 4: Representation of Place

Study the photographs on the following slide. What assumptions do you make about each place solely based on the images.

- Annotate each of the images to show the assumptions that you make about the places shown in the photos. This could include:
  - Where it is
  - Who lives here
  - What it is like to live here
  - How you might feel if you visited this place

Representation refers to the description or portrayal of someone or something in a particular way. As geographers we learn about places through different representations.

Some representations of place are attempting to communicate something specific about a place or to challenge our view of a place.

Stop making the eyes at me

City centre homes,
set in a park, on top of a hill

Task 5: Qualitative and quantitative sources

For a place of your choice, (there is lots on Manchester, although you may want to choose an area within Manchester) find two quantitative and two qualitative sources that represent your place.

Annotate these to show how your place is represented. Pick out similarities and differences between your sources.

Places can be represented by a variety of quantitative sources (census data, maps, house prices) and qualitative data (photographs, paintings, songs, poetry).

These sources can be used to demonstrate the changing nature of places, and people's lived experiences.

Global Systems and Global Governance
Geography A-Level Transition Activities

Read **pages 5 and 6** of this article on '*the global commons*' and have a go at the below activities.

Explain what is meant by the term 'global commons' in two sentences.

Summarise why the global commons are important and the threats to them in 5 bulletin points.

Identify the global commons in 4 key images.

Challenge yourself
What is Global Governance? Why is it important?

An outline of the contemporary geography, including climate of Antarctica to demonstrate its role as a global common and illustrate its vulnerability to global economic pressures and environmental change.

Label the following features on to your map:

1. 60 degrees South/45 degrees south
2. Antarctic Circle
3. The Ross Ice Shelf and the Ronne Ice Shelf
4. The Ross Sea and the Weddell Sea
5. The Southern Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean
6. Cape Horn, Cape Agulhas, Cape Leeuwin

7. 3 research stations:

    I.   Amundsen-Scott

    II. McMurdo

    III. Davis

Task 2: Antarctica – a global common

Draw a climate graph for the Amundsen-Scott research station – use the data provided.

Remember you are drawing both sets of data on the same graph so you need two axes – be careful to read from the correct axis when plotting the different data sets.

Calculate the following:
1. Mean annual temperature
2. Total annual precipitation
3. Annual temperature range
4. Annual precipitation range

Take it further:
Research the climate data for the other two research stations. Draw climate graphs for those and compare the climates.
How are they different? Why?

Take it even further:
What is the Antarctic Convergence?

Watch this clip on youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDV5t614yoI
Describe the physical geography and climate of Antarctica

Month	Precipitation (mm)	Temperature (°C)
January	0.3	-28.4
February	0.6	-40.9
March	0.2	-53.7
April	0.1	-57.8
May	0.2	-58.0
June	0.1	-58.9
July	0.0	-59.8
August	0.0	-59.7
September	0.1	-59.1
October	0.1	-51.6
November	0.1	-38.2
December	0.3	-28.0

Task 3: Threats to Antarctica

Thinking Points

Why is Antarctica so threatened?

Who is responsible for managing these threats?

What has been done to try to control these threats?

Are the methods in place to control the threats working?

How do you think these threats will change over time?

Is Antarctica an important global common? Why?