Case Study: Edinburgh

Higher Geography

In order for Eilidh to progress she now needs to read newspaper articles and watch related programmes for example BBC News or ‘Question Time’ in order to keep up to date with current affairs. This will help her develop her excellent debating skills.
Checklist

For any named city in an EMDC (Edinburgh):

- show how its location and site encouraged its growth

- describe and account for the likely land uses to be observed in the CBD

- describe and explain the changes which have taken place in the CBD and the old inner-city area

- explain why changes were necessary and comment on their success

- describe the impact of new developments since 1950 and discuss problems resulting from changes
Edinburgh: What YOU should know…

- Site & situation
- The CBD – where and what?
- Changes in the CBD
- Inner City Change – Leith
- Make a comparison between Edinburgh and an urban model
- Traffic problems and solutions
Site and Situation
Site: A description of the land a settlement is built on.

- The site was often the original reason for a town to develop.
- Settlements with a long history were usually built on sites which were advantageous to early dwellers, such as:
  - defensive sites - on a hill, or surrounded by water
  - route centres - for example, where valleys meet
  - bridging points - an easy place to cross a river
  - wet/dry sites - on springlines or higher land above marshland
Advantages of Edinburgh’s Site

Defensive Site on the crag (130m)

Protection on three sides of the crag by steep cliffs for defence

Two deep hollows either side of the tail improved defence

Tenement housing developed on the “tail” towards Holyrood House
Disadvantages of Edinburgh’s Site

- The original site was **restricted** and became **overcrowded**

- Therefore...

- The city expanded in all directions, most notably with the building of the 'New Town'

- **New Town** was developed to the north of the Old Town in the late 18th century.
Situation: A description of where a settlement is in relation to features around it

- Trade and travellers forced through gap between Pentland Hills and the Firth of Forth

- Port of Leith (trade with Europe)
Edinburgh's Situation

Gap site between the Pentland Hills to the south and the Firth of Forth to the north.

Important trade routes from east to west forced through this gap = Control

Pentland Hills
Advantages of Edinburgh's Situation

Route centre within Scotland: north to __________, west to _______ and ________, and south to ______________

Close to Port of Leith which permitted trading with Europe, especially France.

Controlled important route from England to central and northern Scotland.
Edinburgh’s Site & Situation recap

- Port of Leith (trade with Europe)
  - (situation)

- Crag and Tail site …defensive
  - (site)

- 2 deep troughs to the North and South (defensive)
  - (site)

- Gap between Pentland Hills and the Firth of Forth (trade and travellers)
  - (situation)
Typical Exam Question

For any city you have studied in the Developed World, show how its original site and situation encouraged its growth.

(6 marks)
Function
Use an OS map to:

- give map evidence to suggest the likely function of a settlement
  - e.g. industrial town or holiday resort
Edinburgh’s Functions

- Commercial, legal and religious centre
- Capital city, centre of Government
- International /national banking, insurance & financial centre
- Educational & cultural centre
- Commercial / retail centre
- International tourist & conference centre
- Industrial centre (although declining)
Edinburgh’s CBD

- The old town & the new town.
- Includes the Royal Mile, Princes Street, Queen Street, as far as Holyrood Palace.
Edinburgh’s CBD

- Shops …large chain stores
  - e.g John Lewis, M&S on Princes St.
- Shopping Malls
  - Princes Mall, St. James’s centre.
- Large Banks, insurance companies
  - e.g Standard Life
- Tourism
  - e.g Castle, Holyrood Palace, museums, Dynamic Earth
- Government offices
  - e.g Parliament.
Edinburgh’s CBD

- Bus stations
  - St. Andrews Square
- Main railway station
  - Waverley
- Recreation...
  - Pubs e.g. Rose St.
  - Theatres e.g. Playhouse on Leith Walk
  - cinemas,
  - hotels (The Balmoral)
  - eating places.
- Exclusive stores
  - e.g. Harvey Nics, Multrees Walk
Edinburgh’s CBD

- Taller buildings
- Lack of open space
- Most expensive land
- Route centre (roads and rail)
- Competition for land
- Most accessible spot
- Central in city
Edinburgh’s CBD
Edinburgh’s CBD

- Grid iron street pattern
- Lack of open space
- Several Tourist attractions
- Bus station
- Main Railway station
- Tourist info.
- Many churches
- Oldest part of city
Problems in Edinburgh’s CBD

- Traffic congestion
- High rent / land values
- Lack of land for expansion
- Lack of car parking
- Cost of maintaining old buildings
- Customers wanting indoor shopping
Traffic Management schemes

- Park and ride
- Bus lanes
- Double yellow lines
- Pedestrianisation
- One way streets
- Cycle lanes
- Congestion charges
- Bypass / ringroad
Changes in Edinburgh’s CBD

- Large expensive stores built e.g. Harvey Nics.
- New cinema / eating complex built
  - Omni-centre
- Plans for underground car parks & improved shops in Princes Street.
- Many houses (George St, Queen St. converted to offices)
- Movement of many offices out of city
- Attempts to attract customers at Christmas with fair / ice rink / market
Multrees Walk, off St Andrews Square

Upmarket, pedestrianised
CBD changes continued…

- Bank buildings converted to pubs, restaurants etc.
  - Movement of bank HQ:
    - RBS to Hermiston Gait and HBOS to Gyle.
- The Gyle shopping centre built, attracting shops & customers.
  - Covered shopping centres
    - Princes mall and St James centre
- Scottish Office moved to Leith.
Changes in Edinburgh’s CBD

- Converted bank
- New cinema complex
- German Market
- Former Scottish Office
The Gyle & Hermiston Gait

- Easy access
  - M8 & bypass.

- New railway links
  - South Gyle and Hermiston/Edinburgh park

- Easy parking, room for expansion.

- Cheaper land

- Nearness to airport
Recap: Changes in CBD

Although there are planning restrictions, there are:

- New hotels (Sheraton)
- New shops (Harvey Nicholls)
- Modern shopping malls (Waverly Centre/ St. James)
- New and improved tourist attractions (Dynamic Earth/ National Gallery)
- Pedestrianised roads (Rose St)
- Bus and taxi lanes (Princes St).
“The Central Business District of major cities undergoes continuing change.”

Referring to a city that you have studied in the Developed World, **explain** the changes which have taken place in the CBD over the past few decades.

You should refer to named locations within the CBD (5)

**TIP:** Give real examples, explain the changes using **linking words** like 'due to', 'so that', 'so', 'because of', 'therefore', 'in order to'.
Answers 2001:
see printed + electronic copies
The Gyle & Hermiston Gait

- Easy access
  - M8 & bypass.
- New railway links
  - South Gyle and Hermiston/Edinburgh park
- Easy parking, room for expansion.
- Cheaper land
- Nearness to airport
From the centre out...
The Inner City: Leith
Good times in Leith

- Leith used to be a busy port
- Trade with UK and rest of Europe
- Whiskey and sugar warehouses
- Fertilisers
- Lots of people employed there
- Many goods transported by railways and canals
- Shipbuilding
Leith (pre-change)

- Port trade declined
- Loss of many industries
  - e.g. shipbuilding; fertilisers; distilling.
- Lots of derelict land + derelict buildings.
- Many substandard houses.
Leith (pre-change)

- Many empty buildings.
- Limited shopping facilities.
- A declining, and ageing population.
- 1960s tower blocks
Common inner city features include:

- Mixed land use
- A high density of buildings
- Limited open space.
- Much waste land (e.g. gap sites)
- Old, declining industries
- Buildings of many ages & styles
- Many derelict buildings
- Low order shops
- A declining population
- A higher than average unemployment rate
- On average, a lower income
Most inner cities now have urban regeneration schemes in which buildings are being modernised, converted, demolished and replaced, with gap sites being filled
Inner City - Leith

Grid iron

Britannia

Scottish executive

Empty docks
Now flats
Recent Developments in Leith

Scottish Executive Headquarters (Victoria Quay)

New Expensive Flats

Add these to your notes
Recent Developments in Leith

- Real radio station.
- The Ocean Terminal shopping centre.
- Royal Yacht Britannia.
- New hotels.
- Private Health Club (First Generation)
- Large restaurants.
- Big events e.g Tall Ships and MTV awards.
- Development of passenger shipping trade.
- ‘Gentrification’ of old Whisky Bonds.
- Leith Walk – tree planting.
- Large stores e.g Tiso
New flats, converted warehouses
Recent Developments in Leith
Converted warehouses: shops, bars, restaurants on ground floor, flats above.
Success?

- Younger, more affluent people attracted to Leith.
- Increase in daytime population.
- Attracted people from all over to Leith to spend their leisure time.
- Created an affluent dock and riverside fringe.
Past papers questions

2005

a) For a city you have studied, explain the ways in which its site and situation contributed to its growth. (4)

b) Referring to an inner city landscape in Glasgow, or in a city you have studied, describe and explain the changes which have taken place in recent years. (5)
Answers 2005:
see electronic copies
Edinburgh - past papers questions

2001
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- Referring to a city that you have studied in the Developed World, **explain** the changes which have taken place in the CBD over the past few decades.
  You should refer to named locations within the CBD  (5)

2005

a) For a city you have studied, **explain** the ways in which its site and situation contributed to its growth.  (4)

b) Referring to an inner city landscape in Glasgow, or in a city you have studied, describe and explain the changes which have taken place in recent years.  (5)
Suburbs

Edge of city

Middle Class housing

Crescent and cul-de-sac street pattern

Garages and Gardens
Suburbs – 20\textsuperscript{th} C housing.

Suburban 20th/21st century residential areas are located:

- on the outskirts of a city
- near the green belt
- within commuting distance from the CBD
These areas can be identified by socio-economic features but also from features easily seen on an Ordnance Survey map. These features include:

- expensive private housing
- detached houses, with gardens and garages
- high land values
- main roads/railway stations near, but not in, area for commuters
- street patterns which prevent through traffic and allow privacy and attractive designs, such as cul-de-sacs/crescents
- being near the green belt and, often, attractive landscapes such as woodlands, parkland and river valleys and lakes
- amenities, including golf courses, schools, churches and small shopping areas
- low density housing, with open spaces and landscaping
Why are these 20th century residential areas in the suburbs?

- Cities expanded outwards because there was no room near the centre.
- Commuters can travel to the CBD for work by car or train.
- It's a pollution-free environment, away from industrial areas.
- There are attractive surroundings, open spaces, farmland and golf courses.
- There is room to build housing estates with large houses and gardens.
Models - The Burgess or concentric zone model.
The Burgess or concentric zone model.

- This model is based on the idea that land values are highest in the centre of a town or city. This is because competition is high in the central parts of the settlement. This leads to high-rise, high-density buildings being found near the Central Business District (CBD), with low-density, sparse developments on the edge of the town or city.
However, there are limits to the Burgess model:

- The model is now quite old and was developed before the advent of mass car ownership.
- New working and housing trends have emerged since the model was developed. Many people now choose to live and work outside the city on the urban fringe - a phenomenon that is not reflected in the Burgess model.
- Every city is different. There is no such thing as a typical city.
Hoyt model
Hoyt model

- This is based on the circles on the Burgess model, but adds sectors of similar land uses concentrated in parts of the city. Notice how some zones, e.g., the factories/industry zone, radiate out from the CBD. This is probably following the line of a main road or a railway.