

The response included a graph showing London's population change overtime. Part 1 focused on the describing a temporal urban pattern and explaining contributing factors.

Part 2: In the graph drawn previously it shows a steady pattern of upward growth for London, but a variation to this trend occurred in the middle of the 20th century, when the population declined before slowly continuing its growth. This variation is shown as a population fall from 8.6 million people in 1939 to just 6.3 million in 1991. This variation can be partly explained as a consequence of World War 2 and political decisions which influenced residential opportunities in the city. ①

The first reason that contributed to this was the Second World War and the immediate years that followed. During the war, many people moved away from London due to the danger of bombing... Many evacuees (mainly school children) were sent to live in the countryside... This emigration resulted in a significant change to both the size of the population and the structure of London's population...

The response by London's local authorities to the shortage of housing in the 1950-60's is a second factor which contributed to this continued decline in the population. Local authorities decided that a solution to the housing problem was high-rise blocks of flats that were erected during the 1950's and 60's in the following areas ... These were unpopular and unsafe... Many were demolished... Following this a change in strategy by city planners saw policies that encouraged people to move into areas beyond the greenbelt. The greenbelt was introduced into London during 1938 and its goal was to implement restrictions on urban growth... Londoners were attracted to a different lifestyle with semi-detached houses and more park space in the suburbs which reached the rural-urban fringes of Essex, Kent and Surrey. They could commute to the city as the rail network including the underground provided relatively cheap efficient transport to the city ... ② ③

A map of London was incorporated here showing the greenbelt and affected suburbs.

The policy encouraging suburbanisation and people moving away from the inner city and into more rural areas grew in popularity and in many cases while this resulted in a fall in the inner-city population it did not seriously impact on much of the available labour force as these people commuted in to the city. This policy changed the spatial pattern of the city as London's population became more spread out and was located further from the inner city than ever before... This process of suburbanisation resulted in people who considered themselves "Londoners" not being included in census and statistical data which contributes to the decline in population shown on the graph. ④