Lesson 2: Conflicts and challenges associated with locating national scale projects

Lesson 2 is intended as a stand alone lesson on the costs and benefits associated with High Speed Rail in Britain; and the conflicts and challenges that arise when such large national schemes are proposed.

Starter – The debate
The starter is intended to provide students with an insight into the debate surrounding High Speed Rail in Britain and provide a general overview of the relevance to geography. An alternative to watching both clips is to ask students to read the information and then present a 60 second fact file on High Speed Rail.

Main activity – Cost benefit analysis
This has been designed to show that large scale projects such as High Speed Rail have costs and benefits associated with them. It is designed as a piece of independent work. However, students could carry out the task in pairs.

Additional newspaper resources for the background reading can be found by simply searching ‘Cost benefit analysis of high speed rail in the UK’

Plenary – Practice examination questions
A range of questions covering the main specifications are used; however teachers may well wish to use their own bank of past examination questions for this part of the lessons, given many of the specifications are new and therefore published sample examination questions are scarce at the time of publishing this resource.
All examination boards publish mark schemes associated with the questions selected, which can be downloaded from the examination board websites.