

FT for schools: High streets after COVID-19 activity sheet 3

This resource was written by Stephen Schwab, author, and consultant.

The article

www.ft.com/content/e39931c0-8a6c-42db-b530-47d6f343df65 Vidhya Alakeson: High streets face a 'new normal' with old problems 12 June 2020.

Specification links

Questions have been constructed considering 3.2.2.2. Changing Places, *the ways in which students' own lives and those of others are affected by continuity and change in the nature of places and our understanding of place.*

Edexcel Topic 4: Shaping Places, 4A.3 *Past and present connections have shaped the economic and social characteristics of your chosen places.*

OCR Topic 2.1 Changing Spaces; Making Places, 1.a. *Places are multi-faceted, shaped by shifting flows and connections which change over time.*

Eduqas Changing Places 1.3.1 *Changing place; changing places – relationships and connections.*

Activity

Read the article by Vidhya Alakeson. Alakeson discusses the UK high street after COVID-19. She identifies social and economic problems and suggests solutions that could be applied as a part of wider urban regeneration.

1. Describe the author's sense of the high street. How does this equate with the image of your local high street?
2. Vidhya Alakeson states that 'consumer habits and lifestyles are changing rapidly'. Give 2 examples from your own knowledge of changes to shopping habits that have reduced footfall and spending on the high street.
3. How does the author describe the impact these changes have had on the 'old normal of the high street'?
4. Describe how Covid19 is acting as an accelerator of these high street impacts.
5. What are the elements of the 'perfect storm' facing high street landlords?
6. Vidhya Alakeson envisages 'historic disaster' from landlords seeking an economic return. How does this compare to her reimagining of the post-Covid19 high street?
7. What post-lockdown trend relating to community high streets was identified by a YouGov poll?
8. Why might government planning miss this trend and with what outcomes?
9. Is the governmental approach applicable to all scales of settlement?
10. Identify the features of the Baltic Triangle that make it an urban regeneration success story.



11. Create a case study using these websites:

www.baltictriangle.co.uk/about/

www.baltictriangle.co.uk/baltic-triangle-regeneration/

www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/all-about/baltic-triangle

www.regeneratingliverpool.com/project/baltic-triangle/

www.liverpool.gov.uk/media/9387/baltic-triangle-planning-framework.pdf

12. Describe the 3 'big moves' that government, councils and businesses must make, as agents of change, to 'build on community spirit and put people in charge of their high streets'.

13. 'Business as usual' for the high street can be 'simple' concludes Vidhya Alakeson. What is her final suggestion?

14. Consider the example of Liverpool as a regenerated 'hub' and a large post-industrial city. Do you think this model could be successfully applied to other scales of settlement?

Further reading

Paul Hogan, a Baltic Triangle District director warns:

The Baltic Triangle must not suffer the same fate of the creative sector in east London where people and organisations are being forced out because they can no longer afford to live or work in the very areas that they were instrumental in helping to regenerate.

- Open the RGS-IBG [fact sheet urban regeneration in east London – 'geography explained'](#). Learn more about east London's regeneration successes and failures
- Forbes [Reimagining The Future Of The High Street](#)
- The Guardian [Don't save the high street – change it completely, says retail guru Mary Portas](#)
- Deloitte [What next for the high street?](#)