

Y12 GEOGRAPHY  
CHANGING PLACES. PRE  
ENROLLMENT  
WORKBOOK

NAME:

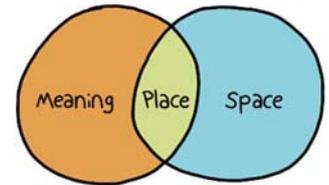
**CHANGING PLACES A LEVEL**

Welcome to A level geography and the changing places module. In this section you will focus on the people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them, all of which are of fundamental importance in their lives. Students acknowledge this importance and engage with how places are known and experienced, how their character is appreciated, and the factors and processes which impact upon places and how they change and develop over time. Through developing this knowledge, students will gain understanding of the way in which their own lives and those of others are affected by continuity and change in the nature of places which are of fundamental importance in their lives.

## Place Vs Space

Place is an everyday word and a key term within the study of geography. Place can be seen as a definite location on a map or it may refer to the description of the human or physical characteristics of a particular location. Here are some key points about **place** and how it differs from a **space**

- Places have meaning to people, a space becomes a place as we know it.
- The geographer Yi Fu Tuan (1977) contrasts place with space, stating that 'Place is security' whilst 'Space is freedom'. This suggests that place is bounded, identifiable and something to which humans can become **emotionally attached**.
- Similarly, John Agnew (1989) defines place as a **meaningful location**.



### What is the most familiar example of a place for people?

- Your home, as it is the place where you feel most attached and where you can be yourself. This is because you have emotional attachment to it. Another person would not see this as a place however as it would have no meaning to them. They would therefore consider it just a space.

**What makes your home a place rather than a space? In what ways have you attached meaning to it? You may think about the amount of time you spend there or about the relationships with people in that place.**

## What aspects make up a place?

Broadly speaking, geographers divide space into aspects: location, locale and sense of place.

|                                       | <b><u>Location:</u></b><br>Where a place is located. For example, coordinates on a map.    | <b><u>Locale:</u></b><br>Locale, unlike location, takes into account the effect that people have on their setting. In terms of locale, a place is shaped by the people, cultures and the customs within it. | <b><u>Sense of Place:</u></b><br>Subjective and emotional attachment that people must a place. Every person has different views and perspectives on place. |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Example:</b><br><b>Glastonbury</b> | County of Somerset, 23 miles from Bristol.<br>Latitude: 51.1456N<br>and Longitude: 2.7144W | Home to numerous, visitor attractions, e.g. Glastonbury Tor. It's a beautiful place to walk, unwind and relax.  | A spiritual importance. Evokes emotions about internationally famous music festival, Glastonbury.  |



## The subjective aspects of place are important when considering what our sense of place is.

We must consider the subjective aspects of place (the feelings associated with a place) as this is what separates place and space. According to Tuan (1977) "*space is a location which has no social connections to a human being.*" He goes on to say that "*the difference between space and place can be described in the extent to which human beings have given meaning to a specific area.*"

Task: Considering Tuan's work, Select three places that you know. Consider the subjective aspects of these places. What makes them a place rather than a space?

### Insider and Outsider perspectives of place

Humanistic geographers sometimes speak about place in terms of insider and outsider perspectives. Insiders are said to develop a sense of place through everyday experiences in familiar settings- daily rhythms and shared experiences are critical and they underpin the subjectivity that is the basis for the sense of place of the community. Thus 'to be inside a place is to belong to it and identify with it, and the more profoundly inside you are the stronger is the identity with the place' (Relph 1976). It is this insider's sense of place that means people are more likely to oppose developments within their local area than those from outside.

For outsider's, the sense of place is more vague and abstract. The outsider's view is often about discovery, a personal view of entering a locale or landscape and learning how an individual passes through it or how others dwell in it or how to become a dweller in it. The insider's view is often about experience, a narrative of close involvement with the landscape and locale, expressing what time and repetition teach the person about that place. The insider is an inhabitant, a dweller, the outsider is a traveller, an observer from beyond the place.

The insider's advantage is that understanding accumulates and is acquired by just living there rather than direct investigation. The feeling of the 'place' emerges from a deeper, broader pool of familiarity. The outsider's advantage is to be able to see things afresh, to ask questions that the inhabitants do not think to ask because the answers are so familiar. They draw on experiences from other places to understand the one under observation. The insider's perspective is intimate; the outsider's is neutral. These images are important because they create generalisations and influence decisions regarding matters such as investment, whether to reside there or whether to holiday there.

There is also the notion here of people, activities and events being seen as 'in place' or 'out of place'. For example, why may a business man feel 'in place' in Canary Wharf in London, while a homeless person may not, and what does this mean for how the place is defined. If certain people feel 'out of place' why is this, and who has created this feeling? As the politics of the U and other countries become more focussed on immigration, there is a greater need to understand the notion of place in the production of insiders and outsiders.

'A place for everything and everything in its place' is a well-known phrase that suggests there is a particular ordering of things in the world. Cultural geographer Tim Cresswell argues that people, things and practices are often strongly linked to particular places and when these links are broken, or when people have acted out of place, they are deemed to have committed something of a crime. Graffiti on historic buildings or litter in an area of outstanding beauty are examples of this but increasingly we are seeing groups of people being treated as outsiders. In the past, this has included traveller, protestors and lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Gender has also been important. 'A women's place is in the home' was the stereotypical societal view held by many in the twentieth century and this affected the type of places in which women felt comfortable.

Different people will perceive places in very different ways. **Positionality** refers to factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, religion, politics and socio-economic status, which influence how we perceived different places. The significance that an individual or group attaches to a particular place may be influenced by feelings of belonging or alienation, a sense of being an insider or an outsider. Some places and regions hold great significance for some groups of people but not for others. For example, the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia is the most holy of religious places for Muslims, but for non-Muslims it is viewed more as a historical and historical place. Place attachment also develops

through positive experiences associated with a place, but not everyone will have the same experiences. Experiences of place change as we get older. Would you feel the same excitement going to the local playground now as you did when you were younger?

One group of people who are often referred to as 'out of place' are migrants. Deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean have highlighted the plight of hundreds of thousands of people trying to escape conflict and reach a 'better life' in Europe, but as people-without-place, such as refugees present a crisis to state power. In the UK, media reports and anti-migration groups have used metaphors associated with water, blood and disease to describe the influx of refugees. Such negative terminology has invariably meant that the presence of such migrants has met with great resistance and calls from some to protect 'our place' and 'our culture' against people who do not 'belong' here.

**Answer the following**

1. Explain how insiders and outsiders develop a sense of place.
2. Why might insiders have a different sense of place to an insider?
3. Why are people likely to oppose developments in their area?
4. List examples of insiders and outsiders, why might their sense of place differ
5. What is positionality?
6. Why might some places be important to an insider but not to an outsider?
7. Explain whether being 'out of place' always refers to a physical location
8. How can a person be 'out of place'

## Word pictures

Word pictures are a descriptive way of showing links to other places and how places are influenced by the wider world. An example of a word picture for Valley Road Park is below.

*“Valley Park is an ocean of tranquillity within this busy town. The silence is broken by the quacking of the ducks and the flapping of wings. An occasional car zooms past, rushing to the sea front and that longer for view. They don't stop to appreciate the green space they are travelling through. The trees nearly touch the bridge overhead where the traffic flows constantly. Are they arriving in Scarborough, or just passing through? Where are they going- home, work Whitby, Filey? Do they know what is below them? Although it is deserted at the moment there are hints of how this area is used. The rope swing dangling from the bridge shows it is the pace to 'hang out' for the local youths, and the discarded beer can suggests a less wholesome use”.*

Attempt a word picture of around 100 word for two place you know. Remember to include a description of the area and any links to other places. Consider transport links, shops, and languages spoken...

Location:

Location:

## Evidence of social deprivation

This survey is based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Consumer Data Research Centre, 2015). Some indexes cannot be included as they would require secondary data to show levels of deprivation (e.g. average income, house prices etc.)

|                 |   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |  |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Buildings       | Badly designed/ugly                             |   |   |   |   |   |   | Well-designed / pleasing to the eye                      |
|                 | No Maintenance/ no evidence of improvement      |   |   |   |   |   |   | Evidence of maintenance /improvement                     |
|                 | Outside – garden/open space in poor condition   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Outside – land, gardens or open space in good conditions |
| Traffic         | Roads are badly congested                       |   |   |   |   |   |   | Roads have no traffic congestion                         |
|                 | Parking is very difficult; no parking provision |   |   |   |   |   |   | Parking is very easy; garages or spaces provided         |
|                 | High noise volume from traffic                  |   |   |   |   |   |   | No traffic noise   |
|                 | Obvious smell from traffic or other pollution   |   |   |   |   |   |   | No smell from traffic or other pollution                 |
| Green space     | No garden/open space – doors open to street     |   |   |   |   |   |   | Large gardens or open space outside buildings            |
|                 | No greenery visible from buildings              |   |   |   |   |   |   | Trees/Shrubs /greenery visible from close by             |
|                 | No public parks or beaches easily accessible    |   |   |   |   |   |   | Public parks and beaches within easy distance            |
| General quality | Much litter                                     |   |   |   |   |   |   | No litter  |
|                 | Roads poorly maintained                         |   |   |   |   |   |   | Roads well maintained                                    |

|                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
|                    | /broken paving etc.  |  |  |  |  |  |  | with paving etc. well kept  |
|                    | Long way from public transport                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  | Close to public transport   |
|                    | Remote from shops/amenities / services                           |  |  |  |  |  |  | Close to shops/amenities /services  |
| Service provision  | No provision for disabled users                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  | A wide range of provisions such as dropped pavements and wheelchair ramps         |
|                    | No shops or a small range of shops                               |  |  |  |  |  |  | Wide range of shops present   |
|                    | No facilities for refreshments (lack of cafes, restaurants etc.) |  |  |  |  |  |  | A range of eating establishments, cafes, restaurants, etc.                        |
|                    | No amusements or attractions present                             |  |  |  |  |  |  | A wide range of amusements and attractions such as museums, galleries, boat trips |
| Social environment | Poor lighting, the area may feel unsafe at night                 |  |  |  |  |  |  | Well lit, the area would feel safe at night                                       |
|                    | The area feels unsecure, no security cameras or burglar alarms   |  |  |  |  |  |  | Security cameras and safety provision visible                                     |
|                    | The area feels dangerous or threatening                          |  |  |  |  |  |  | The area feels friendly, safe and secure  |
|                    | Extensive vandalism  |  |  |  |  |  |  | No vandalism evident  |

| Location | Total | Order according to deprivation (lowest number is the most deprived). |
|----------|-------|--|
|          |       |  |
|          |       |  |

