

## Question 2.4

### Question

‘Conflict often arises when people who live in a place try to resist changes that appear to have been forced upon them by organisations, groups and individuals from outside that place.’

To what extent does this statement apply to one or more places that you have studied?

[20 marks]

### Mark scheme

AO1 = 10 marks, AO2 = 10 marks

**AO1** – Knowledge and understanding of the external factors which cause/impose change in a place. These should be clearly categorised.

**AO2** – Applies this knowledge and understanding to evaluate how people in communities respond to change. Evaluation should consider a range of reactions to change.

#### **Level 4** (16-20 marks)

- Detailed evaluative conclusion that is rational and firmly based on knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question. (AO2)
- Detailed, coherent and relevant analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding throughout (AO2).
- Full evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2).
- Detailed, highly relevant and appropriate knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments used throughout (AO1).
- Full and accurate knowledge and understanding of key concepts and processes throughout (AO1).
- Detailed awareness of scale and temporal change which is well integrated where appropriate (AO1).

#### **Level 3** (11-15 marks)

- Clear evaluative conclusion that is based on knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question (AO2).
- Generally clear, coherent and relevant analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding (AO2).
- Generally clear evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2).
- Generally clear and relevant knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments (AO1).
- Generally clear and accurate knowledge and understanding of key concepts and processes (AO1).
- Generally clear awareness of scale and temporal change which is integrated where appropriate (AO1).

**Level 2** (6-10 marks)

- Some sense of an evaluative conclusion partially based upon knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question (AO2).
- Some partially relevant analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding (AO2).
- Some evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2).
- Some relevant knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments which is partially relevant (AO1).
- Some knowledge and understanding of key concepts, processes and interactions and change (AO1).
- Some awareness of scale and temporal change which is sometimes integrated where appropriate. There may be a few inaccuracies (AO1).

**Level 1** (1-5 marks)

- Very limited and/or unsupported evaluative conclusion that is loosely based upon knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question (AO2).
- Very limited analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding. This lacks clarity and coherence (AO2).
- Very limited and rarely logical evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2).
- Very limited relevant knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments (AO1).
- Isolated knowledge and understanding of key concepts and processes (AO1).
- Very limited awareness of scale and temporal change which is rarely integrated where appropriate. There may be a number of inaccuracies. (AO1).

**Notes for answers:**

The question links different parts of the theme of Changing places, specifically the impacts of external forces on people and place, the local place study and contrasting place study.

Responses can be based on any conflict that has been caused by external pressures or decision makers. The context should be one or more of the specific places studied.

**AO1**

- Knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of the place or places chosen. The impact of relationships and connections on people and place. How past and present connections shape places, and how external agencies shape actions and behaviour.
- Identification of different groups of people who have an interest in how places are managed and who wish to change the place(s). These include local residents, environmental authorities, developers, corporate groups of companies, architects, planners, local councils, national governments, European Union, and tourist boards.
- Awareness of the nature of cultural and/or economic changes that may be forced on the place or places chosen.
- Cultural characteristics can include aspects of geography such as the balance between rural and urban lifestyles, changing levels of educational attainment amongst the population as a whole, changes in the use of various media, increased mobility of the population for work and leisure pursuits, changing patterns of sport and exercise and changing patterns of involvement in arts, cultural pursuits, and community activities.
- Economic characteristics can include aspects of geography such as levels of employment and unemployment, changes in economic class, the balance between primary, secondary, tertiary employment, changes in disposable income, income differentials within the community, availability of consumer goods, access to services for the different economic groups within the community (including health, education, transport), and economic provision for the old and infirm.

- The nature of conflict at a local level and the types of issues that may result in conflict. Specific details of the causes, events and timescale involved.
- Examples of issues leading to conflict include the closure of local hospital, building of new incinerator or landfill site, new road development in environmentally sensitive area, building of housing estate on greenfield site, construction of solar farm or wind turbines, closure of community facilities, libraries, schools.
- For instance, the building of a housing estate on greenfield land. Planning application prepared by property company for homes, road access and other infrastructure. Proposed development outside of the housing development boundary. Public exhibition to which local residents invited to attend. Many concerns expressed by residents, local authority representatives, environmental groups. Several public meetings, followed by Parish council rejection. Petitions signed, presented to MP and city council, planning objections signed. Inquiry at which local representatives gave evidence. Planning proposal rejected by Secretary of State.

### **AO2**

- The extent to which the assertion can be supported ie the degree to which people who live in a place try to resist changes that appear to have been forced upon them.
- Analysis of the scale, scope and nature of the change being imposed. Motivation may be to improve the environmental quality of the area for local residents, to improve housing and service quality, to reduce crime rates, to increase social cohesion or may have purely economic motives.
- Evaluation of how different organisations, groups and individuals within the chosen place(s) react to change imposed externally on them. Each interest group may have a different view about what should be done to protect and manage areas. Resistance to change can take many forms, for instance social media protests, billboards, lobbying, political campaigns.
- Evaluation of how different groups of residents in the chosen place may have varying levels of political engagement and access to power, which will affect both their influence and their views in responding to external pressures.
- Different groups of people will have different needs depending on their social and economic characteristics, impinging their response to change. Local communities are likely to have different perceptions of the value of places and conflicting goals over change, especially in areas of cultural diversity.
- There may be conflict between the needs of the most deprived and planners/commercial organisations especially in terms of housing and service provision eg schemes involving public/private partnerships with the development industry.
- Some issues causing conflict will sometimes involve high levels of public consultation but not all local groups are likely to feel engaged in the process.
- Resistance to change in relation to a specific issue eg building of a housing estate on greenfield land. Analysis of events may show level of effectiveness of combined community response to proposals by external commercial agency. Conflict between different interest groups. Reaction by individuals, resident groups, environmental lobby, local political representatives, able to mount multi-faceted response.
- Overall evaluation of ways in which differences of opinion can cause conflict between interest groups and the various ways these might be resolved. There may be references to localism or affection for a particular place as well as nimbyism or opposition to unwanted development.

## Student responses

### Student response 1

Conflict is a disagreement between 2 parties. For example in Silver Hill conflict arose between the group Winchester deserves better (insiders) and the outsiders Henderson Plc. Henderson forced the changes of 287 new residential units, only 35% being affordable onto the estate of Silver Hill. This led to conflict as outsiders eg Henderson often do not understand the nature and historical, precious view eg the residents have over Winchester. This so caused a high extent of conflict resulting in protests down the streets of Winchester. The 7 story proposed high buildings were not viewed at all suitable by the residents. Therefore showing that a large extent of conflict arises due to insider and outsider classes, as outsiders often do not care to keep the local settlements unique as they are not associated directly with the place.

Secondly in Silver Hill conflict arose between the Winchester council and the group of local residents. These are both insiders to the place and so therefore disproves the statement that conflict arises from outsiders and insiders. This conflict was of a large extent due to the fact the council approved plans for 18,000  $\text{m}^2$  of office accommodation and nearly 100,000 square feet of residential space. The violent protests, marches and speeches broke out by the local residents to try and combat these plans. This conflict is proven to be of a vast extent due to the fact that the council then scrapped the plans in 2014, showing the influence the local residents had.

So overall this statement does apply as outsiders force change in the building types (high rise, 7 story) onto towns like Winchester where it does not fit in with the cultural heritage and feel about the site. So conflict partly arises between outsiders and residents for the previous reason, however strong conflict also arises between insiders. Local council force the place to take on regeneration, to develop more high tech and so to attract new business (the aim for Winchester council) and so creating conflict with the other insider group residents. Showing that some extent of conflict is also due to insiders having opposing visions to reimagine to keep the cultural heritage the same.

### Examiner commentary

Overall a clear evaluative essay. It shows clear knowledge and understanding throughout with an explicit attempt to answer the question. The focus is on outsiders versus insiders and detail in terms of different groups is less apparent. There is a clear structure with consideration of 'the extent' throughout. A detailed and thoughtful conclusion lifts the essay to top of level 3. 15/20

## Student response 2

Conflict arises when two parties have a disagreement, in this case when residents are forced into change by organisations, groups and individuals. These agents of change could be city councils, cooperations or prominent individuals. In the Silver Hill case, organisation such as Henderson PLC have proposed redevelopment plans which local residents are not happy with. This is due to gentrification which is when a poorer area is redeveloped into an affordable, move upmarket area. In the plans prosed there would be less than 30% affordable housing. This created a conflict between the two parties and residents protested. Organisations have also provoked conflict in the Mission District of San Francisco. Nick Podell Co. want to redevelop an area of housing but in the process plan to clear an area of 69,000<sup>2</sup> ft at 2050 Bryant Street. The plan is to build 276 housing units, 167 being affordable. This means that current residents can no longer afford to live there and only rich people will move in which is reducing the local culture, so residents are protesting against it so organisations can often create conflict. Groups can also create conflict by forcing changes upon an area. In Silver Hill the city council have changed redevelopment plans which local people are unhappy with. A protest group called 'Winchester deserves better' protested to keep Winchesters history and character. In the mission, the tech worker groups were moving in which was changing the culture of the area from latino to white and the high rent prices meant that more local residents were being evicted. This creates a conflict between the locals and the authoritative groups forcing change.

Individuals can also create conflict. In Silver Hill the head of Winchester City council amended plans without public consultation which created tension as the public disagreed and felt that they were being forced into change. In the mission, the Mayor, Ed Lee gave tax breaks to new technology companies so they would move to San Francisco. This threatened all the local workers and residents as they were on much lower salaries so could no longer afford the area they had lived in all their lives.

In conclusion, the statement is true for most areas as when one group, organisation or individual forces change upon a community, there are likely to be disagreements which then creates conflict as there are protests against any new plans which threaten local residents, whether that be a relatively wealthy area or poor area.

### Examiner commentary

The question is answered in a superficial manner. The reason for conflict is often vague and lacks development. It does seek to categorise the agents of change and some links are made between those agents of change and conflict with local residents. Some clarity in terms of place knowledge. It doesn't really consider the extent and thus evaluation is limited. 10/20