

9.3 MOBILE PHONES – A BLESSING OR A CURSE?



INTENT– In this unit you look at the impact of globalisation, using mobile phones as an example of an industry. You will investigate how manufacturing phones has helped China to develop rapidly, but that this has also had negative impacts. You will investigate the environmental impacts of mobile phones in different countries and how mobile phones are also leading to improved quality of life in developing countries.

Builds on – Y7 – the chocolate industry. UK. Y8 – food and fast fashion. Y9 – Development and Africa

Feedforward – GCSE – Development Dynamics, Challenges of Urbanisation



KEY LOCATIONS



Global Scale –
Mobile phone
production and
consumption



National Scale–
China,
Democratic
Republic of
Congo



KEY KNOWLEDGE

- Globalisation has allowed some countries such as China to develop rapidly. China initially focused on developing its manufacturing industries, making products to be sold around the world.
- Companies like Apple, buy components from all over the world and manufacture their phones in China. The phones are designed in the USA and sold all over the world.
- Rapid development in China has improved the lives of many people and lead to rapid urbanisation (growth of cities) but this has also lead to many negative impacts on people and the environment.
- Some of the components in mobile phones are mined in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo where there have been problems such as exploitation and environmental damage.
- The world-wide use of mobile phones has also generated an enormous amounts of e-waste.
- Mobile phones have allowed people in developing countries to improve their quality of life as it allows people to access important services such as weather forecasts and banking which were not easily accessible before.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

CAREERS



Natural resources	Substances that are found in nature that can be used by humans for our benefit such as water, minerals and wood.
Raw materials	The basic materials or substances from which products can be made.
Sustainability	When materials and resources are used in a way which will balance the needs of the present without compromising the future.
Globalisation	The increasing links between countries around the world as a result of the movement of goods, services and money.
Manufacturing	Making products from raw materials by hand or using technology.
Rural to urban migration	The movement of people from the countryside to towns and cities.
Urbanisation	The increasing percentage of a country's population moving to towns and cities.
Ecological footprint	The amount of the environment required to produce the goods and services necessary to support a particular lifestyle.
Inequality	The difference between poverty and wealth, as well as in peoples' wellbeing and access to things like jobs, housing and education.
Quality of life	The general well-being of people which includes income, health, education and the environment.

Working for an NGO— You could work for an NGO, many of which are charity organisations like CAFOD. There are opportunities to work raising awareness in the UK or supporting projects on the ground in different countries.