**Information sheet**

Urbanisation is the proportion or percentage of people living in towns and cities.

* In **1800**, only about **3%** of the world’s population lived in urban areas.
* In **1950**, about **30%** of the world’s population lived in urban areas.
* In **2008**, the UN estimated **half** of the world’s population lived in urban areas.

Urbanisation has resulted in more and more, larger and larger cities around the world. There has been a growth of very large cities with a population of more than 1 million.

* In **1850**, there were only **2 millionaire cities**, namely London and Paris.
* In **1950**, there were **83 millionaire cities**.
* In **2015**, there were **approximately 500 millionaire cities**.

There has been a change in the location and distribution of millionaire cities:

* **Before 1950**, many millionaire cities were found **in HICs and temperate latitudes north of the Equator**.

The world now also has megacities. These are cities with a population in excess of 10 million.

* In **1950**, there were only **three megacities** in the world: London, New York and Tokyo.

In 2014, there were 28 megacities worldwide: 16 in Asia, 4 in South America, 3 each in Africa and Europe and 2 in North America.

* By **2030**, the world is projected to have **41 megacities**.

**Student tasks**

1. Use a software application, such as **Excel**, to produce a **bar graph** to show how **the number of millionaire cities has changed over time**.
2. Research the names and locations of the world’s 15 largest cities of today

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| Name of City | Location of City |
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1. Write a sentence to describe the changing location of the world’s megacities.

1. Complete the table below:

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|  | **True** | **False** |
| There has been a **change** in the **location and distribution of large cities since 1850.** |  |  |
| In **1970**, **half of the world’s ten largest cities** were found **in** the **HICs** of **North America** and **Europe**. |  |  |
| By **2000**, **15 of the 19 world’s largest cities** were found **in** the **LICs** of **Africa**, **Asia** and **South America**. |  |  |
| **Since** the **1970s**, the **growth rate** of most cities **in HICs** has **slowed down**, or even **declined**. |  |  |
| **Currently**, the **fastest growing cities** are in **Southern Asia**. |  |  |