

91243R



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 Geography 2024

**91243 Apply geography concepts and skills to  
demonstrate understanding of a given environment**

Credits: Four

### RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for Geography 91243.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–14 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

## **Relevant geographic concepts**

### **Environments**

May be natural and/or cultural. They have particular characteristics and features, which can be the result of natural and/or cultural processes. People's actions can alter the characteristics and features of the natural and/or cultural environment. The particular characteristics of an environment may be similar to and/or different from another. A cultural environment includes people and/or the built environment.

### **Perspectives**

Ways of seeing the world that help explain differences in decisions about, responses to, and interactions with environments. Perspectives are bodies of thought, theories, or world views that shape people's values and have built up over time. They involve people's perceptions (how they view and interpret environments) and viewpoints (what they think) about geographic issues. Perceptions and viewpoints are influenced by people's values (deeply held beliefs about what is important or desirable).

### **Processes**

A sequence of natural and/or cultural actions that shapes and changes environments, places, and societies. Some examples of geographic processes include erosion, migration, desertification, and globalisation.

### **Patterns**

May be spatial (the arrangement of features on the Earth's surface) or temporal (how characteristics differ over time in recognisable ways).

### **Interaction**

Involves elements of an environment affecting each other and being linked together. Interaction incorporates movement, flows, connections, links, and interrelationships, which work together and may be one- or two-way interactions. Landscapes are the visible outcome of interactions. Interaction can bring about environmental change.

### **Change**

Involves any alteration to the natural or cultural environment. Change can be spatial and/or temporal. Change is a normal process in both natural and cultural environments. It occurs at varying rates, at different times, and in different places. Some changes are predictable, recurrent or cyclic, while others are unpredictable or erratic. Change can bring about further change.

### **Sustainability**

Involves adopting ways of thinking and behaving that allow individuals, groups, and societies to meet their needs and aspirations without preventing future generations from meeting theirs. Sustainable interaction with the environment may be achieved by preventing, limiting, minimising, or correcting environmental damage to water, air, and soil, as well as considering ecosystems and problems related to waste, noise, and visual pollution.

**Glossary of useful terms****Brownfield**

An area in a town or city that has been used in the past for factories or offices, and that could now be used for new building development.

**Deindustrialisation**


The decline of industrial activity or capacity in a region or economy.

**Regeneration**

The investment of public or private money into areas in need of lasting improvement.

**Gentrification**

The process whereby the character of a poor urban area is changed by wealthier people moving in, improving housing, and attracting new businesses, often displacing current residents in the process.

**RESOURCE A: Introduction to Stratford**

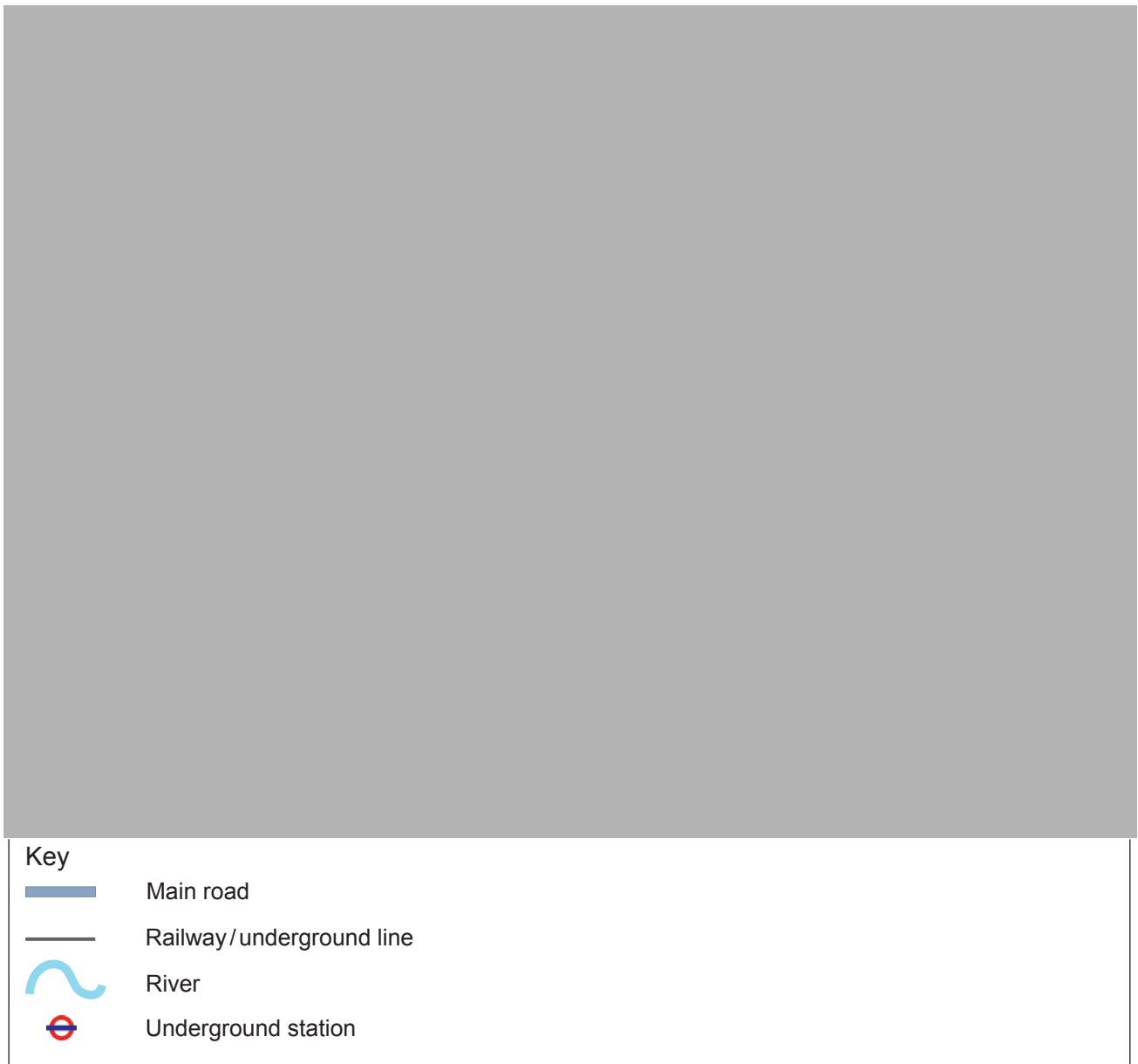
Stratford is a town in East London, England, within the London Borough of Newham. Part of the Lower Lea Valley, Stratford is situated 9.7 km east-north-east of Charing Cross, and includes the localities of Maryland and East Village.

Historically, Stratford was part of the parish of West Ham, which formed an ancient parish in Becontree, in Essex. Following reform of local government in London in 1965, the parish and borough of West Ham was abolished, becoming part of the borough of Newham in the newly formed Greater London.

**Figure 1:** The United Kingdom.



**Figure 2:** Greater London and its surrounding boroughs.



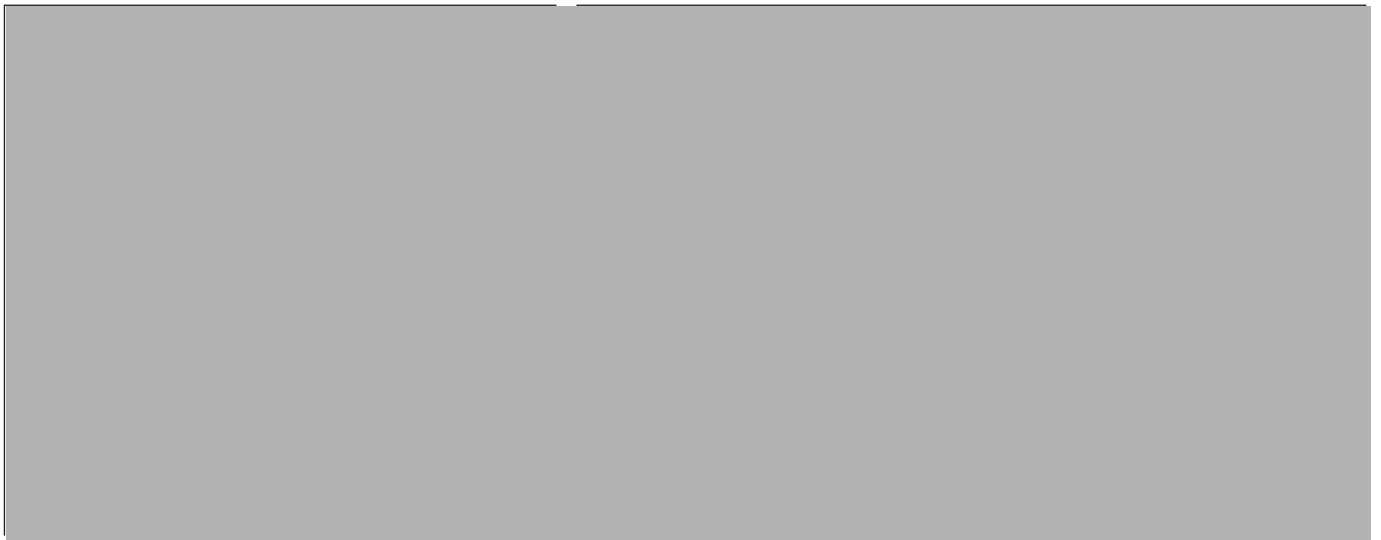
**Figure 3:** Stratford and the surrounding environment.

**RESOURCE B: An industrial past**

Stratford was originally a rural area, and the centre for livestock that came from surrounding areas to be processed. Corn from the mills was available, so Stratford was known for bread baking, and it was also known for potato production.

Stratford developed during the Industrial Revolution but started to fall into decline when the city deindustrialised, and industry moved further out. This led to a loss of jobs in Stratford and the surrounding area.

The nearby London Docks closed in the 1960s, and by the 1980s Stratford's unemployment levels were high and levels of health were poor. The environment was damaged, and people were forced to live on hills made on reclaimed landfill, such as Clays Lane. An iconic symbol of Stratford's industrial past was 'Fridge Mountain' – a 6-metre-tall collection of broken whiteware on the riverbank.



**Figure 4 (above left):** The Clays Lane housing estate was purpose-built to help support vulnerable single people.

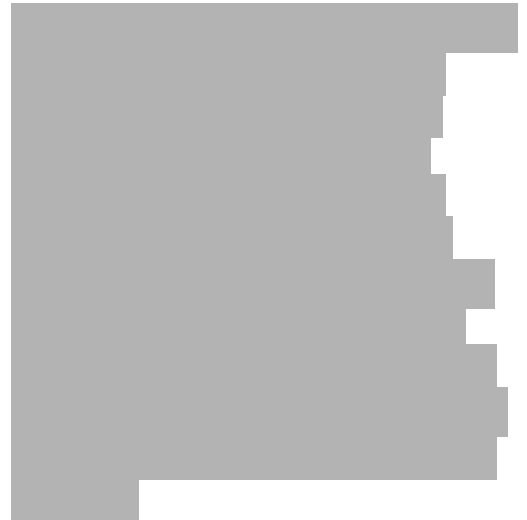
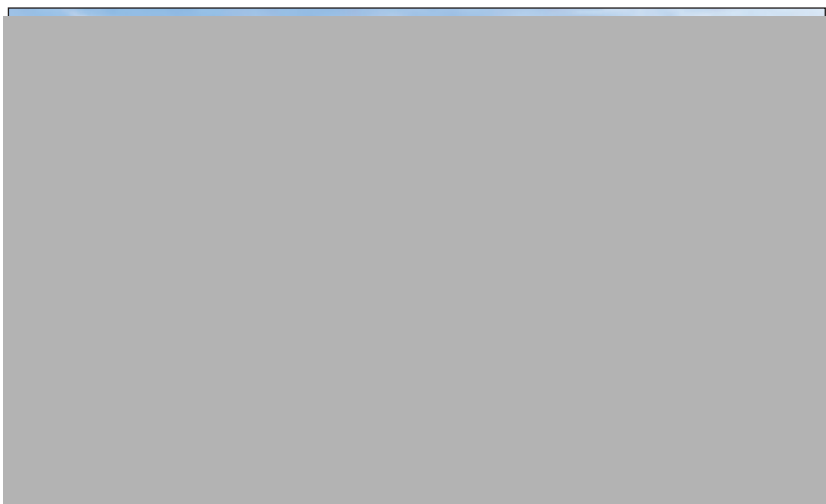
**Figure 5 (above right):** Running parallel to the River Lea, thousands of white fridges were stacked high and discarded.

## RESOURCE C: The Olympic journey

In 2005, London won the bid to host the 2012 Olympics with the understanding that Stratford would be used during the games, and regenerated for local people to use for housing and recreation after the competitors had left. After the Olympic Games were over, the park created was named the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.



**Figure 6:** Smooth newt, a protected amphibian species in the UK.



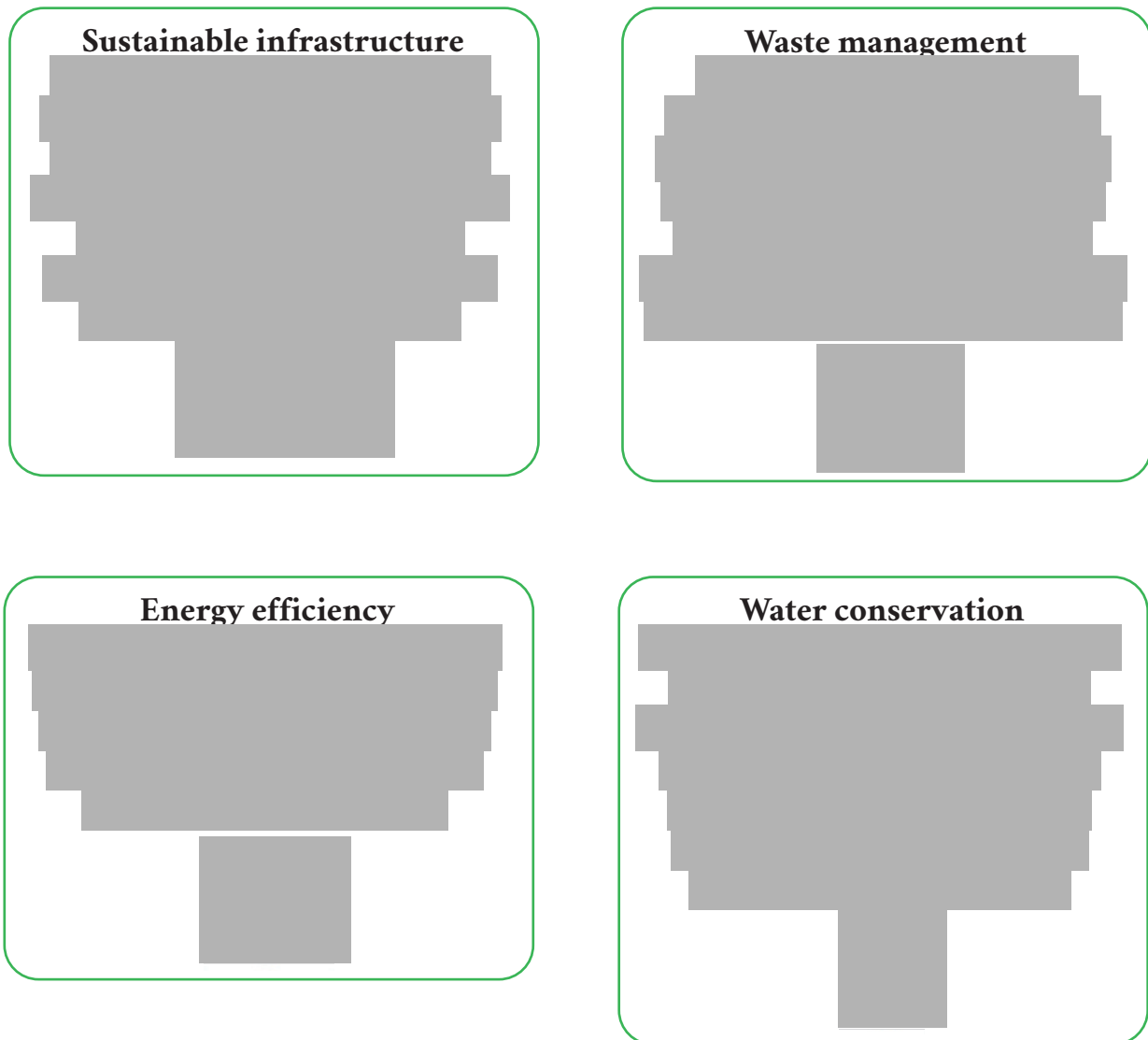
**Figure 7:** The Olympic Village under construction (2009).

Of the housing estates that were transformed to apartments, 2,818 new homes (40%) were classed as affordable but still remained out of reach to the previous tenants.

Many still see the 2012 London Olympics as a success. It became a chance for London to reinvent a key area of the city that was in need of regeneration. More than four billion people tuned in to watch the Olympic and Paralympic Games and, since then, East London has welcomed more business start-ups than anywhere else in the city. More Londoners now live to the east of Tower Bridge than to the west. Many believe that without the Olympics, the area where the stadium now stands would be a derelict wasteland.

## The Olympic Park Biodiversity Action Plan

The balanced approach to the environmental aspects of the project led to more sustainable outcomes.



Through good planning, the project succeeded in achieving a 50% reduction in carbon emissions through the combined effect of sustainable construction methods, efficient infrastructure, and the use of the CCHP plant.

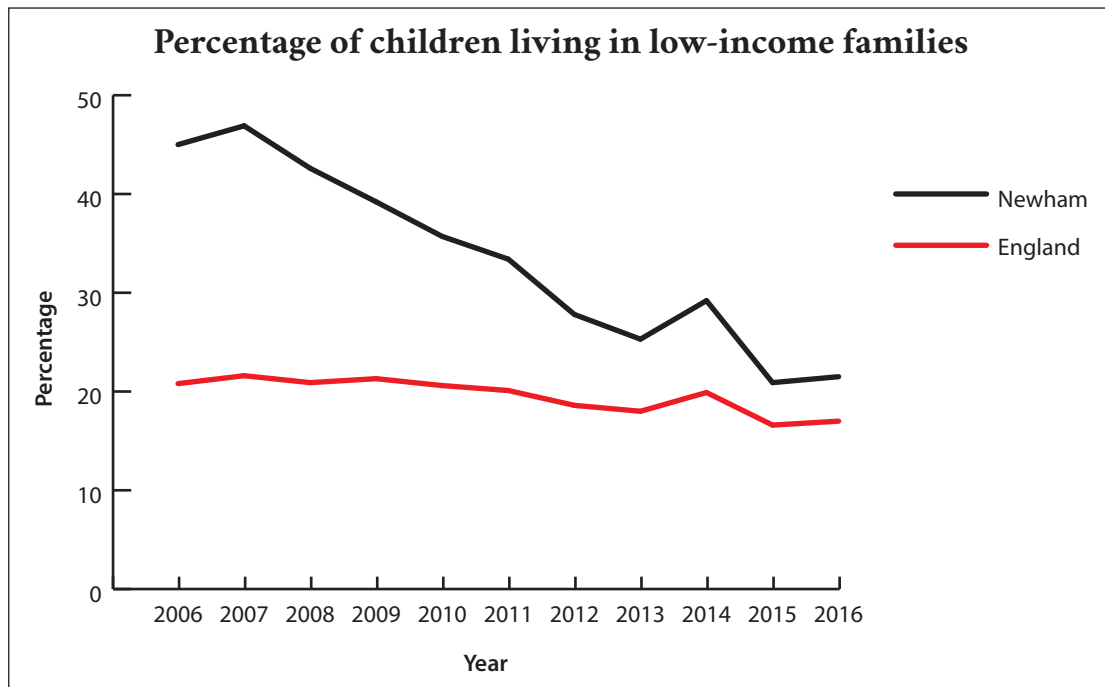


## RESOURCE D: Stratford – then and now

The areas that hosted the Olympics (Stratford and the nearby town of Tower Hamlets) were in dire need of regeneration. They had a lot of abandoned old industrial sites that had not been cleared after deindustrialisation in the 1960s. School children were underperforming at school, unemployment was higher than the rest of London, and the average household income was significantly lower than the rest of London.



**Figure 8 (above):** Population comparison of the Olympic area and London overall, 2010.



**Figure 9:** Percentage of children living in low-income families, Newham vs England, 2006–16.

House prices that were once affordable and reflected the population in the area have been impacted by improved facilities and development. These desirable changes have been mirrored by house prices in Stratford, and have ultimately affected demographics in the region.



**Figure 10:** House prices in Stratford, 2000–2024.

It cost £9 billion to bring the Olympics to Stratford and they were the trigger for regeneration of the area.



**Figure 11:** Comparison of Stratford before and after regeneration.



**Figure 12:** The Olympic Park area, before (left) and after regeneration.



**Figure 13:** The view from Pudding Mill Lane station (left, 2004 and right, 2012).



**Figure 14:** Bully Fen Nature Reserve (left, 2006 and right, 2012, with Olympic Park).



**Figure 15:** Warton Road, Stratford (left, 2005 and right, 2012).



**Figure 16:** Lesney Matchbox toy factory (left, 2007) which is now Matchmakers Wharf (right, 2012).



**Figure 17:** Bars and restaurants at Here East, built in the former media centre of the 2012 Olympics.

## RESOURCE E: Viewpoints



**Viewpoint 1**

Stratford had a rough history. It was great to see new life being breathed into the area – 46,000 new jobs, more trains and commuters through Stratford station, and 20,000 new homes. Not to mention health centres and schools. Stratford now has a Westfield shopping centre with 250 retailers, and the area also has over 70 dining establishments. With all the parks, cafes, and world-class sporting facilities, it's now a desirable place to be.

I understand the need for change. Stratford was full of abandoned old industrial sites with features such as Fridge Mountain; our kids weren't doing well at school, and our income and employment levels were falling lower than the London average by the year. But, despite this, it was home. Our home. And it'll never be the same again. Over 350 businesses were relocated and it breaks my heart knowing they will never return.



**Viewpoint 2**



**Viewpoint 3**

I love the new area. What were old industrial sites have been transformed into parkland that the whole community can enjoy. Waterways were cleaned up, 2.3 million cubic metres of contaminated soil was cleaned, over 4,000 trees and biodiverse plants were introduced, and wildlife is finally returning. Stratford is now an area we can bring the kids to walk, cycle, and feel safe.

I was forcibly relocated from my home when London won the bid to host the Olympics. I was put into emergency accommodation until they found somewhere suitable. Now, I can never go back. The *affordable* apartments are well outside my budget, and affordable to those earning between £60,000 and £90,000. Like many who used to live in Stratford, I earn about £27,000. The rents now are at least double what I was paying before.



**Viewpoint 4**

## Acknowledgements

Material from the following sources has been adapted for use in this assessment:

### Resource A

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratford,\\_London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratford,_London)  
<https://www.google.com/maps>

### Resource B

<https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/geography/regenerating-places/stratford/>  
<https://alchetron.com/Clays-Lane-Estate#clays-lane-estate-81316e8f-ad89-4e8b-ae23-8b3b19f5ed6-resize-750.jpeg>  
[https://twitter.com/\\_louhicky/status/1021901922922635264](https://twitter.com/_louhicky/status/1021901922922635264)

### Resource C

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9y47hv/revision/3>  
<https://usandco.com/stratford-after-london-2012-olympics/>  
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/amphibians/smooth-newt>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/jul/27/london-olympic-park-success-five-years-depends>  
<https://www.galliardhomes.com/guides/stratford/east-londons-progress-since-the-2012-olympics>  
<https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/geography/challenges-in-the-human-environment/olympic-park-case-study/>  
<https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/LS4%20Legacy%20Communities%20Scheme%20Olympic%20Park%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%202008.pdf>  
<https://depositphotos.com/vector/green-building-65936941.html>  
<https://depositphotos.com/vector/isolated-recycling-symbol-181632814.html>  
<https://depositphotos.com/vector/vector-water-drop-2196158.html>  
<https://depositphotos.com/vector/green-energy-electricity-icon-39621873.html>

### Resource D

[https://www.coolgeography.co.uk/gcsen/London\\_Regeneration.php](https://www.coolgeography.co.uk/gcsen/London_Regeneration.php)  
<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/children-poverty-borough>  
<https://www.foxtons.co.uk/sold-house-prices/stratford>  
<https://www.timeout.com/london/things-to-do/stratford-then-and-now>  
<https://media.timeout.com/images/101223435/750/562/image.jpg>  
<https://olympicparkucalli.wordpress.com/introduction>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/interactive/2012/jul/27/olympic-regeneration-legacy-stratford>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/jul/27/london-olympic-park-success-five-years-depends>

### Resource E

<https://stock.adobe.com/nz/352738016>



