Take Away English 随身英语
Is the UK abandoning its cities?
英国人 "逃离" 大城市的原因

Vocabulary: cities and population 词汇：城市和人口

We owe a lot to cities. These **densely populated hubs** of **transit**, industry and **commerce** brought together great **swathes** of the population. More than just living together for safety, cities allowed people to cooperate more easily and, as a result, develop more complex **societies**, science, and **culture** – things we continue to benefit from today. In 2016 the UN revealed that over 50% of the world's population live in **urban settlements**. Of these cities, 31 are classified as **megacities.** A megacity is one where its **inhabitants** number more than 10 million. And globally this trend is expected to increase.

London is no exception. Unsurprisingly, as England's **capital** city, London has a **population** of over 10 million – up by 1.1 million since 2008, according to one BBC article. This is a result of a higher **birth rate** than **mortality rate**, and an increase in international **immigration**. However, despite these rises, half a million more people have **migrated** away from this **metropolis** than have **flocked** to it. Why might this be?

It's the result of age. Where members of all other age groups tend to depart more than they arrive, young people between the ages of 20 and 30 are drawn to the range and number of jobs that the city offers and the education opportunities that can be found there. This explains why London has one of the youngest average populations in the UK, just 37, according to the BBC.

And the rest of the country? From 2002 to 2015 **municipalities** such as Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester saw a population growth of 181%, 163% and 149% respectively, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics. Young professionals looking for high-paying jobs are attracted to the opportunities provided by growth in sectors such as finance and law. This in turn causes the development of city amenities such as gyms, restaurants and bars, making it an even more attractive place to live.

So are people in the UK leaving cities? It depends on where you look. What does seem clear is that people's views on the advantages of urban living may change as they get older. Where once was opportunity, now there may be hassle. Has your relationship with a city changed over time?

词汇表

densely populated	人口密集的
hub	中心
transit	运输
commerce	商务、商业
swathe	大片、大量的
society	社会
culture	文化
urban settlement	城市定居点
megacity	（人口超过一千万的）巨型城市
inhabitant	居民
capital	首都
population	人口
birth rate	出生率
mortality rate	死亡率
immigration	移民
migrate	（大批）移居，迁移
metropolis	大都市
flock	蜂拥而至
municipality	市政当局

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why have cities been useful to human development?

2. True or false? *Worldwide, more people live in cities than out of them.*

3. Why are young adults attracted to London?

4. How many more people have moved away from London than moved to it?

5. Which word in the text means 'places that make living in towns or cities more comfortable or pleasant'?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. As the situation stands, a great _____ of the population has been caught in the epidemic.

| population | swathe | immigration | capital |

2. Modern medicine has helped to lower the _____ to never before seen levels.

| birth rate | mortality rate | capital | culture |

3. The 50% off sale saw people _____ to the designer outlet store.

| flock | immigrate | emigrate | commute |

4. The eastern district of the city is a _____ for culture, art and music.

| hub | capital | swathe | society |

5. As resources became scarce, people and animals would _____ to other areas.

| immigrant | emigrant | migrate | migrant |

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why have cities been useful to human development?
Cities have allowed people to cooperate more easily and, as a result, develop more complex societies, science, and culture.

2. True or false? *Worldwide, more people live in cities than out of them.*
True. In 2016 the UN revealed that over 50% of the world's population live in urban settlements.

3. Why are young adults attracted to London?
Young people between the ages of 20 and 30 are drawn to the range and number of jobs that the city offers and the education opportunities that can be found there.

4. How many more people have moved away from London than moved to it?
Half a million more people have migrated away from London than have moved to it.

5. Which word in the text means 'place that makes living in towns or cities more comfortable or pleasant'?
Amenity. (This in turn causes the development of city amenities such as gyms, restaurants and bars, making it an even more attractive a place to live.)

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. As the situation stands, a great **swathe** of the population has been caught in the epidemic.

2. Modern medicine has helped to lower the **mortality rate** to never before seen levels.

3. The low cost sale saw people **flock** to the designer outlet store.

4. The eastern district of the city is a **hub** for culture, art and music.

5. As resources became scarce, people and animals would **migrate** to other areas.