

Traffic Congestion

Traffic congestion is when there are too many vehicles on the road, and this causes slower speeds and longer journey times. It is a serious issue in cities around the world. It makes large cities uncomfortable and stressful places to live. This sheet looks at the causes of traffic congestion, and possible ways to reduce it. The focus is on traffic congestion in Great Britain.

Traffic Problems

Traffic congestion is caused by commuters travelling to work.

Most people live in the suburbs outside city centres.

Commuters tend to travel at the same time of day.

They tend to travel alone.

Cars and road space are not efficiently.

This causes traffic jams during rush hour.

Vocabulary

Commuter – someone who travels between home and their workplace.

Suburb – an area or community located just outside a city or a town.

Traffic jams – when the traffic slows down or stops because there are too many drivers in one area.

Rush hour – a period of peak traffic, usually in the morning and late afternoon, when many people are on their way to or from work.

Summary

Traffic congestion is a significant problem in British cities. The main reason for this is that most people live in suburbs outside city centres, and travel into the centre for work. Commuters tend to travel alone which means that road space is not used efficiently. This causes traffic jams during rush hour. Commuters tend to travel at the same time of day which causes a large number of vehicles on the road at one time. This causes traffic jams during rush hour.

Traffic Solutions

In order to reduce traffic, we should change our working habits.

The internet can now be used to connect people.

More people could work from home.

Meetings can be held as video conferences.

Workers could be given flexible timetables.

Another solution would be to tax drivers.

In London, for example, there is a congestion charge.

This helps to raise money for better public transport.

Workers should share their cars and travel together.

Public transport needs to be reliable and efficient.

Summary

There are several ways that traffic congestion can be reduced. Firstly, we can change our working habits. Due to the internet, more people can now work from home and meetings can be held as video conferences. Furthermore, workers could be given more flexible timetables, so they would work at different times. This would reduce the number of people commuting at one time.

Secondly, measures can be taken to reduce the number of cars on the road. One solution would be to tax drivers. For instance, in London there is a congestion charge where motorists need to pay money to drive during rush hour. The money raised from this is used for better public transport. If public transport is reliable and efficient, more people will be persuaded to use it.

Question

In some cities and towns all over the world, the high volume of traffic is a problem.

What are the causes of this and what actions can be taken to solve this problem?