

## PROBLEMS

### Inequalities

The city has a dual economy. The rich are found near the city centre in guarded and gated communities. Shanty towns/favelas/squatter settlements/spontaneous settlements are built by recent migrants / **bridgeheaders** on edge of the city. Access to electricity and clean water is limited. Homes are cramped and overcrowded ; disease, crime, poor environment are common

### Unemployment / underemployment

Unemployment is a problem, and many are employed in the informal sector on low pay, paying no taxes. Many are under-employed

### Housing

40% of homes are in a poor state of repair. Only 60% have access to running water. Only 75% have access to electricity

### Traffic/congestion

Congestion caused by vehicles crossing the city from the favelas to the industrial belt causes major problems

### Waste

Rubbish and waste disposal are a problem 11,000 tonnes of waste are produced each day, and only 75% is collected. Rivers are full of household, industrial waste and sewage

Mexico City

Megacity

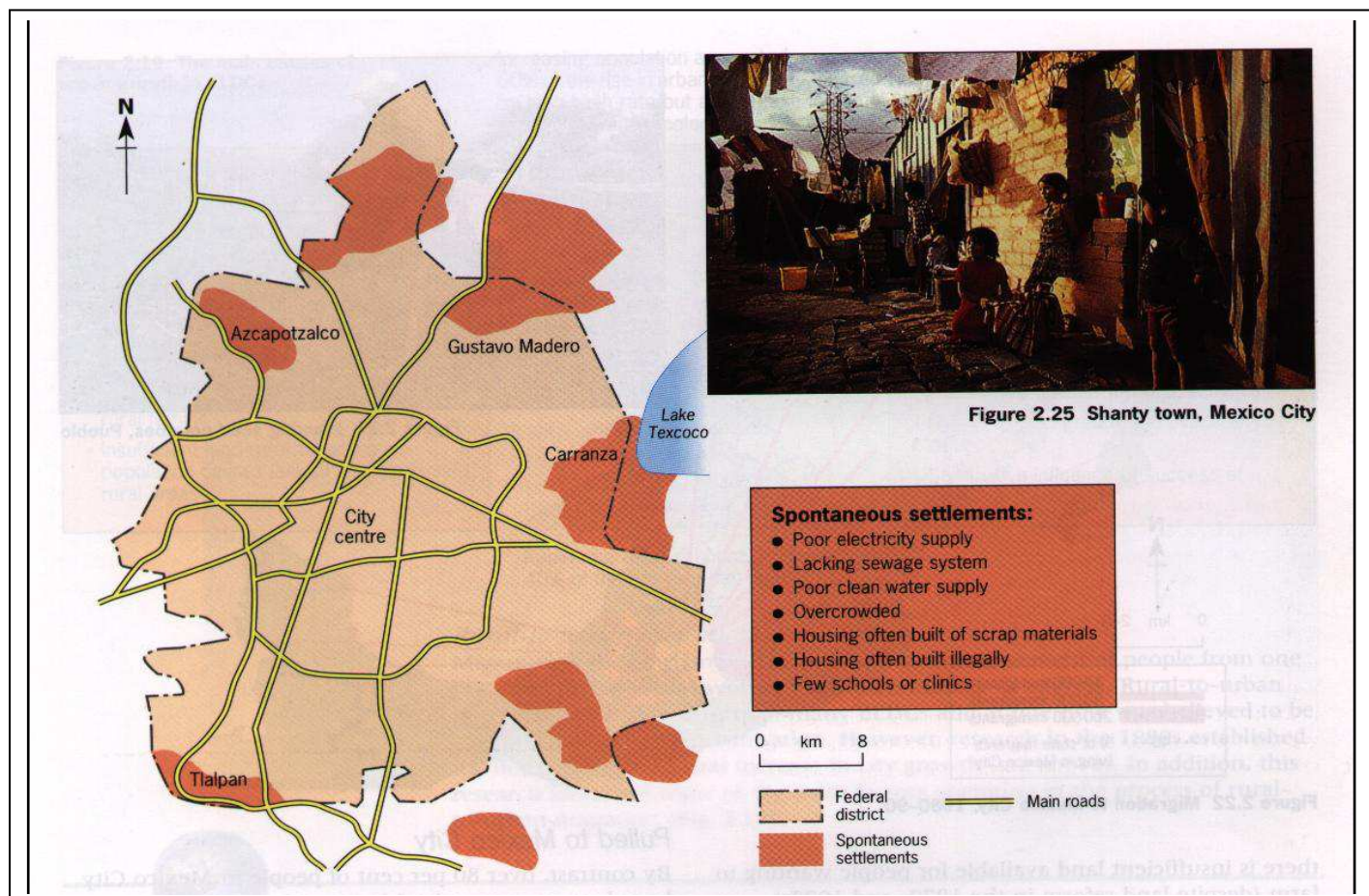
Urbanisation / growth

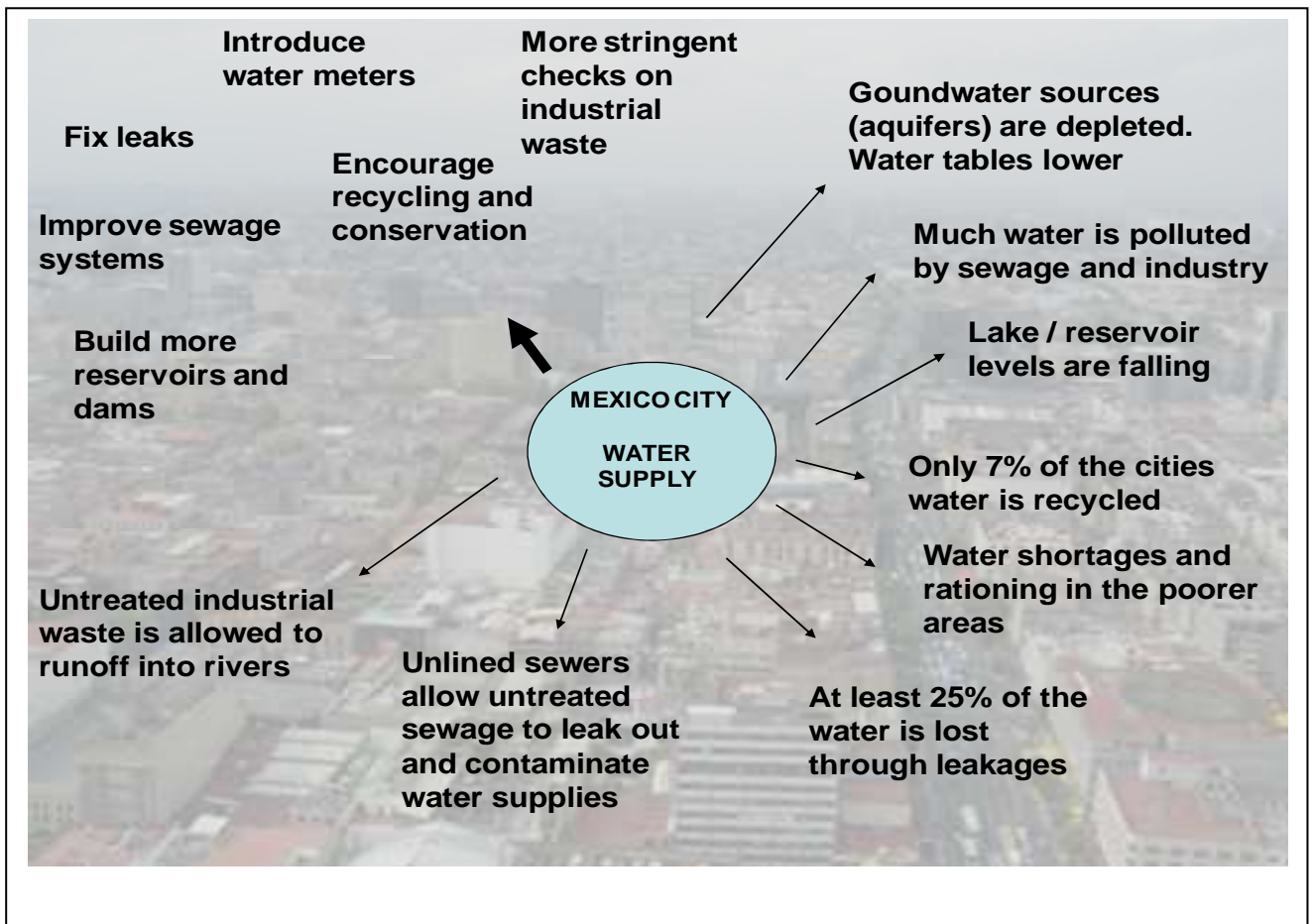
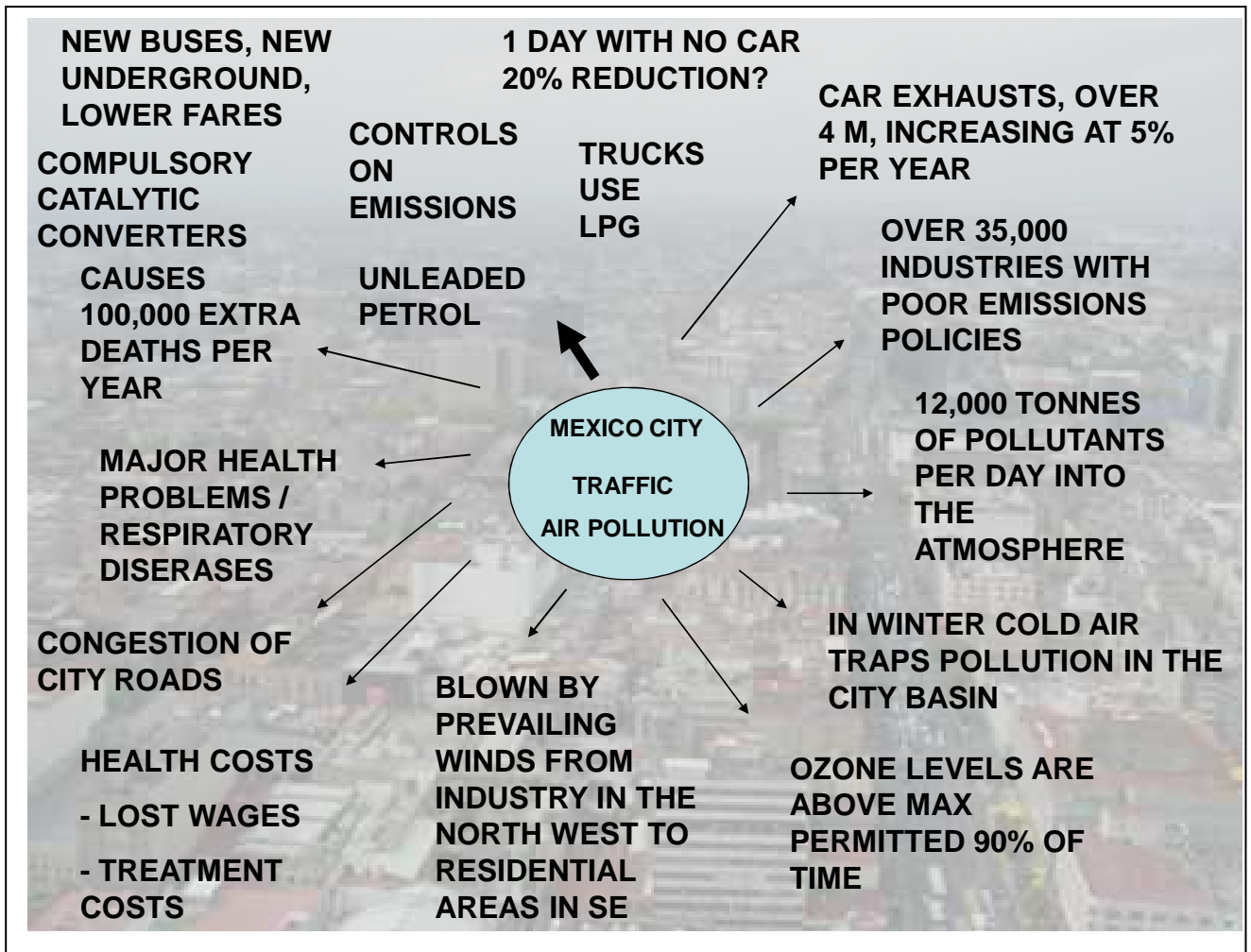
### Pollution

Air Pollution is a major problem. 3 million vehicles add 12,000 tonnes of pollutants into the atmosphere every day causing a photo-chemical smog. Breathing the air is said to be the same as smoking 60 cigarettes a day

### Water supply

Clean water is a major problem due to pollution by industries and sewage, this can cause health problems







## HOUSING

- There are large inequalities in Mexico city between the rich and the poor. The poorest 40% get less than 12% of the total income, and almost 50% of the population lack the income to buy or rent a dwelling
- 15% of the population of Mexico city is unemployed and 40% are under-employed (they have a job, but are not fully used or employed). For **most** of the rest wages are very low
- 60% of the population live in squatter settlements and slums. These spontaneous settlements are built rapidly, often overnight, on private or publically owned land and rapidly become shanty towns (favelas)
- These areas on the edge of the city are occupied by bridgeheaders, recently arrived migrants, in areas called **Colonias de paracaidistas**. 'Paracaidistas' means parachutists since they 'drop in' overnight
- In the worst favelas 25% have no sewers, 20% have no clean water, 36% no drainage and 12% no electricity
- Health conditions are poor, salmonella, hepatitis and worms are common, especially in children, and almost half of the population have no access to health or medical care



- 50% of the surface area of Mexico city is occupied by the **Colonias populares**. Although they are illegal they are usually tolerated by the authorities
- **Consolidators** are residents who have been in Mexico city for a time. Their housing is more permanent, larger, less cramped with electricity and running water. This area is the **periferia** which is found inside the shanty town belt
- Government funding is put into **Vivenda progresiva**, simple housing that provides a core structure that can be expanded
- In other areas the government allocates lots with access to water, drainage and electricity on which dwelling units can be built from scratch
- In the main, however, residents enter into co-operative schemes or self-help schemes aided by the government and local authorities
- Schools and medical centres are set up in the more permanent housing areas



**geographyjohn**

**GEOGRAPHY**

**CASE STUDY REVISION BOOKLET**

**MEXICO CITY                      AN LEDC CITY                      UNSUSTAINABLE URBANISATION**



**FACTFILE :-**

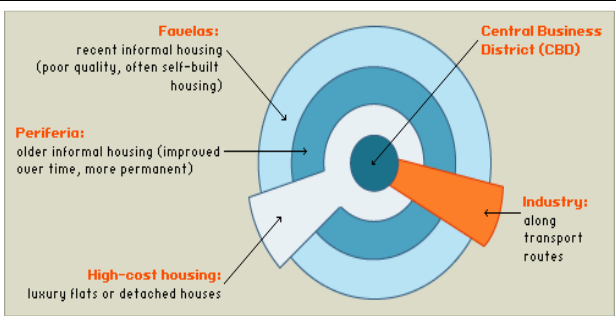
Mexico City is the capital city of Mexico. It is a primate city, much larger than any other in Mexico with an estimated population of between 20 and 30 million

The city continues to grow rapidly by rural –urban migration and by a large growth rate brought about by a high birth rate and falling death rates

The rapid growth has caused many urban problems with poor housing, pollution, waste management and disposal, congestion and water supply

There are also problems with health, unemployment and underemployment

Many of the inhabitants are also employed in the informal sector and there is a large gap or inequality between the rich and the poor



The structure of an LEDC city is different to a Developed world city. The high status housing is in the inner suburbs and the poorer housing and slums (shanty towns/favelas) are found in the outer suburbs