Writing about counterurbanisation and rural change at AS-level

Most AS Specifications include this topic, although not all require the same depth of knowledge. Candidates following AQA(A), OCR(A), WJEC and Edexcel(A) need to know why urban people often want to move to rural districts, especially attractive areas such as the national parks. Candidates may expect questions focusing upon the *causes* of counterurbanisation. The environmental, political, social and economic factors that influence the pattern and volume of internal migration within MEDCs should all be understood. The *consequences* should also be known, especially the rise in house prices that are witnessed in popular areas such as the Dales and the effect this has on the younger lower-waged members of rural communities who can no longer again a foothold on the property ladder. Practice questions, each requiring between 8 and 10 lines of writing, could include:

(1) Outline the causes of urban-rural migration (counterurbanisation) in MEDCs.

(2) Describe and explain the *economic* consequences of urban-rural migration (counterurbanisation) in MEDCs.

(3) How do *political* factors influence the *volume* of internal migration in MEDCs?

(*Tip for question 3: write about the new ruling, arguing that the volume of counterurbanisation into the Yorkshire Dales will decrease, now that incomers are to be restricted from buying newly built homes*).

Edexcel(B) candidates need to have more detailed knowledge of this topic at AS level. Extended writing (at least one page) may be required, that looks at some aspects of:

- **How rural change is managed**
- **Conflict in rural areas**

In both cases, explicit reference should be made to the needs and experiences of relatively disadvantaged groups – the older residents with lower incomes. Credit is likely to be given to candidates who recognise that the plans for the Dales are actually quite controversial. Free market advocates have serious reservations about the scheme and its likely effectiveness, for instance.