<p style="text-align:center">LONDON DEBATE</p>

Read the definition of "metropolization."

Read the documents provided. Identify the information that is most useful for you. Highlight elements that support metropolization and elements that criticize it.

Create two characters living in London with different social backgrounds (for example: a high-skilled worker in finance, a shop owner, a student, a low-income resident, etc.).

One character must defend metropolization, explaining its economic benefits.

The other must criticize metropolization, explaining its negative effects on daily life or society.

=> Metropolization refers to the process through which economic activities, population, and strategic functions increasingly concentrate in large metropolitan areas. It is driven by the expansion of advanced services, innovation sectors, and high-value industries that tend to cluster in major cities.

=> USEFUL ELEMENTS :

- 1/ The headquarters of major companies like HSBC, Barclays, BP, and Unilever are located in central London, strengthening its corporate concentration.

- 2/ London attracts more than 20 million international tourists per year, reinforcing service and hospitality employment.

- 3/ The tech cluster around Shoreditch and Old Street is often called the "Silicon Roundabout," hosting over 5,000 tech startups.

- 4/ Kensington & Chelsea is one of the UK's wealthiest boroughs, with average property prices above £1.1 million.

- 5/ In contrast, Barking & Dagenham has some of the lowest average incomes in London and some of the highest child-poverty rates.

- 6/ The Pakistani community in London experiences disproportionately high poverty rates, especially in boroughs like Tower Hamlets and Newham.

- 7/ Between 2016 and 2023, roadside NO_2 concentrations fell by nearly 50% due to cleaner buses and low-emission policies.

- 8/ The six major airports connected to London produce emissions equivalent to more than 3 million cars per year.

- 9/ London has more than 3,000 public parks and green spaces, covering about 18% of the city's surface.

- 10/ London's population density reaches more than 15,000 people per km² in boroughs like Islington.

- 11/ The Docklands redevelopment since the 1980s transformed former industrial land into a global finance hub.

- 12/ Londoners of Black African and Caribbean origin are more likely to live near busy roads and experience higher air-pollution exposure, like in Portobello.

- 13/ Despite improvements, many schools in London still exceed WHO pollution recommendations.

- 14/ London's average house price is more than twice the national average, contributing to social segregation.

- 15/ Gentrification is particularly visible in Shoreditch and Brixton, with rising rents and changing demographics.

- 16/ Tower Hamlets has one of the largest Bangladeshi communities in the UK and also some of the highest poverty levels.

- 17/ The 2012 Olympics triggered major regeneration in Stratford, including new housing, parks, and transport upgrades.

- 18/ Tech giants like Apple, Meta, and Amazon have expanded their London offices in recent years.

- 19/ London is Europe's largest hub for international students, with more than 120,000 foreign students annually.

- 20/ London's cycling infrastructure has expanded since 2016, with protected "Cycle Superhighways" and low-traffic neighbourhoods.

- 21/ Electric-vehicle use has increased rapidly, supported by more than 15,000 charging points across London.

- 22/ Heatwaves increasingly affect elderly populations living in poorly insulated housing.

- 23/ Social housing stock in London has declined significantly since the 1980s, contributing to overcrowding.

- 24/ Many new luxury developments include "poor doors" or segregated entrances for social tenants, raising inequality concerns.

- 25/ Foreign investment—especially from the Middle East and East Asia—drives much of London's luxury property market.

- 26/ Tourism contributes around £36 billion to London's economy annually.

- 27/ Many key workers (nurses, teachers, police officers) struggle to afford housing in central London.

- 28/ Some boroughs now promote "key-worker housing zones" to retain essential staff.

- 29/ More than a million Londoners work in the « gig economy » or irregular employment.

- 30/ The Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets has one of the lowest median incomes in the capital.

- 31/ Flooding events in 2021 and 2023 highlighted the vulnerability of Victorian drainage infrastructure.

- 32/ Shoreditch's creative and tech boom has increased property prices and pushed out many artists.

- 33/ Food-bank usage has risen sharply (+35%) since 2020, especially in deprived boroughs.