

Around The World Afghanistan

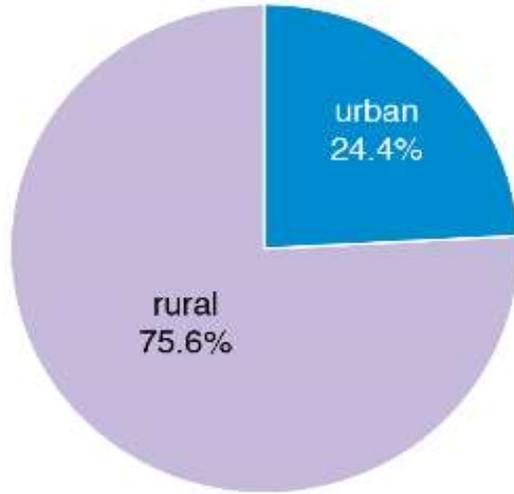
- Afghanistan is a landlocked country in South and Central Asia.
- This means that it is entirely surrounded by other countries in this region.

Task

- Using the map, identify:
 - A. All the countries that share borders with Afghanistan.
 - B. Some neighbouring countries in the South and Central Asian region that Afghanistan does not share any borders with.

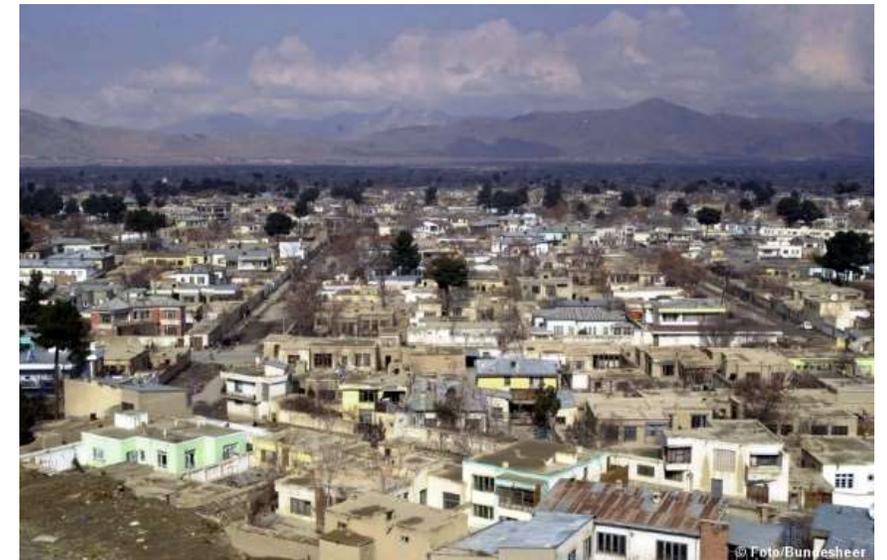


The majority of Afghanistan is made up of rural areas



Task

Look at the pictures of rural and urban areas in Afghanistan and explain how they are different from the urban and rural areas in the UK



Task

Ahmed, a boy who lives in Kabul the capital of Afghanistan, has sent you the passage about life in Afghanistan. Read the passage and answer the questions below:

- A. Identify the culturally unique phenomenon about Afghanistan described in the passage.
- B. Describe 3 things about living in Kabul that Ahmed finds difficult.
- C. Explain why Ahmed might still feel that in spite of some of the difficulties he has mentioned about living in Kabul, Afghanistan is still a “pleasing place”.
- D. Assess how life in life in the United Kingdom compares to that in Afghanistan.

Life in Afghanistan seen through Ahmed's eyes

- Afghanistan feels pretty normal to someone like me who has lived here all my life, and in many ways it's a rather pleasing place too.
- Mountains, rivers, spacious houses with often beautiful gardens, bustling bazaars, and a people with a rather surprising sense of humour are things which can make life in Afghanistan a lot easier. Also the food is delicious and the tea is generously served. Hospitality is not only considered a virtue but a sign of civility and class, therefore, Afghan formalities as boring and tiresome as they might seem can be rather welcoming to a new person in any social context.
- Electricity however can't always be trusted. Unless you are in some five star hotel or an area of the city considered 'green' or safe for foreigners, you are always at the risk of losing power at any time of the day and for no specified duration.
- Roads are often unpaved and it gets really bad in winter. There are thousands of streets in the capital Kabul where you literally can't walk when it rains.
- Roads and squares often don't have traffic lights and when they do, nobody really cares about the blinking lights. We Afghans don't usually follow traffic rules and we have a habit of shoving into other cars.
- If you eat at a traditional Afghan restaurant, you will observe a rather culturally unique phenomenon. At every restaurant, there is always one waiter who shouts the whole order standing yards from the kitchen. He also seems to remember every order and before the customer even reaches the counter, he screams the amount to be paid and the items on the virtual bill saved inside his head.
- The number of drug addicts in Kabul is scarily high. There are many no-go areas in the capital because of the sheer number of addicts, thanks to an industry of opium cultivation and heroin production. These addicts are often afflicted with HIV and Hepatitis C, and they are known to mug younger people and women. This can be terrifying.
- All this being said, we Afghans have lots of local fun. A weekend trip to places like Sayyad, Salang and Istalif or even Paghman, all located in the vicinity of Kabul is worthwhile. I personally like to go to Bamian in the summer, Jalalabad in winter and the magnificent Mazar e Sharif on the first day of every spring. Hiking is always an option because the mountains are everywhere. The next time I visit I plan to climb the 10 thousand feet high Baba peak in Hazarajat, and to find a square mile wide glacier lake to drink from and swim inside.

Population

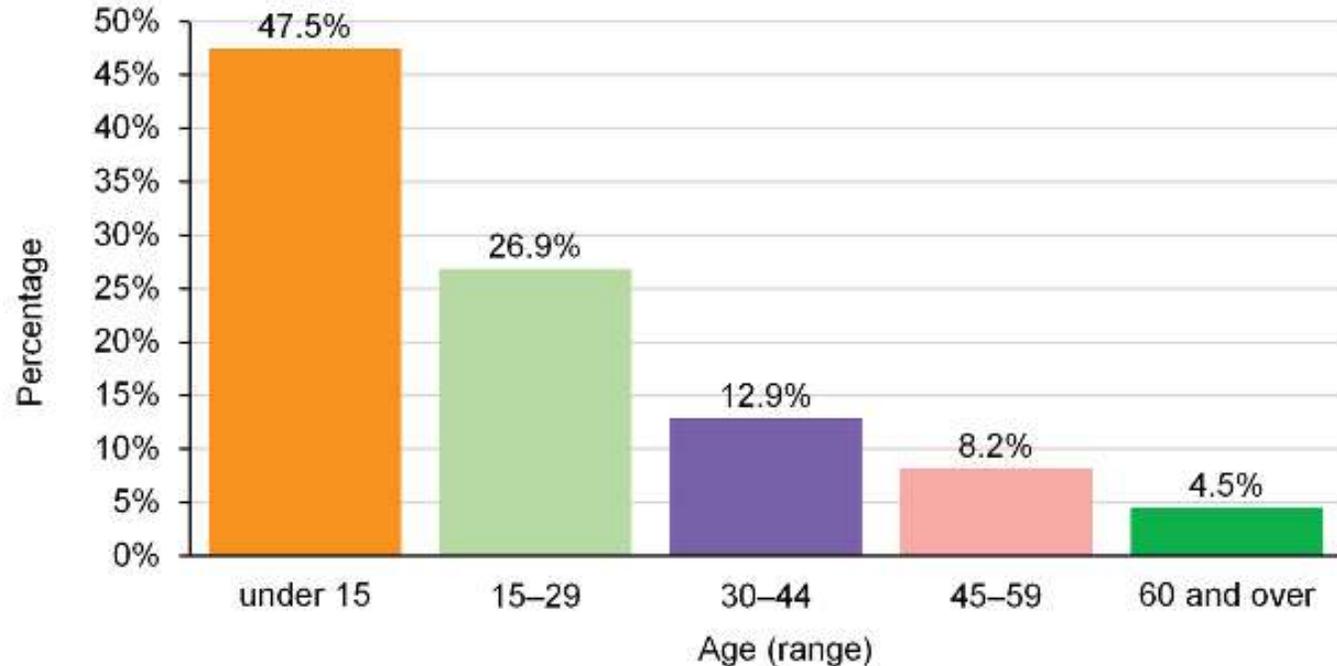
The current population of Afghanistan is **38,781,330**.

Task

Using the bar chart showing age breakdown and rounding up to the nearest whole number, calculate the following:

- A. The number of people aged under 15
- B. The number of people aged over 60
- C. The total number of people aged between the ages 30 to 59
- D. How many more people there are aged under 30 compared to aged 30 and over

Afghanistan age breakdown (2017–18)

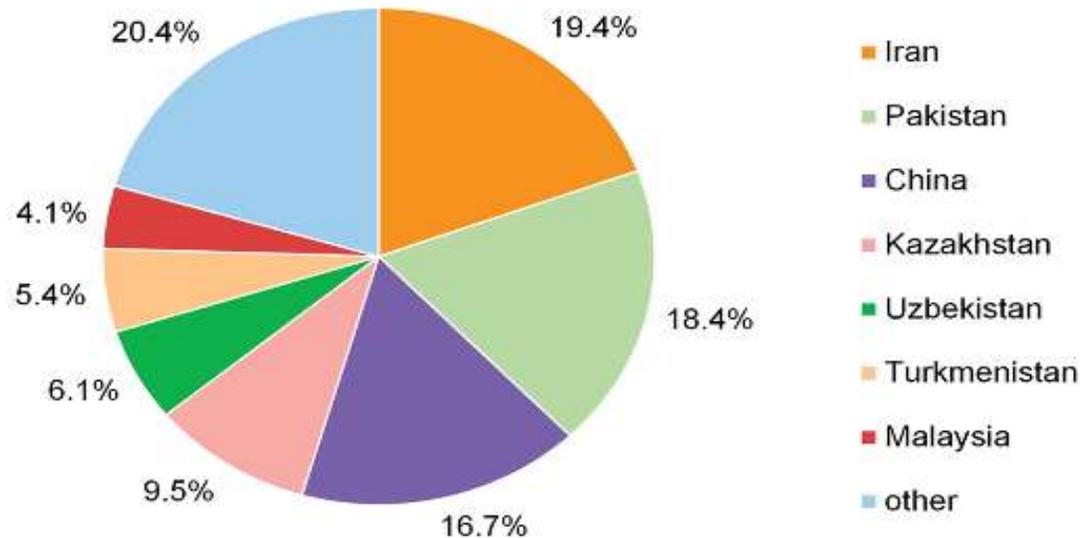


International trade: imports and exports

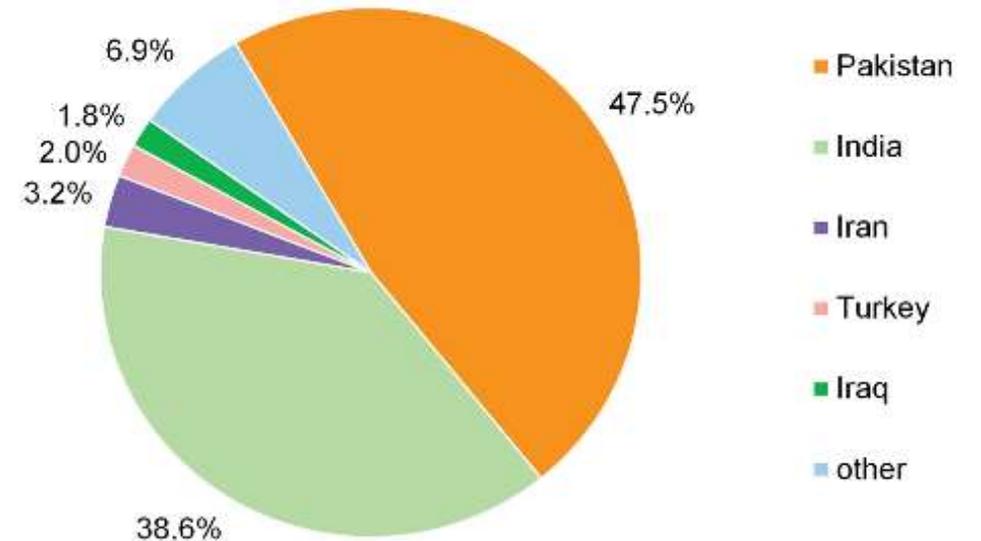
Afghanistan's chief exports are gold, natural gas and dried fruit. Other exports include carpets, fresh fruit, wool, and cotton. Afghanistan imports food, motor vehicles, petroleum products, and textiles. Most of the foreign trade of Afghanistan is controlled by the government or by government-controlled businesses.

The money used in Afghanistan is the Afghan Afghani. British £1 buys 94 Afghan Afghanis

Afghanistan major import sources (2016–17)



Afghanistan major export destinations (2016–17)



Task: A UK business that sells rugs wishes to import (buy) products from a rug manufacturer in Afghanistan. The rugs will cost 752,000 Afghan Afghanis. How much will these rugs cost the UK business in British £s?

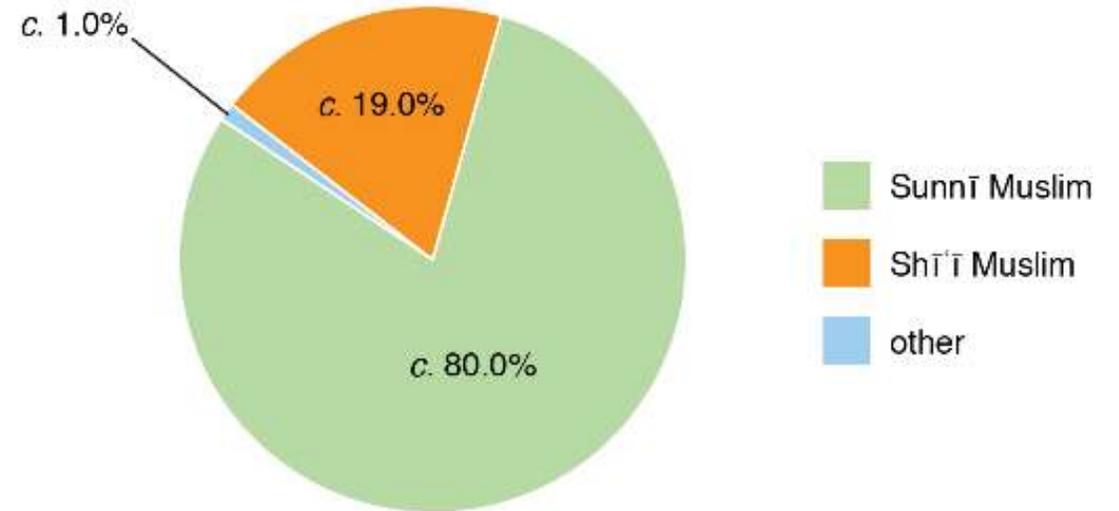
Religious beliefs

The majority of Afghans are Muslims. The chart shows the two different types of Muslim beliefs practised in Afghanistan

Sunni and Shiite Muslims are sects of the Islam religion which was established by the Prophet Mohammad with the division between the two sects occurring right after the death of the prophet.

Sunni Muslims believe that their leaders are those that are voted by the members of the Islam communities based on their capability to fulfil the required tasks. Shiite Muslims believe that their leaders must be those who are direct descendants of the Prophet Mohammad who had been elected by Allah to serve as the first leader of the Islam faith.

Sunni Muslims also believe that the Mahdi, or the 'Rightfully Guided One' is yet to come to Earth and make his presence felt. Shiite Muslims believe that the Mahdi is already here and is just waiting for the right time for him to make his reappearance.



Task

Think of your own religious beliefs and those of other members of your family and friends.

Write a reflection of your own religious beliefs and how you express them.

E.g. If you are Christian, what denomination do you belong to? Catholic, Church of England, Methodist ETC. Or you might be Hindu, Sikh or Jewish
How do you express your worship of God?

On the other hand you may not believe in God at all. Explain why?

The Taliban

The Taliban is an extreme Islamic group, which ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

- They say they are followers of Islam, but many people do not agree with this, as their beliefs are much more extreme than those of the majority of Muslims.
- They are fighting because they want their leaders to be in charge of Afghanistan again.
- The Taliban want to turn the country into what they believe would be the world's purest Islamic country.
- When the Taliban leaders were in control, they banned many things, including education for girls, make-up, kite-flying and films.

But some Afghans still took part in these things in secret, risking extreme punishment if they were found out.

The Taliban's strict laws and extreme punishments made them unpopular with other countries.

While they were in control, they allowed a terrorist organisation called al-Qaeda to have training camps there.

The group was overthrown in November 2001 by British and US forces, alongside Afghan fighters from a group called the Northern Alliance.

The Taliban movement continues to be a fighting force in Afghanistan and a major threat to the country's government.

They continue to carry out attacks across the country, including on military bases and schools.

Many people believe that future peace in Afghanistan can only come if the government negotiates with the Taliban.

In early 2019, the US and the Taliban began peace talks aimed at finding a solution to the 17-year conflict in Afghanistan.

The National Flag

The Afghanistan flag has gone through several changes over the years since the 20th century.

The current flag represents the struggles and political unrest that the country has experienced over the years.

Black: represents “The dark ages of its past”

Red: represents “The blood and lives lost in the country’s struggle for independence”

Green: represents “Hope and wealth for the future”

The flag also has Islamic inscriptions on its coat of arms that expresses the Muslim values “There is no deity but God; Muhammad is the messenger of God.”

The coat of arms also features a mosque with a prayer niche and altar, two flags, and sheaves of wheat.



Task

Look at the picture of the Afghanistan flag and draw it.