Is Sydney a global city ?

Debate

➔ Sydney, métropole de rang mondial ou métropole périphérique ?

Capacité : - construire une argumentation géographique

- Réinvestir la notion de global city

Cliquez sur le lien Genially : https://view.genial.ly/6452557b06dcbc001948b9eb/presentation-is-sydney-a-global-city

Sydney en chiffres + localisation

I) To understand Sydney's assets : Group YES

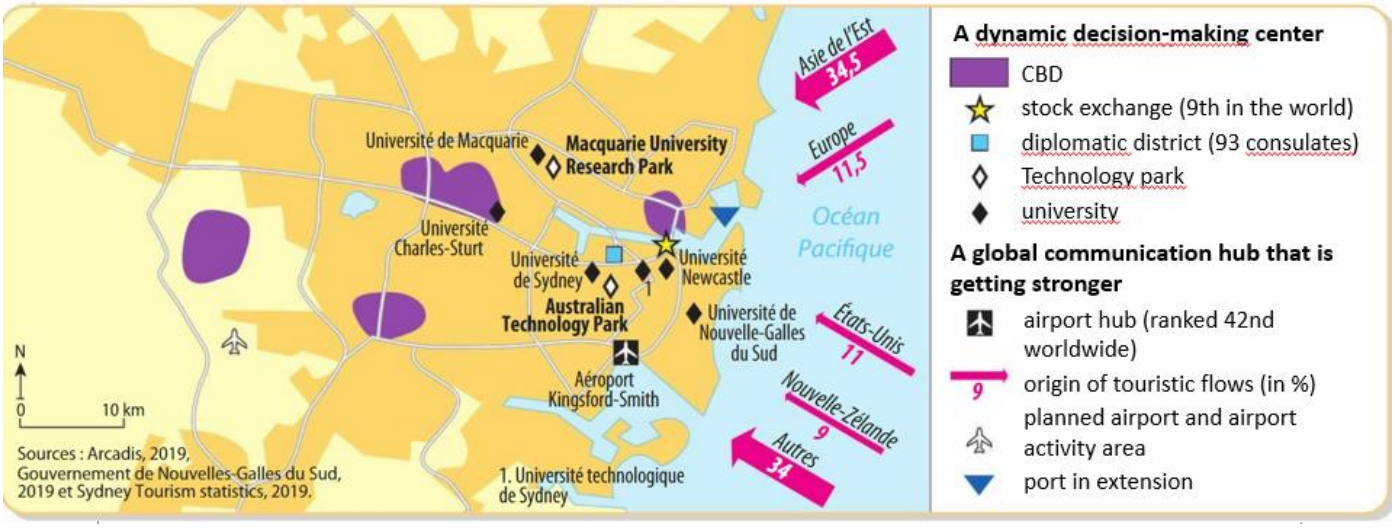
1) Using documents 1, 2 and 3, identify and describe the assets that Sydney values to be a global city.

Doc.1 : Tourism, a key activity

Welcoming nearly 5 million international tourists in 2018, the tourism generated 5% of the wealth produced by the city, notably because of emblematic places :

a Sydney opera house
b Port of New South Wales
c Royal Botanic Gardens
d CBD

Doc. 2 : A polycentric city with many assets



Source: textbook of geography Hachette 1ère, 2019
Map key translated

Doc.3 : Sydney in GaWC and GPCI's rankings :

A number of organisations around the world have developed their own rankings that measure cities across a diverse range of social, economic, environmental and cultural indicators. Arguably, some rankings attempt to quantify cities in terms of their global status and influence, which provides us with an alternative understanding of how Sydney is positioned against other cities around the world.

Below are the rankings from GaWC (Loughborough University) and GPCI (Insitute for Urban Strategies – The Mori Memorial foundation)

Doc.3-a : Globalisation and World Cities (GaWC Research Network), Loughborough University, 2020

The first top 15

2010			2018			2020		
Rank	**City**	**Category**	**Rank**	**City**	**Category**	**Rank**	**City**	**Category**
1	London	Alpha ++	1	London	Alpha ++	1	London	Alpha ++
2	New York	Alpha ++	2	New York	Alpha ++	2	New York	Alpha ++
3	Hong Kong	Alpha +	3	Hong Kong	Alpha +	3	Hong Kong	Alpha +
4	Paris	Alpha +	4	Beijing	Alpha +	4	Singapore	Alpha +
5	Singapore	Alpha +	5	Singapore	Alpha +	5	Shanghai	Alpha +
6	Tokyo	Alpha +	6	Shanghai	Alpha +	6	Beijing	Alpha +
7	Shanghai	Alpha +	**7**	**Sydney**	**Alpha +**	7	Dubai	Alpha +
8	Chicago	Alpha +	8	Paris	Alpha +	8	Paris	Alpha +
9	Dubai	Alpha +	9	Duabi	Alpha +	9	Tokyo	Alpha +
10	**Sydney**	**Alpha +**	10	Tokyo	Alpha +	**10**	**Sydney**	**Alpha**
11	Milan	Alpha	11	Milan	Alpha	11	Los Angeles	Alpha
12	Beijing	Alpha	12	Chicago	Alpha	12	Toronto	Alpha
13	Toronto	Alpha	13	Moscow	Alpha	13	Mumbai	Alpha
14	Sao Paulo	Alpha	14	Toronto	Alpha	14	Amsterdam	Alpha
15	Madrid	Alpha	15	Sao Paolo	Alpha	15	Milan	Alpha

https://www.lboro.ac.uk/microsites/geography/gawc/world2020t.html

Doc.3-b : The Global City Power Index

Global City Power Index from Mori Memorial Foundation	
2019	**2022**
1. London	1. London
2. New York	2. New York
3. Tokyo	3. Tokyo
4. Paris	4. Paris
5. Singapore	5. Singapore
6. Amsterdam	6. Amsterdam
7. Seoul	7. Seoul
8. Berlin	8. Berlin
9. Hong Kong	9. Melbourne (+2)
10. Sydney	10. Shanghai (+20)
11. Melbourne	11. Dubai (+8)
12. Los Angeles	12. Madrid (+1)
13. Madrid	**13. Sydney (-3)**
14. Stockholm	14. Copenhagen (+6)
15. Zurich	15. Vienna (+ ?)

Source : GPCI 2019 (https://mori-m-foundation.or.jp/english/ius2/gpci2/2019.shtml), GPCI 2022(https://mori-m-foundation.or.jp/english/ius2/gpci2/index.shtml)

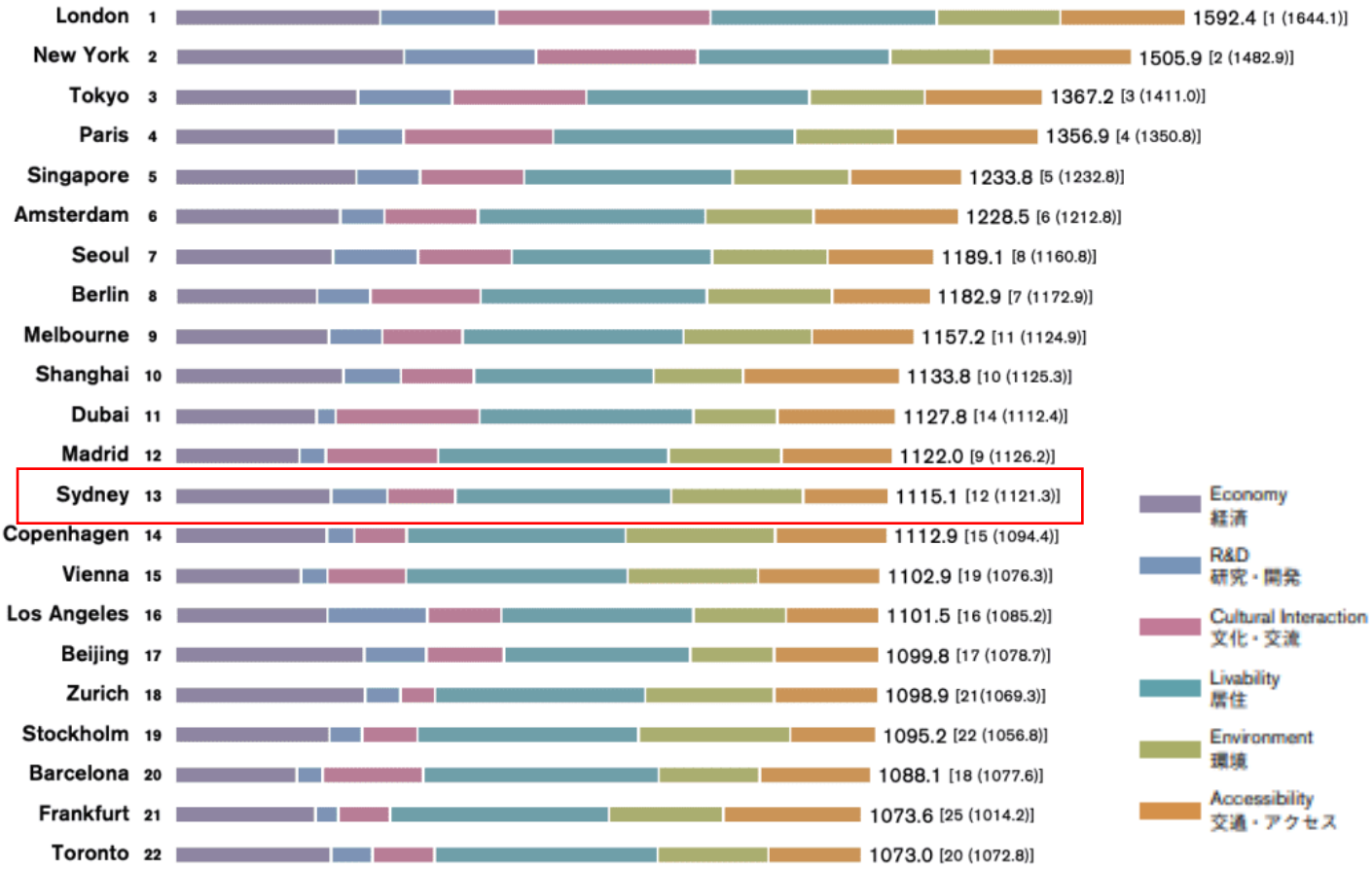


Photo via Global Power City Index 2022
https://mori-m-foundation.or.jp/english/ius2/gpci2/index.shtml

II) To measure the challenges of global competition : GROUP NO

2) What are Sydney's disadvantages in the competition between the world's major metropolises? (docs. 3b, 4 and 5)

3) Why did the article argue that Sydney was not a global city (doc.5)?

Doc.4: Distance between five world metropolises in km (*in time*)

London	**0**				
Los Angeles	8 800 (*11h20*)	0			
New York	5 580 (*7h25*)	4 000 (*5h20*)	0		
Shanghai	9 200 (*12h00*)	10 450 (*13h30*)	11 850 (*15h15*)	0	
Sydney	17 000 (*21h30*)	12 400 (*16h30*)	16 000 (*21h10*)	7 850 (*10h30*)	0
	London	**Los Angeles**	**New York**	**Shanghai**	**Sydney**

Source: *distancede.com*, 2023

Doc.5 : Sydney not yet a true global city

By **Matt Wade**

It has become fashionable to label Sydney a global city – a dynamic urban gateway to the Asia-Pacific. Premier Barry O'Farrell even describes Sydney as "Australia's only global city". But do we really live up to that tag?

[…] Sydney has some glaring weaknesses for a city of global status. Greg Clark, a renowned British urbanist who has advised more than 30 cities on five continents, has identified at least three.

First, Sydney has "second-tier" city infrastructure that clashes with its global city economic profile.
"Sydney is already hosting more in terms of business, economic and commercial activity than its infrastructure can really sustain," Clark told a seminar held by the Committee for Sydney policy and advocacy group on Friday. "There's limited room for growth because of those infrastructure shortcomings." Sydney has a very high level of car dependency by world city standards and a low level of mass transit coverage. The lack of an effective, city-wide public transport system threatens to stunt Sydney's knowledge-intensive industries which are increasingly the life-blood of the city's economy.
"Sydney's transport system diminishes the chances of creative interaction between people and makes it difficult for businesses to open up new sites to open up new capacity," Clark said.
This analysis exposes the fundamental weaknesses in Sydney's public transport system and the need for massive investments to improve it. "You can't name a successful global city that doesn't have a good public transport system."

Second, Sydney is relatively small and very sparsely populated compared with cities that merit the "global" tag. Its population density is only about 40 per cent that of London and 20 per cent that of New York and Singapore. Clark pointed out that Sydney's population density –2,000 per square kilometre – is comparable to that of Los Angeles, a city that has been falling on global city indexes. The low-density sprawl is stifling Sydney's growth by reducing productivity and innovation.
The city would need more people and higher population density if it wanted to be "a city of real significance in the Asia-Pacific", said Clark.

Third, Sydney lacks the innovation culture of a genuine global city. Clark said Sydney had half the high-tech employment of Toronto, Stockholm, London or Seattle and ranked "well outside the top ten" for research and development.
"I draw the conclusion," said Clark. "that Sydney has superb assets and a wonderful opportunity to combine corporate success with liveability success, the fundamental problem has to do with gaps in infrastructure and the innovation system."
Not matter what our politicians say about Sydney, they've got a lot of work to do before they can genuinely claim it's a global city.

The Sydney Morning Herald, April 12th, 2014

III) To synthesize the arguments of the debate by organizing them: ALL GROUPS

➔ Is Sydney a global city?

- ➔ Task 1: Examine each of the statements below.
- ➔ Task 2: You need to then identify which of the global city criteria the statement relates to. Write this in the middle column.
- ➔ Task 3: For each statement, consider if it adds suggests that Sydney is a global city. Add "Y" if it does, "N" if it does not.

Statement	Global City Criteria Concerned (Economic, Political, Cultural, Infrastructural and accessibility)	Global City Y/N
The population of Sydney is 5.1 million. It is not yet a 'megacity'.		
45 of the 47 international banks that operate in Australia are found in Sydney.		
Sydney does not have a city-wide public transport system. 70% of the population rely on cars.		
The rate of economic growth in Sydney is very low. Over 150 cities in the world are growing at a faster rate.		
Out of all the international companies in Australia, 65% are in Sydney.		
The infrastructure which supports business is not developed enough to allow fast economic growth.		
One third of Sydney's population speak a language other than English at home.		
Sydney airport flies to 46 international destinations. London Heathrow flies to 170.		
Sydney is located a long way from the places it trades with.		
Many of the multinational companies which are located in Sydney tend to be involved in local activities rather than make decisions of global importance.		
Sydney's time zone allows it to do business with Asia and the USA during normal daylight working hours		
Sydney is one of the most multicultural cities in the world.		
Sydney is often seen as a place to visit on holiday and not a place to do business.		
The infrastructure which exists to support business is high standard.		
Sydney is home to all the Australian television broadcasters and has world class advertising and animation industries.		
Sydney is considered to be one of the best cities in the world for quality of life.		
60% of the regional headquarters of companies that operate in the Asia-Pacific region are located in Sydney.		
The level of employment in innovative hightech industries is lower than in many other cities.		
Almost 3 million international tourists visit Sydney each year. It is the 42nd most visited city in the world.		
Sydney is the most popular city for international students. Its universities have over 50,000 international students.		

IV) Let's debate !

In 2014 the Sydney Morning Herald had a section with the following headline: "**Sydney not yet a true global city**". Is this statement still true? Use evidence from the table above and your previous answers to explain your view **: Is Sydney a global city** or Is Sydney a peripheral metropolis ?