

Educational Film: Glasgow 1980

Title	Glasgow 1980
Country	Scotland
Duration (mins)	29 mins 29 seconds
Is this a clip or segment of a film? Or part of a collection? If so, give details.	Part of the Films of Scotland Collection
Year	1971
Description	A look at the 20 year development plan for Glasgow that was drawn up in 1960 – this programme looks forward to its completion in 1980.
Subject classification	Geography, history, sociology
Educational level of intended audience	GCSE or A-Level
Still photograph (where available)	

Summary

A view of Glasgow's 20-year development plan that comes over as a publicity promotion for the City Council in 1971 – interesting, but biased.

Review text

Audience and Use

This is quite a simplistic programme, which sets out Glasgow's 20-year (1960-80) development plan in easy to understand concepts. This particular film would work well with GCSE and A-Level students, especially ones involved in Geography or History projects relating to the urban environment. The film is quite biased towards the positive aspects of the development, there is very little critical review of the development process and the 20-year plan is shown in an entirely positive light. This provides an opportunity, however, for teachers and students to investigate the negative aspects that these developments may have had.

The film could be used to teach lower-level undergraduates in subjects such as Architecture, Town Planning, Geography and 20th Century History, but the programme is quite basic and may be suited to younger students.

Content

This programme outlines the 20-year plan of Glasgow's Town Council. This plan consisted of the regeneration of 6 square miles of Glasgow's inner-city areas and at the time was the biggest development plan in Europe. The plan was implemented in 1960 and was due to be completed in 1980. The film lays out what has already been achieved in Glasgow and looks forward to what the city will be like in 1980.

It provides a very interesting historical account of the changes to the city especially when Glasgow was experiencing somewhat of a metamorphosis – moving from away from its heavy industrial background. The programme is mostly presented from the viewpoint of the City Council at the time and it could even be said to represent a type of developer 'propaganda'. There is very little consideration given to the downside of these substantial developments and the opinion of the people of Glasgow is not discussed here.

The film covers many broad topics; from the history of Glasgow through to all the problems it was facing in 1971. It presents individual segments on housing, environment, transport and shopping as well as a section of the preservation of 'old' Glasgow.

The content of the film is quite dated, but still a useful teaching resource. This particular title could also be used in conjunction with other EMOL resources, including 'Cumbernauld Town of Tomorrow' to provide a varied view of town planning.

Technical issues

The film was very easy to download and play. The picture quality was good but the sound was patchy in places with a lot of background noise. The video worked well as a whole as it outlined all of the various parts of the development plan for Glasgow, but you could use the segments to highlight particular topics (i.e. history of Glasgow, housing, environment, leisure)

General comments

The video could be used to address the following questions;

How much of the 20-year plan was actually achieved by 1980?

How much of this 20-year plan is still relevant today?

What are the changing needs of this city's population?

What was a 'good' house in 1971? – do we still want or need the same things today?

How can we solve Glasgow's problems of lack of space, pollution and social deprivation?

How has the move away from heavy industry affected Glasgow? Has this had a good or bad impact?

Transport problems – how were they solved and did they work?

It would be especially useful to any teaching institution in the west of Scotland as they would have intimate knowledge of the area and access to current local news, which could provide a contrast between Glasgow of 1971 and Glasgow today.