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## Government states data centres essential as NHS, power grid.

### Description

Data centres in the United Kingdom have been designated as critical national infrastructure, elevating them to the same level of importance as emergency services, finance, healthcare systems, and energy and water supplies. This classification means that in the event of a major incident such as a cyber attack, IT outage, or extreme weather event, data centres will receive additional government support to minimize disruptions.

These colossal warehouses house vast arrays of computers that power essential services like artificial intelligence applications, data processing, and streaming. Despite criticism over their substantial energy and water consumption, the new Labour government staunchly supports the sector, with Technology Secretary Peter Kyle hailing data centres as "the engines of modern life."

In a move reflecting the evolving landscape of threats, a team of officials will be dedicated to monitoring and responding to potential risks against data centres. Although no new regulations are planned, the decision underscores the critical role these facilities play in powering vital online services.

The exponential growth of AI-based services necessitates increased data centre capacity. Big players like Amazon Web Services, Microsoft, and Google are investing billions in constructing and operating data centres in the UK, underscoring the sector's importance in the digital age.

Yet, environmental concerns loom large. Data centres are notorious for their high energy consumption and water usage for cooling. The forecasted six-fold increase in data centre power usage in the UK over the next decade raises questions about sustainability and resource management.

Local opposition to data centre developments also poses challenges, as seen in the rejection of a proposed project in Buckinghamshire due to its impact on the green belt. As these critical infrastructure hubs continue to evolve, finding a balance between technological advancement and environmental responsibility remains a pressing issue.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **Infrastructure** /'ɪn.fə.stɹʌk.tʃə/ (noun): The basic physical systems of a business or nation including transportation communication and utilities.
2. **Designation** /,dez.ɪg'neɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The act of choosing someone or something for a particular purpose.
3. **Criticism** /'krɪt.ɪ.sɪ.zəm/ (noun): The expression of disapproval based on perceived faults or mistakes.
4. **Capacity** /kə'pæs.ɪ.ti/ (noun): The maximum amount that something can contain or produce.
5. **Sustainability** /sə'steɪnə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (noun): The ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level particularly concerning environmental health.
6. **Opposition** /,ɒp.ə'zɪʃ.ən/ (noun): Resistance or dissent expressed in action or argument.



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## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following sectors are data centres in the UK considered to be as important as?  
Option: Emergency services  
Option: Finance  
Option: Healthcare systems  
Option: Energy and water supplies
2. What major incidents would qualify data centres for additional government support according to the text?  
Option: Cyber attack  
Option: IT outage  
Option: Extreme weather event  
Option: All of the above
3. Who hailed data centres as "the engines of modern life"?  
Option: Peter Kyle  
Option: Ratan Naval Tata  
Option: Mark Zuckerberg  
Option: Elon Musk
4. Which big players are mentioned as investing in constructing and operating data centres in the UK?  
Option: Amazon Web Services  
Option: Microsoft  
Option: Google  
Option: All of the above
5. What is a notable environmental concern associated with data centres?  
Option: High energy consumption  
Option: Excessive water usage for cooling  
Option: Both A and B  
Option: None of the above
6. In what region did a proposed data centre project face rejection due to its impact on the green belt?  
Option: Buckinghamshire  
Option: London



Option: Manchester

Option: Liverpool

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Emergency services, Finance, Healthcare systems, Energy and water supplies 2. All of the above 3. Peter Kyle 5. Both A and B 6. Buckinghamshire

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What term is used to describe the outer limit of knowledge or achievement in a particular area?

Option: A) Boundary

Option: B) Challenge

Option: C) Frontier

Option: D) Venture

2. What does the word "peril" generally mean?

Option: A) Safety

Option: B) Comfort

Option: C) Threat

Option: D) Joy

3. Which of the following best defines the term "designation"?

Option: A) Removal

Option: B) Appointment

Option: C) Rejection

Option: D) Isolation

4. What are "anomalies" in a system or process?

Option: A) Errors

Option: B) Improvements

Option: C) Regularities

Option: D) Anomalies

5. What term refers to the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level?

Option: A) Growth

Option: B) Sustainability

Option: C) Depletion



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Option: D) Expansion

6. What does "collaboration" entail in a working environment?

Option: A) Competition

Option: B) Isolation

Option: C) Cooperation

Option: D) Disturbance

7. Which term describes the process of increasing the population density in urban areas?

Option: A) Ruralization

Option: B) Urbanization

Option: C) Migration

Option: D) Suburbanization

8. What does "augmentation" usually involve?

Option: A) Reduction

Option: B) Growth

Option: C) Maintenance

Option: D) Stability

9. What is typically associated with the term "opposition"?

Option: A) Support

Option: B) Agreement

Option: C) Resistance

Option: D) Authorization

10. What relates to the organic processes or functions in living organisms?

Option: A) Biological

Option: B) Chemical

Option: C) Physical

Option: D) Physiological

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The project needs to be assessed for its \_\_\_\_\_ before proceeding with further investments.

12. The factory will be expanded to increase its production \_\_\_\_\_.

13. The authorities \_\_\_\_\_ the illegal drugs hidden in the container.



14. Access to the sensitive information was blocked for \_\_\_\_\_ users.
15. The recent policy changes have led to a \_\_\_\_\_ in customer satisfaction.
16. The dangers of the job are \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot be eliminated completely.
17. The lost data was of critical importance and its \_\_\_\_\_ poses a significant challenge.
18. The forecast predicts heavy \_\_\_\_\_ in the region over the next few days.
19. The repeated delays caused a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ among the passengers waiting for their flight.
20. The new software includes improved security \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent unauthorized access.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. Astronauts often perform activities outside their spacecraft during missions.
22. Understanding the historical of events is crucial for accurate analysis.
23. Adequate is essential for the smooth functioning of any modern society.
24. Constructive can help individuals and organizations improve their performance.
25. Law enforcement agencies are working to apprehend the of the crime.
26. The global economy is made up of markets and industries.
27. The team their capabilities by leveraging new technologies.
28. The risks associated with the project are in its nature.
29. The concept was still and required further clarification.
30. Customs officials the smuggled goods at the border.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. C) Frontier 2. C) Threat 3. B) Appointment 4. A) Errors 5. B) Sustainability 6. C) Cooperation



7. B) Urbanization 8. B) Growth 9. C) Resistance 10. D) Physiological

**Gap-Fill:** 11. viability 12. capacity 13. seized 14. unauthorized 15. diminution 16. inherent 17. irretrievability  
18. precipitation 19. frustration 20. mechanisms

**Matching sentence:** 1. Extravehicular 2. Significance 3. Infrastructure 4. Criticism 5. Perpetrators  
6. Interconnected 7. Augmented 8. Inherent 9. Nebulous 10. Seized

## CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL6

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