Complete the gaps with the correct form of the words below.

neglect	*soar*	*initiate*	*undergo*
flourish	*impose*	*invest*	*demolish*

Manchester

On 15 June 1996, a huge bomb in Manchester, in the north-west of England, severely damaged the city centre, causing nearly a billion pounds' worth of damage. The bomb had been planted by the IRA, a terrorist group. It injured over 200 people but, remarkably, killed no one because the police had cleared the area following a warning from the group.

Manchester had already 1. _____ some changes as it recovered from the recession of the early 1990s, which had destroyed much of its industry and created large-scale unemployment. It had won the right to hold the Commonwealth Games and had redeveloped some deprived areas by building the National Velodrome, an exhibition centre and an award-winning concert hall. However, at the time of the bombing, the city centre was still badly 2. _____. It was dominated by the hideous Arndale Shopping Centre, once described as looking like an enormous public toilet, and by run-down squares affected by drug addiction. So, dreadful though the bombing was, it actually provided an opportunity to start again that might not have happened otherwise.

Within weeks of the explosion, the government set up a public-private company to manage the recovery and 3. _____ an international competition to design the redevelopment. The winning plan involved restoring damaged historic buildings, 4. _____ and rebuilding some of the ugly buildings, creating new public spaces and improving conditions for pedestrians. Both the government and private companies 5. _____ money into the centre. The council 6. _____ restrictions on traffic and rerouted main roads. It also developed an integrated public transport system, making the centre easier to reach.

Following these improvements, tourism and service industries began to 7. _____. The city used some of its historic sites for major public events and created the Urbis building, which now houses the National Museum of Football. In turn, these changes have been key in attracting new investors, such as the Qatari royal family who own Manchester City Football Club.

Since 1996, Manchester's economy has grown rapidly and investment has 8. _____. However, there are concerns that inequality has also increased, and not all the new spaces are appreciated. One garden square designed by an international architect was rated the worst attraction in the city. Others argue that by replacing market stalls and industry with luxury consumption and sparkling glass buildings, the city has lost some of its soul.

LIVEWORKSHEETS