

IGCSE Geography – Urban Environments Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. Which model illustrates the stages of urbanisation as countries develop?**
 - A. Urban frame model**
 - B. Urbanisation pathway**
 - C. Central place theory**
 - D. Sector model**
- 2. What is the concept of 'urban resilience'?**
 - A. The ability to restrict new developments**
 - B. The capacity to recover from shocks and stresses**
 - C. The creation of isolated communities**
 - D. The process of urban expansion into rural areas**
- 3. What do we call workers from abroad who are employed in households?**
 - A. Migrant domestic workers**
 - B. Temporary laborers**
 - C. Foreign assistants**
 - D. Overseas employees**
- 4. What is a large continuous urban area formed by the merging of towns and cities called?**
 - A. Metropolitan area**
 - B. City-region**
 - C. Conurbation**
 - D. Agro-urban area**
- 5. What are the characteristics of a post-industrial city?**
 - A. A city focused on agriculture and farming**
 - B. A city that has transitioned from manufacturing to services and technology**
 - C. A city heavily reliant on mining and extraction industries**
 - D. A city with a rapidly growing population**

- 6. What is a potential benefit of increasing green spaces in urban areas?**
- A. It reduces the cost of housing**
 - B. It lowers the demand for public transportation**
 - C. It can help combat air pollution**
 - D. It promotes urban sprawl**
- 7. What is a primary goal of urban planning regarding community design?**
- A. To minimize urban density**
 - B. To create walkable and vibrant communities**
 - C. To isolate residential from industrial areas**
 - D. To maintain traditional zoning laws indefinitely**
- 8. What is one way local stakeholders can affect urban development?**
- A. By ignoring community input**
 - B. Through active participation in planning**
 - C. By adhering strictly to national policies**
 - D. Through external fundraising**
- 9. Which organization is known as the International Renewable Energy Agency?**
- A. IRENA**
 - B. UNEP**
 - C. ICRE**
 - D. REI**
- 10. Why is demographic transition significant in urban environments?**
- A. It describes changes in urban transportation methods**
 - B. It influences urban growth patterns as societies industrialize**
 - C. It affects the location of green spaces**
 - D. It determines the layout of urban infrastructures**

Answers

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- 1. B**
- 2. B**
- 3. A**
- 4. C**
- 5. B**
- 6. C**
- 7. B**
- 8. B**
- 9. A**
- 10. B**

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Explanations

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1. Which model illustrates the stages of urbanisation as countries develop?

- A. Urban frame model**
- B. Urbanisation pathway**
- C. Central place theory**
- D. Sector model**

The urbanisation pathway is the correct choice because it effectively illustrates the stages of urbanisation that countries experience as they develop economically and socially. This model takes into account factors such as industrialization, migration patterns, and changes in land use over time. As countries progress through various stages of economic development, they typically experience shifts from predominantly rural societies to more urbanized settings. The urbanisation pathway highlights these transitions, showing how urban areas grow and evolve as populations move from rural to urban environments in search of better opportunities, improved living standards, and access to services. The other models mentioned do not specifically focus on the overall stages of urbanisation across different contexts. The urban frame model is concerned with the structure of urban areas, central place theory focuses on the distribution of services and cities in relation to their market areas, and the sector model deals with urban land use in specific zones rather than outlining a developmental trajectory of urbanization.

2. What is the concept of 'urban resilience'?

- A. The ability to restrict new developments**
- B. The capacity to recover from shocks and stresses**
- C. The creation of isolated communities**
- D. The process of urban expansion into rural areas**

The concept of 'urban resilience' refers to the capacity of cities to recover from various shocks and stresses, such as natural disasters, economic downturns, and social unrest. It emphasizes the importance of adaptability and the ability to absorb disturbances while maintaining essential functions and services. When a city is resilient, it can withstand adverse events and bounce back more effectively, ensuring the continuity of urban life and the well-being of its inhabitants. Understanding urban resilience is essential for urban planners and policymakers as they aim to create environments that not only respond to current challenges but also anticipate future risks. By fostering resilient urban systems, cities can improve overall sustainability, enhance quality of life, and better support their populations during difficult times.

3. What do we call workers from abroad who are employed in households?

A. Migrant domestic workers

B. Temporary laborers

C. Foreign assistants

D. Overseas employees

The term used to describe workers from abroad who are employed in households is "migrant domestic workers." This designation specifically refers to individuals who have migrated from their home country to another country to take up employment in domestic roles, such as housekeepers, nannies, or caregivers. These workers often provide essential services within households, contributing significantly to the domestic economy but also facing challenges related to labor rights and working conditions. The context of the other options highlights why they do not accurately describe this specific group. "Temporary laborers" typically refers to workers engaged in seasonal or short-term jobs across various industries, not specifically in household settings. "Foreign assistants" can imply a broader category of individuals who may work in various capacities, including professional environments, rather than in domestic roles. "Overseas employees" is also a more generic term that could encompass a wide range of jobs across different sectors rather than specifically indicating those working within households. Thus, "migrant domestic workers" is the most precise and widely accepted term for this particular group.

4. What is a large continuous urban area formed by the merging of towns and cities called?

A. Metropolitan area

B. City-region

C. Conurbation

D. Agro-urban area

A large continuous urban area formed by the merging of towns and cities is called a conurbation. This term specifically refers to regions where urban development has expanded to the point that neighboring towns and cities have physically merged into one continuous urban space. Conurbations often arise due to population growth, urban sprawl, and the development of transport links that connect various urban centers. This merging can result in a densely populated area with shared infrastructure, services, and an integrated economy. While the terms metropolitan area and city-region are related, they can encompass broader definitions that include the surrounding suburbs and rural areas, not just the merging of urban centers. An agro-urban area typically refers to zones where agricultural activities are integrated with urban environments but does not describe the merging of multiple towns and cities into a continuous urban form.

5. What are the characteristics of a post-industrial city?

- A. A city focused on agriculture and farming**
- B. A city that has transitioned from manufacturing to services and technology**
- C. A city heavily reliant on mining and extraction industries**
- D. A city with a rapidly growing population**

A post-industrial city is characterized by its transition from a manufacturing-based economy to one that is driven by services, technology, and information industries. This transformation typically occurs as traditional manufacturing jobs decline due to globalization and technological advancements, prompting cities to adapt by focusing on sectors that support innovation, finance, healthcare, education, and other service-oriented fields. In addition to economic shifts, post-industrial cities often experience changes in urban development, with an emphasis on revitalizing urban spaces, fostering high-tech industries, and enhancing quality of life through cultural and recreational activities. This aligns with modern needs and trends, making the city more attractive for professionals in high-skill fields. Other options represent characteristics of different types of economies or urban development stages. Agriculture and farming suggest a focus on primary industries, mining is indicative of resource-based economies, and a rapidly growing population may not necessarily signify a post-industrial focus; it could apply to cities at various developmental stages.

6. What is a potential benefit of increasing green spaces in urban areas?

- A. It reduces the cost of housing**
- B. It lowers the demand for public transportation**
- C. It can help combat air pollution**
- D. It promotes urban sprawl**

Increasing green spaces in urban areas can significantly contribute to combatting air pollution. Plants and trees play a crucial role in this process by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen through photosynthesis. They can also filter pollutants from the air, effectively trapping dust, smoke, and other harmful particles. Furthermore, green spaces help lower temperatures in urban areas, reducing the formation of ozone at ground level, which is a common air pollutant. By increasing greenery, cities can improve overall air quality, which contributes to better health outcomes for residents. Enhanced air quality can reduce respiratory issues and other illnesses related to pollution exposure. Therefore, the presence of green spaces not only beautifies an area but also directly addresses environmental and public health concerns, making it a vital aspect of urban planning and development.

7. What is a primary goal of urban planning regarding community design?

- A. To minimize urban density**
- B. To create walkable and vibrant communities**
- C. To isolate residential from industrial areas**
- D. To maintain traditional zoning laws indefinitely**

A primary goal of urban planning regarding community design is to create walkable and vibrant communities. This objective focuses on enhancing the quality of life for residents by ensuring that neighborhoods are accessible, environmentally friendly, and conducive to social interaction. Walkable communities encourage physical activity, reduce reliance on cars, and foster a sense of community among residents. Vibrant design incorporates mixed-use developments that combine residential, commercial, and recreational spaces, promoting active public spaces where people can gather and engage. While minimizing urban density, isolating residential from industrial areas, and maintaining traditional zoning laws may have their respective roles in urban planning, they do not directly address the creation of a lively, interconnected community. In fact, isolating residential from industrial areas could lead to longer commutes and less interaction among various social groups. Similarly, maintaining traditional zoning laws indefinitely might hinder innovation in community design that seeks to adapt to changing needs and preferences. The push for creating inclusive and engaging spaces is central to modern urban planning objectives.

8. What is one way local stakeholders can affect urban development?

- A. By ignoring community input**
- B. Through active participation in planning**
- C. By adhering strictly to national policies**
- D. Through external fundraising**

Local stakeholders can significantly influence urban development through active participation in planning. Their involvement is crucial as they bring valuable insights, experiences, and perspectives related to the community's needs and preferences. When stakeholders, including residents, business owners, and local organizations, engage in the urban planning process, they can advocate for projects that align with the community's interests and help ensure that developments are sustainable and beneficial to the local population. Community input can shape policies, programs, and projects, leading to more tailored and effective urban solutions. Additionally, when stakeholders have a voice in the planning process, it fosters a sense of ownership and investment in the urban environment, encouraging community members to take part in maintaining and enhancing their surroundings. This type of collaboration can lead to more successful and harmonious urban developments that reflect the desires and needs of the community. In contrast, ignoring community input can lead to conflicts and ineffective developments. Rigid adherence to national policies may not account for local nuances, and relying solely on external fundraising can sometimes prioritize the interests of outside investors over community needs. Hence, the active participation of local stakeholders is a vital approach to ensuring that urban development is both relevant and sustainable for the areas affected.

9. Which organization is known as the International Renewable Energy Agency?

- A. IRENA**
- B. UNEP**
- C. ICRE**
- D. REI**

The International Renewable Energy Agency is known by the acronym IRENA. Established in 2009, this intergovernmental organization promotes the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy worldwide. It provides a platform for cooperation and fosters knowledge sharing among its member countries, working to advance the global transition to renewable energy sources. By focusing on renewable energy, IRENA plays a crucial role in addressing climate change, enhancing energy security, and promoting sustainable development. The agency also helps governments and private sectors by providing policy advice, technical assistance, and support for capacity building in various renewable energy technologies. The other organizations mentioned have different functions: UNEP refers to the United Nations Environment Programme, which focuses on global environmental issues and sustainable development; ICRE and REI do not correspond to widely recognized organizations in the renewable energy sector. Thus, IRENA is distinctly recognized for its commitment to promoting renewable energy on an international level.

10. Why is demographic transition significant in urban environments?

- A. It describes changes in urban transportation methods**
- B. It influences urban growth patterns as societies industrialize**
- C. It affects the location of green spaces**
- D. It determines the layout of urban infrastructures**

Demographic transition is significant in urban environments primarily because it describes the shift in population dynamics that occurs as societies industrialize and develop economically. During this transition, countries typically move from high birth and death rates to lower rates, resulting in population growth and urbanization. This process significantly influences urban growth patterns as more individuals move from rural areas to cities in search of better job opportunities, education, and living standards. As a result, urban areas expand, and their demographics change, with higher concentrations of younger populations and diverse communities. This shift can lead to various challenges and opportunities for urban planning, such as the need for increased housing, infrastructure development, and public services. Therefore, understanding demographic transition provides key insights into the trends and patterns of urban growth that shape modern cities.