

IGCSE Geography - Urban Environments Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

- 1. What environmental issue results from excessive noise from traffic or construction?**
 - A. Noise pollution**
 - B. Acoustic interference**
 - C. Sound disruption**
 - D. Auditory pollution**
- 2. Which term refers to resources that will eventually run out?**
 - A. Finite resources**
 - B. Renewable resources**
 - C. Non-renewable resources**
 - D. Sustainable resources**
- 3. Which of the following describes population density?**
 - A. The total number of people living in a rural area**
 - B. The number of people living per unit area in an urban setting**
 - C. The variation of demographics over time**
 - D. The employment rate in urban centers**
- 4. Which area is considered the main commercial centre of a city?**
 - A. City Centre**
 - B. Central Business District (CBD)**
 - C. Downtown District**
 - D. Commercial Zone**
- 5. Which term is used to describe the gradual shift of people and businesses from urban areas to suburban areas?**
 - A. Urban migration**
 - B. Suburbanisation**
 - C. Urban decentralisation**
 - D. Urban renewal**

- 6. In urban planning, which of the following is NOT typically a zoning area?**
- A. Residential Districts**
 - B. Industrial Areas**
 - C. Tourist Attractions**
 - D. Commercial Zones**
- 7. Who are responsible for planning and designing urban development projects?**
- A. Utilities**
 - B. Property developers**
 - C. Urban planners**
 - D. NGOs**
- 8. What is a common environmental issue faced by urban areas?**
- A. Noise pollution from construction**
 - B. Air pollution from vehicles and industry**
 - C. Water shortages during dry seasons**
 - D. Deforestation in city parks**
- 9. What is the name of the planned eco-city located in the UAE?**
- A. Masdar City**
 - B. Dubai City**
 - C. Abu Dhabi Eco-City**
 - D. Energy City**
- 10. What do we call the system of using buses and trains instead of personal vehicles?**
- A. Public transport reliance**
 - B. Private transport use**
 - C. Active transport methods**
 - D. Carpooling**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. What environmental issue results from excessive noise from traffic or construction?

- A. Noise pollution**
- B. Acoustic interference**
- C. Sound disruption**
- D. Auditory pollution**

Noise pollution is the correct answer because it specifically refers to the excessive or harmful levels of noise that disrupt the natural acoustic environment and can have detrimental effects on human health and well-being. This type of pollution is particularly noticeable in urban environments, where traffic, construction, and other activities contribute significantly to elevated noise levels. Prolonged exposure to noise pollution can lead to various health issues, including stress, hearing loss, and sleep disturbances, highlighting its impact on urban populations. In the context of the other options, while acoustic interference and sound disruption are related concepts that describe the effects of noise on sound environments, they do not specifically encapsulate the broader implications and health concerns associated with high noise levels. Auditory pollution, while conveying a similar meaning, is less commonly used in academic and environmental discussions compared to the term "noise pollution," making it a less precise choice. Thus, noise pollution appropriately describes the environmental issue stemming from traffic or construction noise.

2. Which term refers to resources that will eventually run out?

- A. Finite resources**
- B. Renewable resources**
- C. Non-renewable resources**
- D. Sustainable resources**

The term that refers to resources that will eventually run out is non-renewable resources. These resources are characterized by their limited availability because they are not replenished at a sustainable rate through natural processes. Examples include fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, as well as minerals and metals. Once extracted and utilized, non-renewable resources take millions of years to form again, making them exhaustible within a human timeframe. In contrast, finite resources also imply a limited quantity but do not necessarily denote the long time required for replenishment as non-renewable resources do. Renewable resources, on the other hand, are those that can be replenished naturally over time, such as solar energy, wind, and biomass. Sustainable resources refer to those that can be used without depleting them, thus maintaining their availability for future generations.

3. Which of the following describes population density?

- A. The total number of people living in a rural area
- B. The number of people living per unit area in an urban setting**
- C. The variation of demographics over time
- D. The employment rate in urban centers

Population density is defined as the number of people living per unit area, often expressed as individuals per square kilometer or square mile. This measure helps to understand how crowded or spaced out a population is within a specific geographic area, particularly in urban settings where land is often limited and demand for space is high. In urban environments, population density can significantly impact various aspects of city life, such as housing, transportation, and infrastructure. Higher population density typically leads to increased demands on services and resources, while lower density might suggest more available space and potentially less strain on these services. The focus on urban settings is crucial, as cities tend to have higher population densities compared to rural areas, where the population is more dispersed. The other options do not capture the essence of population density. For example, discussing the total number of people in a rural area focuses simply on population size without considering area, while variations in demographics over time and employment rates in urban centers pertain to different aspects of population studies rather than density itself.

4. Which area is considered the main commercial centre of a city?

- A. City Centre
- B. Central Business District (CBD)**
- C. Downtown District
- D. Commercial Zone

The Central Business District (CBD) is recognized as the main commercial center of a city because it typically houses a high concentration of businesses, financial institutions, and corporate offices. The CBD is characterized by its high-rise buildings and heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic, serving as the economic hub where major commercial activities take place. It is often strategically located at the core of the urban area, making it easily accessible, which additionally enhances its role as a center for commerce and trade. The clustering of services such as banking, retail, and entertainment in this area attracts both companies and customers, making the CBD vital for the urban economy. While the city centre, downtown district, and commercial zone may also refer to areas with commercial activities, they do not specifically denote the distinct, defined area known as the Central Business District, which is solely crafted to serve as the primary economic engine of a city. This ensures that the CBD holds a unique position of being at the forefront of urban commercial development.

5. Which term is used to describe the gradual shift of people and businesses from urban areas to suburban areas?

- A. Urban migration**
- B. Suburbanisation**
- C. Urban decentralisation**
- D. Urban renewal**

The term that describes the gradual shift of people and businesses from urban areas to suburban areas is suburbanisation. This process typically involves individuals and families moving away from densely populated city centers to lower-density residential areas on the outskirts, known as suburbs. The allure of suburban living often includes better living conditions, such as more space, lower costs for housing, and access to green areas, which are attractive for families. Suburbanisation is a key trend in urban geography, especially in developed countries where transportation improvements enable easier access to suburban areas from urban centers. This phenomenon can also lead to urban decentralisation, where businesses relocate from the city to suburban locations seeking lower operating costs and larger spaces than what urban settings may provide. In contrast, urban migration usually refers to the movement of people towards urban centers, while urban renewal pertains to the redevelopment of older urban areas to improve social and economic conditions, often without the element of displacement to suburban areas. Understanding these distinctions helps clarify the dynamics of evolving urban landscapes.

6. In urban planning, which of the following is NOT typically a zoning area?

- A. Residential Districts**
- B. Industrial Areas**
- C. Tourist Attractions**
- D. Commercial Zones**

In urban planning, zoning areas are typically designated to regulate land use and ensure that different activities can coexist without conflict. Residential districts, industrial areas, and commercial zones are all common zoning classifications that serve specific functions within a city. Residential districts are established for housing and associated amenities, ensuring that living spaces are separated from industrial activities that might produce noise, pollution, or traffic. Industrial areas are designated for manufacturing and production, allowing for the concentrations of factories and warehouses away from residential neighborhoods. Commercial zones are intended for businesses, shops, and services, providing areas where commerce can thrive while minimizing disruption to residential areas. Tourist attractions, while significant for urban economies, do not usually have specific zoning classifications in the same structured way that the other categories do. These attractions might be located in various zones, such as commercial or even residential areas, but they are not spatially delineated as tourist zones in most planning systems. Consequently, it's more accurate to state that tourist attractions do not typically constitute a distinct zoning area within the framework of urban planning.

7. Who are responsible for planning and designing urban development projects?

- A. Utilities**
- B. Property developers**
- C. Urban planners**
- D. NGOs**

Urban planners are the professionals primarily responsible for the planning and design of urban development projects. Their role is crucial in creating functional, sustainable, and aesthetically pleasing urban environments. They assess community needs, analyze land use, and consider environmental impact to devise comprehensive plans that guide the development of infrastructure, transportation, housing, and public spaces within a city. Urban planners engage in extensive research and public consultation to ensure that the interests of various stakeholders are considered. They must balance competing demands, such as the need for homes versus the necessity of maintaining green spaces, and ensure compliance with zoning laws and regulations. Their expertise helps cities grow in an organized manner, promoting economic development while maintaining livability for residents. While utilities, property developers, and non-governmental organizations contribute to urban development, their roles differ significantly. Utilities provide essential services, property developers focus on the commercialization and construction aspects, and NGOs often advocate for community concerns or social issues but do not typically engage in the technical planning processes in the same way urban planners do.

8. What is a common environmental issue faced by urban areas?

- A. Noise pollution from construction**
- B. Air pollution from vehicles and industry**
- C. Water shortages during dry seasons**
- D. Deforestation in city parks**

Air pollution from vehicles and industry is a significant environmental issue commonly faced by urban areas. Urban environments are often characterized by high population densities and concentrated transportation networks. The reliance on motor vehicles, coupled with industrial activities, generates substantial emissions that contribute to poor air quality. Key pollutants typically include nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter, all of which can have serious health impacts, including respiratory diseases and cardiovascular problems. Additionally, these pollutants can lead to broader environmental problems, such as the formation of smog and acid rain, which further degrade urban environments and affect the quality of life for residents. While noise pollution from construction, water shortages during dry seasons, and deforestation in city parks are also important issues, they do not have the same widespread and immediate impact on public health and environmental quality as air pollution. This makes air pollution a more pressing concern in urban areas, highlighting the need for effective policies and sustainable practices to manage and reduce emissions.

9. What is the name of the planned eco-city located in the UAE?

A. Masdar City

B. Dubai City

C. Abu Dhabi Eco-City

D. Energy City

Masdar City is recognized as the planned eco-city located in the UAE, specifically designed to be sustainable and environmentally friendly. It aims to reduce carbon emissions and foster a community that uses renewable energy resources. This city serves as a model for sustainable urban living, featuring advanced technologies and innovative designs to minimize energy use and promote clean transportation. In contrast, the other options do not represent eco-cities focused specifically on sustainable development in the same context as Masdar City. Dubai City is generally associated with the broader metropolitan area of Dubai, which while has many aspects of modern architecture and development, is not specifically a planned eco-city. Abu Dhabi Eco-City is a less recognized name and does not refer to a specific planned project like Masdar City. Energy City, while it implies a focus on sustainable energy, is not the designated name for the specific planned eco-city in the UAE that embodies these principles. Masdar City stands out for its purposeful design as an eco-city, making it the correct answer.

10. What do we call the system of using buses and trains instead of personal vehicles?

A. Public transport reliance

B. Private transport use

C. Active transport methods

D. Carpooling

The system of using buses and trains instead of personal vehicles is referred to as public transport reliance. This term emphasizes the dependency on shared transportation systems that are accessible to the general population. Public transport provides an efficient means of moving large numbers of people within urban areas, helping to reduce traffic congestion, lower individual transportation costs, and decrease environmental impacts associated with the use of private vehicles. In contrast, private transport use refers to the reliance on individual cars, which does not align with the concept of public transport. Active transport methods involve non-motorized forms of transit, such as walking or cycling, which also differ from bus and train systems. Carpooling is a strategy to reduce the number of vehicles on the road by sharing rides among individuals, rather than using a structured network of public transport. Thus, public transport reliance is the most accurate and relevant term for the system described in the question.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://igcsegeourbanenvi.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!