

IGCSE Geography - Urban Environments Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. 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.

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. 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!

Questions

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- 1. What term describes the basic systems that include water, sanitation, and electricity?**
 - A. Physical infrastructure**
 - B. Urban development**
 - C. Social facilities**
 - D. Environmental management**

- 2. What type of disease is cholera known to be?**
 - A. Bacterial**
 - B. Viral**
 - C. Fungal**
 - D. Parasitic**

- 3. Which term refers to the production of light articles such as textiles or food?**
 - A. Heavy industries**
 - B. Service industries**
 - C. Light industries**
 - D. Agricultural industries**

- 4. Which smart payment and transport card is commonly used in Hong Kong?**
 - A. Octopus Card**
 - B. EasyCard**
 - C. Transit Pass**
 - D. Smart Card**

- 5. 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**

- 6. What strategy can cities implement to combat air pollution?**
- A. Reducing bicycle lanes**
 - B. Promoting public transport**
 - C. Encouraging industrial development**
 - D. Increasing reliance on private vehicles**
- 7. Which concept is related to the social and economic revitalization of a specific area?**
- A. Urban decay**
 - B. Urban renewal**
 - C. Suburban expansion**
 - D. Urban maintenance**
- 8. What is one disadvantage of living in urban areas?**
- A. Increased access to healthcare**
 - B. Higher cost of living**
 - C. Greater community engagement**
 - D. Lower crime rates**
- 9. A city that plays a crucial role in global finance is referred to as what?**
- A. World city**
 - B. Metropolitan centre**
 - C. Core city**
 - D. Major urban centre**
- 10. What is 'traffic congestion' and how does it affect urban living?**
- A. A condition that enhances mobility in cities**
 - B. A condition that occurs from an increase in vehicles, leading to delays**
 - C. A state of improved traffic flow**
 - D. A situation where public transport is more efficient**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What term describes the basic systems that include water, sanitation, and electricity?

- A. Physical infrastructure**
- B. Urban development**
- C. Social facilities**
- D. Environmental management**

The term that describes the basic systems essential for a functioning urban environment, including water, sanitation, and electricity, is physical infrastructure. Physical infrastructure encompasses the foundational services and facilities that support the economy and quality of life in cities. These systems are critical for health, safety, and overall living standards. Urban development refers to the processes and activities involved in the growth and improvement of cities, which may include planning and constructing infrastructure but is broader in scope. Social facilities usually pertain to institutions that meet social needs, such as schools and hospitals, rather than the basic utilities that support everyday life. Environmental management focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of resources and can intersect with urban facilities but does not specifically cover the infrastructure needed for services like sanitation and electricity. Thus, the correct answer highlights the essential physical systems that support urban living.

2. What type of disease is cholera known to be?

- A. Bacterial**
- B. Viral**
- C. Fungal**
- D. Parasitic**

Cholera is classified as a bacterial disease, specifically caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. This pathogen is typically transmitted through contaminated water or food, leading to severe gastrointestinal symptoms, notably acute diarrhea and dehydration, which can be life-threatening if not treated promptly. Understanding cholera as a bacterial disease is crucial for recognizing its transmission pathways, symptoms, and the importance of sanitation and clean water supply in preventing outbreaks. The other options—viral, fungal, and parasitic—refer to different types of pathogens and diseases that have distinct characteristics and transmission methods, but they do not apply to cholera. By correctly identifying cholera as a bacterial disease, one can appreciate the public health measures necessary for control and prevention.

3. Which term refers to the production of light articles such as textiles or food?

- A. Heavy industries**
- B. Service industries**
- C. Light industries**
- D. Agricultural industries**

The term that refers to the production of light articles such as textiles or food is **light industries**. Light industries typically involve smaller-scale manufacturing processes that use less capital investment and tend to be more labor-intensive. These industries focus on producing goods that are relatively light and easy to transport, such as clothing, consumer goods, and food products. In contrast, heavy industries deal with larger and more capital-intensive goods, such as machinery or steel. Service industries pertain to sectors that provide services rather than goods, like hospitality or finance, while agricultural industries focus specifically on the cultivation of crops and livestock rather than the production of finished products. Thus, light industries are the most fitting term for the production of light articles.

4. Which smart payment and transport card is commonly used in Hong Kong?

- A. Octopus Card**
- B. EasyCard**
- C. Transit Pass**
- D. Smart Card**

The Octopus Card is widely regarded as a convenient and efficient smart payment card in Hong Kong, primarily used for public transportation, including the MTR (Mass Transit Railway), buses, ferries, and trams. In addition to transportation, it can also be used for purchases at various retail outlets, vending machines, and even some restaurants, making it a versatile tool for everyday transactions. The reason the Octopus Card stands out is its integration into Hong Kong's extensive public transport system, allowing users to pay fares quickly and easily without needing cash or tickets. It has become an essential part of daily commuting for residents and tourists alike, emphasizing its popularity and effectiveness in urban transport scenarios. In contrast, options like the EasyCard are specific to Taiwan, while others like the Transit Pass and Smart Card are more generic terms that do not specifically reference the Hong Kong context. This contextual distinction clearly highlights why the Octopus Card is the correct choice for the question regarding smart payment and transport cards commonly used in Hong Kong.

5. 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.

6. What strategy can cities implement to combat air pollution?

- A. Reducing bicycle lanes**
- B. Promoting public transport**
- C. Encouraging industrial development**
- D. Increasing reliance on private vehicles**

Promoting public transport is an effective strategy for cities to combat air pollution. By encouraging the use of buses, trains, and other forms of mass transit, cities can reduce the number of private vehicles on the road. This leads to a decrease in emissions from individual cars, which are significant contributors to air pollution. Public transport systems can move a larger number of people more efficiently and with a lower per capita emission rate compared to private vehicles. Additionally, improved public transport can often be paired with cleaner technologies, such as electric buses, further reducing pollution levels. The other options do not align with effective strategies for reducing air pollution. Reducing bicycle lanes would likely discourage cycling, which is a sustainable and low-emission mode of transportation. Encouraging industrial development often leads to increased emissions and air pollution, especially if industrial activities are not subject to strict environmental regulations. Increasing reliance on private vehicles would exacerbate air quality issues as it increases traffic congestion and the number of emissions contributed to the atmosphere. Therefore, promoting public transport emerges as the most sustainable and effective strategy to enhance air quality in urban environments.

7. Which concept is related to the social and economic revitalization of a specific area?

- A. Urban decay
- B. Urban renewal**
- C. Suburban expansion
- D. Urban maintenance

Urban renewal is a concept that focuses on the social and economic revitalization of specific areas, typically in cities that have experienced decline or deterioration. This process involves various initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure, housing, and services, as well as enhancing the overall quality of life for residents. Urban renewal often includes the renovation of existing buildings and the construction of new facilities, parks, and public spaces, thereby encouraging investment and stimulating local economies. This revitalization can lead to the re-attraction of businesses and residents, promoting a more vibrant community in the area. It addresses issues such as poverty, crime, and degradation that may have contributed to urban decay. In contrast, urban decay refers to the decline of an urban area, while suburban expansion focuses on the growth and development of suburbs. Urban maintenance involves the upkeep and preservation of urban areas, but does not necessarily imply the transformative changes involved in renewal.

8. What is one disadvantage of living in urban areas?

- A. Increased access to healthcare
- B. Higher cost of living**
- C. Greater community engagement
- D. Lower crime rates

The higher cost of living is indeed a notable disadvantage of residing in urban areas. Urban centers often attract a larger population due to the availability of jobs, services, and amenities, which leads to increased demand for housing, groceries, and utilities. Consequently, as demand outstrips supply, prices tend to rise significantly, making it more challenging for residents to afford basic needs. This financial pressure can affect quality of life, as individuals and families might struggle to budget effectively due to higher expenses associated with urban living. In contrast, options such as increased access to healthcare, greater community engagement, and lower crime rates do not reflect common disadvantages of urban living. In fact, urban areas typically provide more healthcare facilities and opportunities for community involvement, while crime rates can vary significantly depending on the location within an urban area.

9. A city that plays a crucial role in global finance is referred to as what?

- A. World city**
- B. Metropolitan centre**
- C. Core city**
- D. Major urban centre**

A city that plays a crucial role in global finance is known as a "world city." This term refers to cities that have significant influence on global economic and cultural affairs, and they typically host leading financial institutions, multinational corporations, and major stock exchanges. World cities are characterized by their connectivity, diversity, and ability to attract international talent and investment, making them pivotal hubs in the global economy. While metropolitan centers are important urban areas within a country that might offer various services and amenities, they do not necessarily hold the same impact on global finance. Core cities often refer to central urban areas within a larger metropolitan region, but they may not have the global financial influence that a world city possesses. Major urban centers can be significant in their national context, yet they similarly lack the overarching global significance that defines a world city. Thus, the designation "world city" specifically highlights the city's influence on the international stage, particularly in finance and trade.

10. What is 'traffic congestion' and how does it affect urban living?

- A. A condition that enhances mobility in cities**
- B. A condition that occurs from an increase in vehicles, leading to delays**
- C. A state of improved traffic flow**
- D. A situation where public transport is more efficient**

Traffic congestion refers to a situation on roadways characterized by slower speeds, increased travel time, and a build-up of vehicles. This phenomenon typically arises when the volume of traffic exceeds the road capacity, particularly due to an increase in the number of vehicles. Such congestion can lead to significant delays for commuters, impacting their daily lives and routines. The effects of traffic congestion on urban living can be extensive. It can lead to frustration among drivers, increased pollution due to idle vehicles, and a higher number of accidents as drivers become impatient. Additionally, lengthy travel times can decrease the overall quality of life, as individuals spend more time on the road and less time on leisure or family activities. Local businesses may also suffer if potential customers are deterred from traveling because of the traffic conditions. Overall, this choice accurately encapsulates the definition and implications of traffic congestion within urban environments.

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!

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