

Unit 2: Urbanization and Urban Settlements

Comprehension questions

1. Since when has urbanization started to increase? Why?

Urbanization started to increase since the Industrial Revolution in Europe in 1760. Industrial revolution led to the establishment of more and more industrial districts, resulting in acceleration of urbanization.

2. Give two factors to an exodus (the movement of a lot of people from a place) of rural folks into the cities.

- Moving to cities for plenty of job opportunities
- Improved agricultural techniques resulting in less demand for farm laborers

3. List the main problems facing crowded cities.

It is unhealthy and can be vulnerable to fire and diseases.

4. How many types of functions of a city? What are they? Give examples of each of them.

There are 2 types of functions of city, and they are city-forming functions (banking, wholesaling, and manufacturing) and city-serving functions (transportation, communications, retailing, sports, and recreation).

5. Give five zoning of functions of a city with short explanation each.

- CBD: high-rise buildings, office blocks, most accessible, commercial center, traffic focus, highest land value, very high population during the day, low at night, urban renewal of old buildings to make way for skyscrapers.
- Transitional zone: commercial lands, public buildings, some industries, hotels, recreational outlets, lower rental, moderate population density.
- Zone of industry and working class housing: many houses for workers, moderate to low population density, and many industries.
- Suburban zone: better houses, market, gardens, special land use, high land value.
- Outer suburbs: satellite towns, agricultural land, low population density and low land value.

6. State three main housing problems and provide appropriate solutions to them.

- Housing problems:
 - Shortage of houses
 - Rising cost of housing
 - Homeless immigrants
 - Squatter settlements (slum areas)
 - Overcrowding
- Solutions:
 - Price control affordable to average wage earners
 - Imposing a heavy fine on the people involved in housing racket
 - Providing subsidized public housing
 - Improving squatter settlements concrete, piped water, electricity, sewage system and paved roads
 - Checking the flow of rural immigrants into the cities
- Transport problems
 - Traffic jam/congestion
 - Less buses and trains crammed with commuters
 - Narrow roads/ pot holes (road accidents)/ multiplicity of side lanes (slowing down traffic)/ frequent road repairs or unplanned road works
- Solutions
 - Reducing the number of vehicles by
 - Raising import tax
 - Increasing the annual road tax
 - Expensive car insurance
 - Increasing driver's license fees
 - Encouraging car pool
 - Establishing restricted zones
 - Imposing highway tolls
 - Improving the city's transport system by
 - Widening the existing roads
 - Building more roads/expressways
 - Erecting more flyovers
 - Constructing underground railway
 - Residents
 - Using the public transport system
 - Traveling less often in the city
 - Maintain good condition of vehicle
- Pollution problems
- Solutions
 - Individuals
 - Avoiding polluting the environment by
 - Not smoking, littering (into the water bodies), or burning openly in one's compound

- Not turning up the radio/TV volume
- Walking/cycling to the school or nearby places
- Wrapping home garbage in plastic bags+ putting them in rubbish bins
- Informing the relevant authorities about any instances of the environmental pollution
- Passing on to the media and public any useful information relating to environmental protection
- Government
 - Controlling city pollution by
 - Legislating and enforcing clean air laws to control the emission of exhaust fumes
 - Imposing heavy penalty to factories dumping toxic wastes into rivers or air
 - Devising an effective system of garbage disposal (sanitary landfills, incineration plants, recycling centers)
 - Allocating more funds to research on alternative non-polluting energy sources
 - Working hand in hand with environmental groups and conservation bodies to combat environmental pollution
 - Setting up enforcement squads to
 - Fine motorists guilty of noise and air pollution
 - Protect the seas coasts from oil spills
 - Ban any dumping of garbage in water bodies
 - Plant more trees in parks and along city streets

7. What is satellite town? Provide example to support your answer.

Satellite town is the town located at a short distance from the main urban centre to house the overspilled population. For example, Britain was the one of the earliest countries to initiate the 'New Town' concept to accommodate the overspilled population of the urban sprawl of London and Birmingham.

8. Give the types of pollution with their causes.

a. Air pollution:

i. Causes:

- exhaust from transport vehicles
- smoke from factories

- open burning in the cities and suburban homes
 - b. Water pollution
 - i. Causes: toxic chemicals and wastes from petroleum refineries....
 - c. Noise pollution
 - i. Causes: endless noise from motor vehicles, construction sites, machines in factories and workshops and other sources
 - d. Land pollution:
 - i. Causes: waste and garbage thrown on the streets or in rubbish dump such as fruit skin, unwanted paper and stationery....
9. What is acid rain? Briefly describe its effects.
 Acid rain is rain which contains large amounts of harmful chemicals as a result of burning substances such as coal and oil. Its effects are damaging trees, contaminating fish and corroding buildings.
10. What are the components of the urban planning?

The components of the urban planning are:

- The size of the present urban population, its distribution and growth
- Availability of land for suburban development and satellite towns
- An efficient transport network to link existing cities with the new settlement
- The types of houses to be built such as high-rise flats, walk-up apartments,..
- The provision of recreational and community facilities to enhance the quality of the new living environment
- The conservation of good agricultural land for food production
- The setting up of green belts around the city areas
- The allocation of suitable place for commercial and industrial use