STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

READING SECTION (40 questions)

PASSAGE 1

The Genesis and Evolution of Urban Planning

Urban planning, the methodical design and management of land use and the built environment, is a discipline that has shaped human settlements for millennia. Far from being a modern invention, the principles of organized urban living can be traced back to the earliest civilizations. In the Indus Valley, for instance, the ancient cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro exhibited a remarkable degree of sophistication, with grid-like street patterns, advanced drainage systems, and distinct residential and commercial zones. These early metropolises, flourishing over 4,000 years ago, provide compelling evidence that the desire for orderly, functional, and healthy living spaces is deeply ingrained in the human experience.

The classical world further advanced the practice of urban planning. In ancient Greece, the philosopher and architect Hippodamus of Miletus is often hailed as the “father of European urban planning.” He championed the concept of the orthogonal, or grid, plan, which was not merely a matter of aesthetic preference but a means of promoting social equity and democratic ideals. The Hippodamian plan, with its uniform city blocks and public spaces, was a physical manifestation of the Greek belief in a well-ordered society. The Romans, in turn, adopted and adapted Greek planning principles, applying them on an unprecedented scale across their vast empire. Roman cities were characterized by their standardized layouts, with a central forum, a network of paved streets, and impressive public works such as aqueducts and sanitation systems. These engineering marvels not only improved public health and convenience but also served as powerful symbols of Roman power and ingenuity.

With the decline of the Roman Empire, the systematic practice of urban planning waned in Europe. The medieval period was largely characterized by organic, and often chaotic, urban growth. Cities expanded in a haphazard fashion, with narrow, winding streets and a lack of basic infrastructure. However, the Renaissance witnessed a renewed interest in the art and science of city design. Inspired by classical ideals,

architects and theorists began to envision utopian cities based on principles of harmony, symmetry, and proportion. While many of these grand visions remained on paper, they laid the intellectual groundwork for the future of urban planning.

The Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries presented a new set of challenges and opportunities for urban planners. The rapid growth of industrial cities led to unprecedented overcrowding, pollution, and social problems. In response, a new generation of reformers and planners emerged, advocating for healthier and more humane urban environments. The Garden City movement, pioneered by Ebenezer Howard in the late 19th century, proposed a radical alternative to the congested industrial city. Howard's vision was of self-contained communities that combined the best of town and country living, with greenbelts, public parks, and a mix of residential, commercial, and agricultural zones. Though few true Garden Cities were ever built, the movement had a profound influence on the development of suburban planning in the 20th century.

The 20th century was a period of intense experimentation and debate in the field of urban planning. The rise of modernism brought with it a belief in the power of technology and rational planning to solve urban problems. Architects like Le Corbusier proposed radical, high-rise solutions to urban congestion, while others, such as Jane Jacobs, championed a more human-scale, community-focused approach. Jacobs, in her seminal work "The Death and Life of Great American Cities," argued for the importance of mixed-use neighborhoods, walkable streets, and vibrant public spaces. Her ideas, once controversial, have since become mainstream, and have had a lasting impact on how we think about and design our cities.

Today, urban planners grapple with a complex array of challenges, from climate change and resource scarcity to social inequality and rapid urbanization. The field has become increasingly interdisciplinary, drawing on insights from economics, sociology, environmental science, and data analytics. As the world becomes more urbanized, the need for thoughtful, sustainable, and equitable urban planning has never been more urgent. The ancient quest for the ideal city continues, and the future of our planet may well depend on our ability to create urban environments that are not only functional and efficient, but also just, resilient, and inspiring.

Questions 1-13

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet, write

- **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information
- **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information
- **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this*

1. The earliest cities showed little evidence of organized planning.
2. Hippodamus of Miletus was the first to use a grid-like street pattern.
3. The Romans used urban planning mainly for aesthetic purposes.
4. The growth of cities during the medieval period was carefully managed.
5. The Garden City movement was a direct response to the problems of industrial cities.
6. Jane Jacobs' ideas were immediately accepted by the majority of urban planners.

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C** or **D**.*

Write the correct letter in boxes 7-10 on your answer sheet.

1. The ancient cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro are mentioned to illustrate: A. the challenges of urban living in the ancient world. B. the long history of organized urban design. C. the influence of the Indus Valley on Greek architecture. D. the failure of early attempts at urban planning.

2. According to the passage, the Roman approach to urban planning was characterized by: A. a focus on organic and spontaneous growth. B. the creation of small, self-sufficient communities. C. the use of standardized layouts and public works. D. a rejection of Greek architectural principles.

3. What was the primary goal of the Garden City movement? A. To create utopian cities based on classical ideals. B. To promote high-rise, technologically advanced urban centers. C. To offer a healthier alternative to overcrowded industrial cities. D. To revive the chaotic, organic growth of medieval towns.

4. The passage suggests that modern urban planning is: A. a field that has become less important in the 21st century. B. a discipline that relies solely on architectural principles. C. a complex, interdisciplinary field facing urgent challenges. D. a practice that has largely abandoned the ideas of the past.

Complete the summary below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes 11-13 on your answer sheet.

The evolution of urban planning reflects a long history of human effort to create orderly and functional living spaces. The Romans, for example, built cities with a central **11.** _____ and impressive infrastructure. After a period of decline in the Middle Ages, the Renaissance saw a renewed interest in city design. Later, the Industrial Revolution led to problems like **12.** _____ and pollution, prompting reformers to seek better solutions. In the 20th century, a key debate emerged between high-rise, rational planning and a more **13.** _____ approach, which valued walkable streets and vibrant neighborhoods.

PASSAGE 2

The Rise of the Sustainable Smart City

A. In an era of unprecedented urbanization and growing environmental concerns, the concept of the “smart city” has emerged as a beacon of hope for the future of urban living. A smart city is, in essence, an urban area that uses various types of electronic methods and sensors to collect data. Insights gained from that data are used to manage assets, resources and services efficiently; in return, that data is used to improve the operations across the city. This includes data collected from citizens, devices, buildings and assets that is then processed and analyzed to monitor and manage traffic and transportation systems, power plants, utilities, water supply networks, waste management, crime detection, information systems, schools, libraries, hospitals, and other community services.

B. The ultimate goal of a smart city is to create a sustainable, efficient, and livable environment for its citizens. This is achieved by leveraging technology to optimize city functions and promote economic growth while minimizing environmental impact. For example, smart traffic management systems can reduce congestion and pollution by redirecting traffic in real-time based on sensor data. Smart grids can improve energy efficiency by balancing supply and demand, and by integrating renewable energy sources. Smart buildings can reduce energy consumption by automatically adjusting lighting and temperature based on occupancy.

C. The concept of the smart city is inextricably linked to the broader goal of sustainable urban development. A sustainable city is one that is designed with consideration for social, economic, and environmental impact, and is resilient enough to withstand the

pressures of population growth and climate change. The principles of sustainable urban development include promoting compact and mixed-use development, preserving open space and natural resources, providing a variety of transportation options, and creating a sense of community. Smart city technologies can play a crucial role in achieving these goals. For instance, by providing real-time data on energy consumption and waste generation, smart technologies can help cities to reduce their environmental footprint.

D. Around the world, cities are embracing the smart and sustainable city model. Singapore, for example, has implemented a comprehensive suite of smart city solutions, including a nationwide sensor network, a smart mobility platform, and a digital health system. The city-state has also been a pioneer in sustainable urban development, with a focus on green buildings, water conservation, and renewable energy. Similarly, Copenhagen has set an ambitious goal of becoming the world's first carbon-neutral capital by 2025. The city has invested heavily in cycling infrastructure, wind energy, and district heating, and has been recognized as one of the most livable and sustainable cities in the world.

E. Despite the promise of smart and sustainable cities, there are also significant challenges to their implementation. One of the biggest hurdles is the high cost of investment in new technologies and infrastructure. Another challenge is the issue of data privacy and security. The vast amounts of data collected by smart city sensors raise concerns about how that data is being used and protected. There is also a risk that the focus on technology could exacerbate existing social inequalities, creating a "digital divide" between those who have access to the benefits of smart city technologies and those who do not.

F. To overcome these challenges, it is essential for cities to adopt a holistic and citizen-centric approach to smart and sustainable urban development. This means engaging with communities to understand their needs and concerns, and ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are shared by all. It also means developing clear and transparent policies on data governance, and investing in education and training to ensure that citizens have the skills to participate in the digital economy. Ultimately, the success of the smart and sustainable city will depend not just on the sophistication of its technology, but on its ability to create a more just, equitable, and livable future for all its residents.

Questions 14-26

Reading Passage 2 has six paragraphs, ***A-F****.*

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, ***A-F****, in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.*

1. Examples of cities that have successfully implemented smart and sustainable solutions.
2. The potential for smart city technologies to worsen social divisions.
3. A definition of a smart city and the types of data it uses.
4. The importance of involving citizens in the planning of smart and sustainable cities.
5. The connection between smart city technologies and the goals of sustainable urban development.
6. The main objectives of a smart city.

Choose the correct letter, ***A, B, C*** *or* ***D****.*

Write the correct letter in boxes 20-23 on your answer sheet.

1. What is the primary purpose of a smart city? A. To collect as much data as possible from its citizens. B. To create a more sustainable, efficient, and pleasant place to live. C. To replace all existing infrastructure with new technologies. D. To compete with other cities for the title of “most technologically advanced.”

2. According to the passage, what is one way that smart traffic management systems can improve a city? A. By increasing the number of cars on the road. B. By making it more difficult for people to drive. C. By reducing traffic jams and air pollution. D. By eliminating the need for public transportation.

3. The passage mentions all of the following as principles of sustainable urban development EXCEPT: A. preserving natural resources. B. promoting the use of private cars. C. creating a sense of community. D. providing a variety of transportation options.

4. What is one of the main challenges associated with the implementation of smart cities? A. The lack of available technology. B. The high cost of investment. C. The resistance of citizens to change. D. The absence of clear goals.

Complete the sentences below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes 24-26 on your answer sheet.

1. The vast amount of data collected by smart city sensors raises concerns about data privacy and _____.
2. A citizen-centric approach to smart city development involves engaging with communities to understand their _____.
3. The success of a smart city depends on its ability to create a more just, equitable, and _____ for all its residents.

PASSAGE 3

The Human-Centered City: Community, Equity, and Public Space

For much of the 20th century, the dominant paradigm in urban planning was one of top-down, expert-led decision-making. Planners and architects, armed with grand theories and technical expertise, sought to impose order and efficiency on the urban landscape. While this approach produced some notable achievements, it often came at the expense of the very people the city was meant to serve. All too often, large-scale urban renewal projects displaced vibrant communities, destroyed historic neighborhoods, and created sterile, impersonal environments. In recent decades, however, there has been a growing recognition of the need for a more human-centered approach to urban planning – one that prioritizes community participation, social equity, and the creation of vibrant public spaces.

The principle of community participation is based on the simple yet powerful idea that the people who live in a community should have a say in its future. This means moving beyond the traditional model of public consultation, which often involves little more than a tokenistic opportunity for residents to comment on pre-determined plans. Meaningful community participation requires a genuine partnership between planners and residents, in which local knowledge and lived experience are valued and integrated into the planning process. This can take many forms, from community workshops and design charrettes to participatory budgeting and citizen-led planning initiatives. The benefits of this approach are numerous: it can lead to more responsive and effective plans, build social capital and a sense of ownership, and empower marginalized communities.

Closely related to the idea of community participation is the concept of social equity. An equitable city is one in which all residents, regardless of their income, race, or background, have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. This includes not only basic services like housing, education, and healthcare, but also access to parks, cultural institutions, and a healthy environment. Unfortunately, many cities are characterized by deep-seated inequalities, with low-income and minority communities often bearing the brunt of environmental pollution, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of public investment. Addressing these disparities requires a conscious and deliberate effort on the part of urban planners to promote what is often termed “spatial justice.” This means using planning tools and policies to distribute resources more equitably, to protect vulnerable communities from displacement, and to create a more inclusive and just urban fabric.

At the heart of the human-centered city are its public spaces. Parks, squares, plazas, and streets are not merely the empty spaces between buildings; they are the vital organs of the city, the places where people come together to socialize, to celebrate, to protest, and to simply be. Well-designed and well-maintained public spaces can foster a sense of community, promote public health, and stimulate economic activity. They can also play a crucial role in promoting social equity, by providing a common ground where people from different backgrounds can interact and build social trust. However, the quality and accessibility of public space are often unevenly distributed. In many cities, there is a stark contrast between the manicured parks of affluent neighborhoods and the neglected, unsafe public spaces of poorer areas. Creating a more equitable city therefore requires a commitment to investing in high-quality public spaces in all communities.

The shift towards a more human-centered approach to urban planning is not without its challenges. It requires a willingness to challenge established power structures, to embrace complexity and uncertainty, and to engage in difficult conversations about values and priorities. It also requires a new set of skills for planners, who must be not only technical experts but also skilled facilitators, negotiators, and community organizers. Yet, for all the difficulties, the rewards are immense. By putting people at the heart of the planning process, we can create cities that are not only more sustainable and resilient, but also more just, more equitable, and more humane.

Questions 27-40

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 3?

In boxes 27-32 on your answer sheet, write

- **YES** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer
- **NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer
- **NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

1. The top-down approach to urban planning in the 20th century was a complete failure.
2. Meaningful community participation involves residents having a genuine role in the planning process.
3. Social equity in urban planning is primarily concerned with providing luxury housing for all residents.
4. Public spaces are an essential component of a human-centered city.
5. The quality of public space is generally consistent across all neighborhoods in a city.
6. A human-centered approach to urban planning is easier to implement than traditional methods.

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C** or **D**.*

Write the correct letter in boxes 33-36 on your answer sheet.

1. The author suggests that the 20th-century approach to urban planning often neglected: A. the need for technical expertise. B. the importance of economic efficiency. C. the well-being of the city's inhabitants. D. the creation of grand, impressive buildings.

2. According to the passage, what is a key benefit of community participation in planning? A. It guarantees that all plans will be successful. B. It reduces the need for professional planners. C. It can lead to plans that better reflect the community's needs. D. It is the fastest and most efficient way to make decisions.

3. The concept of "spatial justice" aims to: A. ensure that all buildings are the same height. B. distribute urban resources more fairly. C. create more empty spaces in cities. D. punish those who have made planning mistakes in the past.

4. What does the author conclude about the human-centered approach to urban planning? A. It is a simple and straightforward process. B. It is a passing trend

that will soon be replaced. C. It is a challenging but ultimately rewarding endeavor. D. It is only relevant in wealthy, developed countries.

Complete the notes below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes 37-40 on your answer sheet.

The Human-Centered City

- **Community Participation:**
  - Requires a **37. _____** between planners and residents.
  - Values local knowledge and lived experience.
- **Social Equity:**
  - Aims for all residents to have access to resources and **38. _____**.
  - Addresses inequalities in areas like housing and environmental pollution.
- **Public Spaces:**
  - Considered the **39. _____** of the city.
  - Can foster a sense of community and promote public health.
- **Challenges:**
  - Requires challenging established **40. _____**.
  - Planners need new skills, such as facilitation and negotiation.

LISTENING SECTION (40 questions)

SECTION 1 Questions 1-10

Complete the form below.

*Write **ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

Westwood Community Centre Redevelopment Plan

Feedback Form

Name: Sarah **1** _____ **Address:** 14, **2** _____ Road

Feedback on Proposed Changes:

- **New Café:**
  - Positive: Good idea to have a café.
  - Concern: The proposed location is near the **3** _____, which could be noisy.
- **Children's Play Area:**
  - Positive: The new equipment sounds excellent.
  - Suggestion: Add more **4** _____ for parents.
- **Library Extension:**
  - Positive: The extra space is much needed.
  - Request: Include a dedicated section for **5** _____.
- **Outdoor Sports Facilities:**
  - Concern: The proposed closure of the tennis courts is a **6** _____.
  - Suggestion: Keep the tennis courts and build the new basketball court elsewhere.
- **Car Park:**
  - Concern: The reduction in parking spaces will be a problem.
  - The number of spaces will be reduced from 50 to **7** _____.

General Comments:

- The redevelopment is generally a positive step.
- The project open day is on **8** _____.
- The deadline for written feedback is **9** _____ July.
- The project manager's name is Tom **10** _____.

SECTION 2 Questions 11-20

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B** or **C**.*

1. The main purpose of the talk is to: A. encourage people to move to the new suburb of Northwood. B. provide information about the planning of the new suburb. C. protest against the development of the new suburb.
2. What was the main consideration in the initial planning of Northwood? A. To create a community with a strong focus on environmental sustainability. B. To

build as many houses as possible in a short amount of time. C. To provide a new commercial center for the wider region.

3. The ‘Green Heart’ of Northwood is: A. a large shopping mall in the center of the suburb. B. a network of parks and open spaces. C. a new type of energy-efficient building.

4. What is unique about the transport system in Northwood? A. There are no private cars allowed in the suburb. B. The entire suburb is a pedestrian-only zone. C. It prioritizes public transport, cycling, and walking.

Label the map below.

*Write the correct letter, **A-H**, next to questions 15-20.*

Northwood Suburb Plan

[Image of a fictional map of Northwood suburb with locations A-H marked]

1. Community Centre
2. Sports Complex
3. Health Centre
4. Primary School
5. Shopping Precinct
6. Business Park

SECTION 3 Questions 21-30

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B** or **C**.*

1. What is the main topic of the students’ presentation? A. The history of urban planning in their city. B. The challenges of urban sprawl. C. A case study of a successful urban regeneration project.

2. According to Chloe, what was the main problem with the Southside district before the regeneration project? A. It was a dangerous area with a high crime rate. B. It was a deprived area with a lack of facilities. C. It was a polluted industrial area.

3. What was the first step in the Southside regeneration project? A. Building new houses and apartments. B. Conducting extensive consultations with the local community. C. Demolishing the old industrial buildings.

4. What does Liam think was the most successful aspect of the project? A. The creation of new job opportunities. B. The improvement in the quality of the housing. C. The development of a strong sense of community.

5. Chloe is particularly impressed by the: A. new sports facilities. B. the design of the public spaces. C. the new shopping centre.

6. What problem do they identify with the project? A. It has led to an increase in traffic congestion. B. It has not attracted as many new businesses as expected. C. It has caused a rise in property prices, which is affecting some original residents.

7. What does their tutor, Dr. Evans, praise them for? A. The clarity of their presentation. B. The depth of their research. C. Their critical analysis of the project.

8. Dr. Evans suggests that for their next assignment, they could investigate: A. the long-term economic impact of the project. B. the social impact of the project on the original community. C. the environmental sustainability of the project.

9. What do Chloe and Liam decide to do next? A. Start working on their next assignment immediately. B. Go to the library to find more information. C. Visit the Southside district together.

10. The overall tone of the discussion is: A. critical and negative. B. positive and enthusiastic. C. neutral and objective.

SECTION 4 Questions 31-40

Complete the notes below.

*Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.*

Lecture on Biophilic Design

Introduction

- Biophilic design is an approach to architecture and urban planning that seeks to connect people with nature.

- The term ‘biophilia’ means a love of **31** _____.
- The aim is to create environments that are restorative and reduce stress.

Key Principles of Biophilic Design

- **Direct connection with nature:**
  - Incorporating natural elements like plants, water, and sunlight.
  - Example: The new city library has a large **32** _____ in the main reading room.
- **Indirect connection with nature:**
  - Using natural materials, colours, and patterns.
  - Example: The use of **33** _____ and stone in buildings.
- **Human spatial response:**
  - Designing spaces that meet our innate needs for safety and **34** _____.
  - Example: Creating spaces that offer both open views and enclosed, protected areas.

Benefits of Biophilic Design

- **Health and well-being:**
  - Studies have shown that it can lower blood pressure and heart rate.
  - It can also improve **35** _____ and reduce mental fatigue.
- **Economic benefits:**
  - In the workplace, it can increase productivity and reduce **36** _____.
  - In retail, customers are willing to spend more time and money in ‘green’ environments.
- **Environmental benefits:**
  - Can help to improve air quality and reduce the urban heat island effect.
  - Can also promote **37** _____ by creating habitats for wildlife.

Challenges and Future Directions

- **Challenges:**
  - The initial cost can be a barrier.

    - There is a need for more **38** _____ and data to prove the long-term benefits.
- **Future directions:**
    - The integration of biophilic design with smart city technology.
    - The development of new **39** _____ and techniques.
    - The application of biophilic design at the **40** _____ planning level.

LISTENING SCRIPTS

SECTION 1

(Sound of a phone ringing)

Council Representative: Good morning, Westwood Borough Council, Tom speaking. How can I help you?

Sarah: Oh, hello. I'm calling to give some feedback on the proposed redevelopment of the Westwood Community Centre.

Council Representative: Excellent. I'm the project manager for the redevelopment, so I'm the right person to speak to. Can I take your name, please?

Sarah: Yes, it's Sarah Green. That's G-R-E-E-N.

Council Representative: Thanks, Sarah. And can I take your address?

Sarah: Of course. It's 14, Appleby Road. That's A-P-P-L-E-B-Y.

Council Representative: Great. So, what are your thoughts on the redevelopment plan?

Sarah: Overall, I think it's a great idea. The centre is in desperate need of an upgrade. I'm particularly pleased to see the plan for a new café. I think that will be a great addition.

Council Representative: We think so too. We're hoping it will become a real hub for the community.

Sarah: My only concern is the proposed location. You're planning to put it right next to the main hall, which is used for all sorts of events, from dance classes to birthday parties. I think it could get quite noisy.

Council Representative: That's a fair point. We'll certainly look into that. What about the new children's play area?

Sarah: I have a young son, so I'm delighted to see the plans for new equipment. It sounds fantastic. My only suggestion would be to add more seating for parents. It can be a long and cold wait while the little ones are playing!

Council Representative: (laughs) I know exactly what you mean. I'll make a note of that. And the library extension?

Sarah: Again, a much-needed improvement. The library is so popular, and the extra space will be wonderful. I was just hoping you might consider including a dedicated section for local history. I think that would be a great resource for the community.

Council Representative: That's an interesting idea. I'll pass that on to the library services team. Now, what about the outdoor sports facilities?

Sarah: Well, this is the one part of the plan that I'm not so keen on. I see you're proposing to get rid of the tennis courts and build a new basketball court. I think that's a real shame. The tennis courts are very well used by the local community.

Council Representative: We've had a lot of requests for a basketball court, particularly from younger residents.

Sarah: I understand that, but I think it would be a mistake to lose the tennis courts. Is there no possibility of keeping them and building the basketball court somewhere else?

Council Representative: We are very limited on space, but I will certainly raise your concern with the design team. And finally, the car park.

Sarah: Yes, I'm very concerned about the plan to reduce the number of parking spaces. I know you want to encourage people to walk or cycle, but for many people, that's just not practical. The car park is already full most days. Reducing the number of spaces from 50 to 30 is going to cause a lot of problems.

Council Representative: I appreciate your concern. We are exploring the possibility of a new car park on a nearby site, but that is still in the early stages of planning. So, just

to summarize your feedback…

(The conversation continues, and the representative gives details about the open day and feedback deadline)

Council Representative: We're holding an open day on Saturday, where you can come and see the detailed plans and speak to the architects. It's on the 18th of June. And the deadline for all written feedback is the 1st of July. My name is Tom, by the way, Tom Wilson.

Sarah: Great, thanks for your help, Tom.

Council Representative: You're welcome. Thank you for taking the time to call.

SECTION 2

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to our presentation on the new suburb of Northwood. My name is John Carter, and I'm the lead planner on this exciting project. I'm here today to give you an overview of our vision for Northwood and to answer any questions you may have.

The planning for Northwood began over five years ago, and from the very beginning, our primary goal was to create a community with a strong focus on environmental sustainability. We wanted to build a suburb that was not only a great place to live, but also a model for future urban development.

At the heart of Northwood is what we are calling the 'Green Heart'. This is a network of interconnected parks, woodlands, and open spaces that runs through the entire suburb. The Green Heart is designed to be a place where residents can relax, exercise, and enjoy nature. It also plays a crucial role in our sustainable water management system, with a series of ponds and wetlands that collect and filter rainwater.

One of the most innovative aspects of Northwood is our approach to transport. We have designed the suburb to prioritize public transport, cycling, and walking over the use of private cars. A new light rail service connects Northwood to the city centre, and there is an extensive network of cycle paths and footpaths. We haven't banned cars altogether, but we have designed the streets to be narrow and traffic-calmed, making them safe and pleasant for pedestrians and cyclists.

Now, I'd like to draw your attention to the map of Northwood. As you can see, the suburb is organized around a central spine, which is the light rail line. The main

community facilities are located along this spine, within easy walking distance of the residential areas.

Let's start with the Community Centre, which is located right next to the main light rail station, at the very heart of the suburb. This will be a hub for community life, with a library, a café, and meeting rooms.

To the east of the Community Centre, you'll find the Sports Complex. This will have a swimming pool, a gym, and both indoor and outdoor courts for a variety of sports.

Our new Health Centre is located to the west of the Community Centre, on the other side of the light rail line. It will provide a range of medical services, including a GP clinic and a pharmacy.

Moving north from the Health Centre, we have the new Primary School. The school has been designed to be a real community hub, with facilities that can be used by the wider community outside of school hours.

To the east of the Primary School, you'll see the main Shopping Precinct. This will be a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly area with a mix of shops, restaurants, and cafes.

And finally, on the northern edge of the suburb, we have the Business Park. This will provide a range of employment opportunities for local residents, with a focus on technology and creative industries.

So, that gives you a brief overview of our plans for Northwood. We believe that it will be a truly special place to live, a community that is green, vibrant, and sustainable. Now, I'd be happy to answer any questions…

SECTION 3

Dr. Evans: So, Chloe and Liam, you're going to tell us about your case study of the Southside regeneration project. Chloe, why don't you start?

Chloe: Thanks, Dr. Evans. Yes, so, for our presentation, we decided to look at the Southside regeneration project. For those of you who don't know, Southside was a former industrial area that had become very run-down. Before the regeneration project, it was a pretty deprived area, with a lot of derelict buildings and a real lack of facilities for the local community.

Liam: That's right. The project was launched about five years ago, with the aim of transforming Southside into a vibrant, mixed-use community. The first step was to

conduct extensive consultations with the local community, to find out what they wanted from the regeneration. This was a really important part of the process, and it helped to ensure that the project had the support of local residents.

Chloe: Absolutely. After the consultation, the project moved into the design and construction phase. This involved demolishing some of the old industrial buildings, refurbishing others, and building new houses and apartments. They also created a new park, a community centre, and a range of shops and cafes.

Liam: For me, the most successful aspect of the project has been the development of a strong sense of community. The new public spaces are always full of people, and there's a real buzz about the place. It's been great to see how the project has brought people together.

Chloe: I agree. I'm particularly impressed by the design of the public spaces. They've used a lot of high-quality materials, and there are lots of trees and plants. It feels like a really safe and welcoming environment.

Liam: But it's not all perfect, is it? We did identify one or two problems with the project. The main one is that the regeneration has led to a big increase in property prices in the area. This is great for homeowners, but it's making it difficult for some of the original residents, particularly those who are renting, to afford to stay in the area. This is a classic problem with regeneration projects, and it's something that needs to be managed carefully.

Dr. Evans: That's a very important point, Liam. It's a real dilemma for planners. So, overall, what's your assessment of the project?

Chloe: I think it's been a huge success. It's transformed a neglected part of the city into a thriving community. But as Liam said, there are some important lessons to be learned about how to manage the social impact of regeneration.

Dr. Evans: Excellent. A very clear and well-researched presentation. I was particularly impressed by your critical analysis of the project. You didn't just focus on the positives, you also identified some of the challenges. For your next assignment, I'd like you to delve a bit deeper into that issue. You could investigate the long-term social impact of the project on the original community. That would be a very interesting and relevant piece of research.

Liam: That's a great idea, Dr. Evans. We could try to interview some of the original residents and get their perspective.

Chloe: Yes, that would be fascinating. Why don't we go and visit the Southside district together this weekend? We can have a look around and maybe talk to some people.

Liam: Perfect. Let's do it.

SECTION 4

Good morning, everyone. In today's lecture, I'm going to be talking about a fascinating and increasingly important field of design: biophilic design. Now, I'm sure that many of you have not heard this term before, so let me start by explaining what it means. Biophilic design is an approach to architecture and urban planning that seeks to connect people with nature. The word 'biophilia' literally means a love of life or living systems. It's a term that was popularized by the American biologist Edward O. Wilson, who argued that humans have an innate and genetically determined affinity with the natural world. So, the fundamental aim of biophilic design is to create built environments that are restorative, that reduce stress, and that enhance our physical and mental well-being.

So, how do we do this? Well, there are three key principles of biophilic design. The first is the direct connection with nature. This is the most obvious one. It involves incorporating natural elements like plants, water, and sunlight into our buildings and cities. A great example of this is the new city library, which has a large indoor garden in the main reading room. It's a beautiful and calming space, and it's become incredibly popular with library users.

The second principle is the indirect connection with nature. This involves using natural materials, colours, and patterns in our buildings. So, for example, using wood and stone in construction, or using fabrics and artworks that have natural themes. This can help to create a sense of warmth and connection to the natural world, even in a highly urban environment.

The third principle is what we call the human spatial response. This is about designing spaces that meet our innate human needs for safety and exploration. For example, we know that people tend to feel more comfortable and secure in spaces that offer both open views and enclosed, protected areas. So, a well-designed office might have an open-plan layout, but also a series of smaller, quieter spaces where people can go to concentrate or relax.

Now, let's turn to the benefits of biophilic design. The most important one is the impact on our health and well-being. Numerous studies have shown that spending time in natural environments can lower our blood pressure, reduce our heart rate, and decrease the production of stress hormones. It can also improve our concentration and reduce mental fatigue.

But the benefits are not just about health. There are also significant economic benefits. In the workplace, for example, studies have shown that biophilic design can increase productivity and creativity, and reduce absenteeism. And in retail environments, it's been found that customers are willing to spend more time and money in shops and cafes that have a 'green' and natural feel.

And finally, there are the environmental benefits. Biophilic design can help to improve air quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, and manage stormwater. It can also promote biodiversity by creating habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife.

So, with all these benefits, you might be wondering why we don't see more biophilic design. Well, there are a few challenges. The main one is the initial cost. Incorporating natural elements into a building can be more expensive than traditional construction methods. There is also a need for more research and data to prove the long-term benefits and to persuade developers and investors to adopt this approach.

However, I'm optimistic about the future. I think we're going to see a lot more biophilic design in the years to come. One of the most exciting future directions is the integration of biophilic design with smart city technology. For example, we could use sensors to monitor the health of the plants in a building and to automatically adjust the lighting and irrigation systems. We're also seeing the development of new materials and techniques that are making it easier and more affordable to create biophilic buildings. And perhaps most importantly, we're starting to see the application of biophilic design not just at the building scale, but at the city planning level, with the creation of green corridors, urban forests, and other large-scale nature-based solutions.

So, to conclude, biophilic design is a powerful and promising approach to creating healthier, more sustainable, and more inspiring cities. It's a field that is still in its infancy, but I believe it has the potential to transform the way we think about and design our urban environments.

WRITING SECTION

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the percentage of the population living in urban areas in six different continents in 1950, 2020, and the projected percentage for 2050.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

(A bar chart would be inserted here showing the data for North America, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Oceania for the three years)

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many cities around the world are developing into 'smart cities' that use technology to improve the lives of their citizens. However, some people are concerned about the potential negative consequences of this trend.

To what extent do the advantages of smart cities outweigh the disadvantages?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

SPEAKING SECTION

Part 1

- Let's talk about your hometown or city. What kind of place is it?
- What are the most interesting parts of your town/city?
- What kind of jobs do the people in your town/city do?
- Has your hometown or city changed much in recent years?

- What do you think needs to be improved in your hometown or city?

Part 2

Describe a well-designed public space that you have visited.

You should say:

- *where it is*
- *what it looks like*
- *what people do there*

and explain why you think it is a well-designed space.

Part 3

- What are the benefits of having public spaces like parks and squares in our towns and cities?
- Do you think it is more important to have beautiful public buildings or to have more green spaces?
- How has the design of cities changed in your country in recent years?
- What role do you think local communities should play in the planning of new developments?
- As cities become more crowded, what do you think are the biggest challenges for urban planners?

GRAMMAR SECTION (20 questions)

Questions 1-5: Error Correction

Identify the error in each sentence and rewrite it correctly.

1. The new library, that was designed by a famous architect, will open next month.
2. Despite of the heavy rain, the construction of the new bridge continued.
3. If I would have known about the traffic problems, I would have taken the train.
4. The city is planning to build a new sport stadium, which will be cost millions of dollars.
5. There is less parks in the city centre than there used to be.

Questions 6-10: Sentence Transformation

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

1. The council demolished the old theatre last year. **TORN** The old theatre _____ last year.
2. It was a mistake for the city to sell the park. **SHOULD** The city _____ the park.
3. The new road will probably cause more pollution. **LIKELY** The new road _____ more pollution.
4. “Why don’t we start a community garden?” said Maria. **SUGGESTED** Maria _____ a community garden.
5. The last time I visited the museum was two years ago. **BEEN** I _____ the museum for two years.

Questions 11-15: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets, or with an appropriate article or preposition.

1. The new housing development _____ (build) on the edge of the city at the moment.
2. I’ve lived here _____ 2010, and I’ve seen a lot of changes.
3. The government has promised to invest more money _____ public transport.
4. If the city _____ (invest) in its parks years ago, they would be in much better condition now.
5. _____ new art gallery is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

Questions 16-20: Word Formation

Use the word in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

1. The _____ of the old industrial area into a modern residential district has been a great success. **TRANSFORM**
2. The city needs to improve the _____ of its public transport system. **EFFICIENT**
3. The new skyscraper is an impressive piece of modern _____. **ARCHITECT**

4. The government is committed to promoting _____ urban development. **SUSTAIN**
5. The lack of affordable housing is a major problem in many _____ areas. **CITY**

ANSWER KEY

Reading Section

1. FALSE
2. NOT GIVEN
3. FALSE
4. FALSE
5. TRUE
6. FALSE
7. B
8. C
9. C
10. C
11. forum
12. overcrowding
13. community-focused
14. D
15. E
16. A
17. F
18. C
19. B
20. B
21. C

22. B
23. B
24. security
25. needs and concerns
26. livable future
27. NO
28. YES
29. NO
30. YES
31. NO
32. NO
33. C
34. C
35. B
36. C
37. genuine partnership
38. opportunities
39. vital organs
40. power structures

Listening Section

1. Green
2. Appleby
3. main hall
4. seating
5. local history
6. mistake
7. 30
8. 18th June

9. 1st
10. Wilson
11. B
12. A
13. B
14. C
15. A
16. C
17. B
18. E
19. D
20. H
21. C
22. B
23. B
24. C
25. B
26. C
27. C
28. B
29. C
30. B
31. life
32. garden
33. wood
34. exploration
35. concentration
36. absenteeism
37. biodiversity

38. research
39. materials
40. city

Grammar Section

1. The new library, **which** was designed by a famous architect, will open next month.
2. **Despite** the heavy rain, the construction of the new bridge continued.
3. If I **had known** about the traffic problems, I would have taken the train.
4. The city is planning to build a new sport stadium, which will **cost** millions of dollars.
5. There are **fewer** parks in the city centre than there used to be.
6. was torn down
7. should not have sold
8. is likely to cause
9. suggested starting
10. have not been to
11. is being built
12. since
13. in
14. had invested
15. The
16. transformation
17. efficiency
18. architecture
19. sustainable
20. urban

TUTOR GUIDE

Model Answer for Writing Task 1

The bar chart illustrates the percentage of the population living in urban areas across six continents for the years 1950 and 2020, with a projection for 2050.

Overall, the data indicates a consistent and significant trend of urbanization across all continents, with the proportion of city-dwellers expected to continue to rise in the coming decades. North America and Europe have consistently been the most urbanized continents, while Africa and Asia, though starting from a lower base, are experiencing the most rapid urban growth.

In 1950, North America was the most urbanized continent, with 64% of its population living in cities, followed closely by Europe at 51%. By 2020, these figures had risen to 82% and 75% respectively. Projections for 2050 suggest that this high level of urbanization will be maintained, with rates of 87% in North America and 81% in Europe.

In contrast, Africa and Asia had the lowest levels of urbanization in 1950, at just 15% and 17% respectively. However, these continents have seen a dramatic increase in their urban populations. By 2020, 43% of Africans and 51% of Asians were living in cities. This rapid growth is projected to continue, with Asia's urban population expected to reach 66% by 2050, and Africa's 61%. Latin America & the Caribbean has also experienced significant urbanization, rising from 41% in 1950 to 81% in 2020, and is projected to reach 86% by 2050.

Model Essay for Writing Task 2 (Band 9)

The proliferation of 'smart cities' represents one of the most significant trends in urban development in the 21st century. These technologically advanced urban environments promise to enhance the quality of life for their inhabitants in numerous ways. However, this rapid technological integration is not without its potential pitfalls, raising valid concerns about privacy, security, and social equity. While the disadvantages are significant and require careful management, I am of the opinion that the advantages of smart cities, if implemented thoughtfully and ethically, ultimately outweigh the drawbacks.

The primary benefits of smart cities lie in their potential to create more efficient, sustainable, and livable urban environments. By leveraging the power of data and technology, cities can optimize a wide range of public services. For instance, smart traffic management systems can reduce congestion and pollution, while smart grids can enhance energy efficiency and facilitate the integration of renewable energy sources. Furthermore, smart technologies can improve public safety through advanced surveillance and emergency response systems. In a world grappling with the challenges of climate change and rapid urbanization, these innovations are not merely conveniences; they are essential tools for creating resilient and sustainable cities for future generations.

Nevertheless, the transition to smart cities is fraught with challenges that cannot be ignored. The most pressing of these is the issue of data privacy. The vast network of sensors and cameras that underpins a smart city collects an unprecedented amount of data on the daily lives of its citizens. This raises legitimate concerns about who has access to this data and how it is being used. There is a significant risk that this data could be misused by governments or corporations, leading to a society of mass surveillance and social control. Moreover, the high cost of implementing smart city technologies could exacerbate existing social inequalities, creating a 'digital divide' between those who have access to the benefits of these innovations and those who are left behind.

In conclusion, while the development of smart cities presents a number of significant challenges, particularly in relation to privacy and social equity, these are not insurmountable. With robust legal and ethical frameworks to protect data, and a commitment to inclusive design that ensures the benefits of technology are shared by all, the potential advantages of smart cities are immense. The ability to create more efficient, sustainable, and livable urban environments is a prize worth striving for, and one that, on balance, outweighs the risks.

Speaking Part 2 Sample Response

One of the most impressive public spaces I've ever visited is Millennium Park in Chicago. It's located right in the heart of the city, and it's a fantastic example of how a well-designed public space can transform an urban environment.

The park is a beautiful mix of modern architecture, stunning art installations, and green space. The most famous feature is probably the 'Cloud Gate' sculpture, which is

a huge, bean-shaped mirror that reflects the city skyline. It's an incredible piece of art, and it's always surrounded by people taking photos and enjoying the reflections.

But the park is much more than just a home for art. It's a real hub of activity. There's a large outdoor concert venue, a beautiful garden, an ice rink in the winter, and a really innovative interactive fountain where children can play in the water. People do all sorts of things there – from having a picnic on the grass to attending a free concert or just strolling through the gardens.

I think it's a brilliantly designed space for a number of reasons. Firstly, it's incredibly accessible. It's right in the city centre, and it's free to enter, so it's a place that everyone can enjoy, regardless of their background or income. Secondly, it offers a huge variety of activities and experiences, so there's something for everyone. And finally, it's just a beautiful and inspiring place to be. It's a real oasis in the middle of a bustling city, and it has a wonderful, vibrant atmosphere. It's a great example of how a public space can bring people together and create a real sense of community.

Key Vocabulary List

1. **Urbanization (n.):** The process by which an increasing proportion of a population lives in cities and towns.
2. **Metropolis (n.):** A large and important city.
3. **Infrastructure (n.):** The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g., buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.
4. **Sustainability (n.):** The ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level, often used in the context of environmental and social issues.
5. **Equity (n.):** The quality of being fair and impartial.
6. **Congestion (n.):** The state of being overcrowded, especially with traffic.
7. **Derelict (adj.):** In a very poor condition as a result of disuse and neglect.
8. **Regeneration (n.):** The action or process of regenerating or being regenerated, in particular the redevelopment of an urban area.
9. **Gentrification (n.):** The process whereby the character of a poor urban area is changed by wealthier people moving in, improving housing, and attracting new businesses, often displacing the original inhabitants.
10. **Amenity (n.):** A desirable or useful feature or facility of a building or place.

11. **Pedestrian (n./adj.):** A person walking, especially in an area also used by vehicles; relating to or designed for people on foot.
12. **Zoning (n.):** The process of dividing a city or town into zones and applying different regulations to each zone, especially to control the use of land.
13. **Green belt (n.):** An area of open land around a city, on which building is restricted.
14. **Sprawl (n.):** The uncontrolled expansion of urban areas.
15. **Livable (adj.):** Suitable or good for living in.
16. **Vibrant (adj.):** Full of energy and life.
17. **Resilient (adj.):** Able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.
18. **Holistic (adj.):** Characterized by the belief that the parts of something are intimately interconnected and explicable only by reference to the whole.
19. **Paradigm (n.):** A typical example or pattern of something; a model.
20. **Utopian (adj.):** Modelled on or aiming for a state in which everything is perfect; idealistic.