GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AND RESEARCH **9239/11**

Paper 1   Written Examination **May/June 2016**

1 hour 30 minutes

INSERT (RESOURCE BOOKLET)

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Resource Booklet contains Documents 1 and 2 which you should use to answer the questions.

You should spend approximately 10 minutes reading the documents before attempting to answer the questions. This is allowed for within the time set for the examination.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

The documents below consider issues related to urbanisation. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

Document 1: adapted from *The rise of the eco-city: future trend or dead end*, an article written by David Rogers. The article was published in *Construction Manager*, the magazine of the UK's Chartered Institute of Building in 2014.

Eco-cities* are seen as one possible way forward in tackling the problems faced by urban growth. In 2011, the University of Westminster counted 174 eco-city projects worldwide. Since then, many of the most striking new-build schemes have begun to take shape, for example Masdar in Abu Dhabi and Tianjin, the largest Chinese eco-city. The popularity of these projects demonstrates that mankind still believes that ideal communities can be built, if only we can begin again with a few square kilometres of untouched soil and the latest technology.

The benefits claimed are huge. Songdo, the South Korean settlement built on 1500 acres of land dredged up from the Yellow Sea is the largest private development in history. It provides us with 'the world's smartest city', according to an article on worldfinance.com. Building eco-cities may even have the power to help end national conflicts, as in Varosha on the east coast of Cyprus where, after the 1974 Turkish invasion, in a joint effort, Cyprus and Turkey are proposing to rebuild it as an eco-city. The key claim for eco-cities is that they are models for a new form of urban living that will be reproduced in other urban environments. Eventually even middle-income cities will have Masdar's electric buses and Songdo's vacuum-powered garbage disposal tubes.

However, a number of commentators have questioned whether eco-cities will make any difference to the planet's urban development, as none has yet achieved its primary aim of becoming a fully operational community. A reporter for *Wired* magazine who visited Masdar was impressed by the development, but commented that it was "more grand vision than reality. For all the Masdar team's talk of a unified community, it is still mainly at the planning stage". China's Tianjin may have 6000 residents, but if it is to reach its target growth there are still 344,000 to go by 2020. Even Songdo, the most technologically advanced city in the world with its core of world-class universities, has found tenants for less than 20% of its commercial buildings.

Others have suggested that the eco-city movement will lead to an undesirable and even frightening future that resembles apartheid (segregation). They point to Songdo as a good example of this. They claim that this eco-city has allowed the wealthier classes to move to what are, in effect, gated communities. The adverts for Songdo stress that it is 'just 15 minutes driving time from the nearest international airport and three-and-a-half hours flying time to a third of the world's population'. When the city opened in 2009, the average price of an apartment was $500,000. So it is clear that the city was aimed at the world's wealthier inhabitants, rather than the inhabitants of South Korea, 37% of whom live in slums. The argument is therefore that eco-cities don't tackle the problems of urban growth, but merely provide an escape for the wealthier, managerial class.

So, although eco-cities continue to fascinate many people who wonder what the future might bring, the evidence doesn't seem to support the belief that mankind can create such a perfect and ideal community.

*eco-city – a city built on the principle of living in an environmentally friendly way

Document 2: adapted from *China's 'New Urbanisation' Needs to Be Inclusive and Sustainable*, a speech made in 2014 to the International Conference on Urban China, in Beijing, by Sri Mulyani Indrawati. The author is Managing Director of the World Bank Group and she led the Indonesian National Development Planning Agency.

If planned well, 'new urbanisation' can create enormous opportunities. It would allow innovation, like eco-cities such as China's Tianjin to emerge, thus saving energy, land and natural resources. It would also help to manage the climate and reduce the risk of disasters. Globally, almost 80% of national wealth is generated in cities, so it will be difficult for any country to reach middle-income status without getting urbanisation right.

Take, for example, China. Over the past 30 years, about 260 million Chinese people moved to its cities, many leaving poverty and farm work behind in favour of more productive and higher paying jobs. China's urbanisation was successful, as it supported the country's rapid and impressive economic transformation. It also avoided some of the problems of urbanisation, notably poverty, unemployment and slums. China has shown the world that it is well on track to end poverty, as it has lifted over 500 million people out of extreme poverty. These are extraordinary achievements.

But despite this success, there are also strains, since agricultural land lost to city growth has added to inequalities, and led to social unrest among farmers. Government restrictions on the numbers of people with the right to live in Chinese cities has kept urbanisation rates artificially low, limiting economic opportunities and widening urban-rural income inequality.

The World Bank has identified that China needs a mobile and versatile labour force with equal access to quality services. China's model of 'new urbanisation' would therefore need to remove government restrictions and boost workers' wages. As we think about these new approaches to urbanisation we are also providing solutions for other countries facing similar issues. If China is successful it will be a leader in global solutions. We hope that the research of the World Bank and the Development Research Center of China's State Council can and will be applied in cities like Lagos, Rio de Janeiro, Mumbai or elsewhere.

In 2030, up to 70% of all Chinese will live in cities, many of them in eco-cities. We are talking about one billion people who will strive for success in urban communities, so China needs a model of 'new urbanisation' that will be efficient, inclusive and sustainable. This model is not merely about buildings, as it needs to put people at the centre of the strategy by providing higher government spending on social services for everyone. The vision is about people, with the government providing services to all citizens in all cities, regardless of their residence permit; better city planning; and better coordination with the interests of the people in mind.

So, with this model of 'new urbanisation', China should be able to lead the world in lifting people out of extreme poverty, ensuring that all citizens will benefit equally from urban growth.

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