

Topic Tests for AS and A Level AQA Geography:

Contemporary Urban Environments

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Test 1 – The Urbanisation and Urban Forms

1. What is urbanisation? 1 mark
2. In what type of countries is the growth of the urban population likely to be greatest in the coming years? 1 mark
3. What impact does urbanisation have on life expectancy and fertility rates? Why is this? 4 marks
4. What are the main causes of urban growth? 2 marks
5. What technological developments lead to the outward expansion of the city? 2 marks
6. What socio-economic factors contribute to counter-urbanisation? 4 marks
7. What is the difference between a megacity and a world city and how do their influences on global and regional economies vary? 4 marks
8. Study Figure 1 below, which shows the changing urban population in different countries across the world.

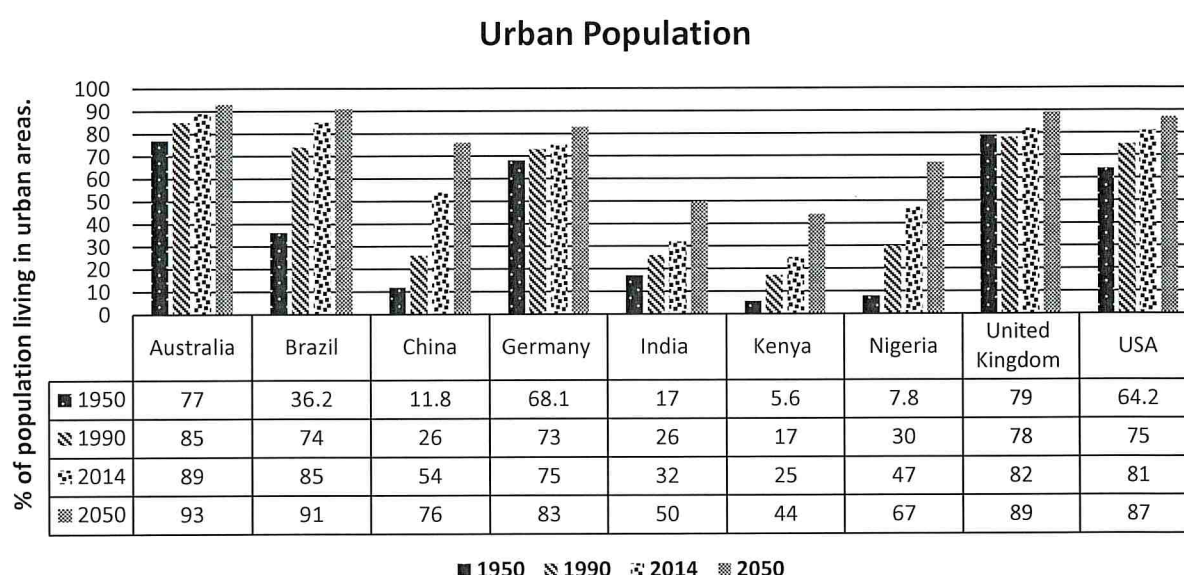


Figure 1: Source: UN Population Division

- a. Which country had the smallest proportion of its population living in urban areas in 1950? 1 mark
- b. Which country is expected to have the largest proportion of the population living in urban areas in 2050? 1 mark
- c.
 - i. Which country experienced the greatest rate of urbanisation between 1950 and 1990? 1 mark
 - ii. If the total population of this country in 1990 was 95,000,000 how many people were living in urban areas? 1 mark
- d. What do the developed countries all have in common in terms of changing urban populations? 2 marks
- e. Why do you think the **projected** increase in urban populations is so much smaller in Australia when compared to Nigeria? 2 marks
- f. Is there any evidence of counter-urbanisation in the countries shown in Figure 1? If so, when and in which country did this occur? 2 marks

9. Describe the changing impact of physical and human factors on the urban form? *4 marks*
10. a. What is the name of the urban process that sees properties in run-down or deprived areas renovated and bought by the wealthy middle class? *1 mark*
- b. Why might members of the middle class choose to move into run-down or deprived areas? *2 marks*
11. a. What is a 'postmodern western city'? *2 marks*
- b. What are some of the key characteristics of a postmodern city? *3 marks*

Total: 40 marks

Extension Questions

12. How do fortress developments enforce the idea of 'insiders' and 'outsiders'? *6 marks*
13. To what extent did the rise of the service economy reverse the socio-economic impacts of deindustrialisation in UK cities? *9 marks*

Extension: 15 marks

Total: 55 marks

Test 2 – Social and Economic Issues of Urbanisation

1. What is social segregation? 1 mark
2. What is social exclusion? 2 marks
3. Why are there greater levels of cultural diversity in cities than in rural areas? 3 marks
- 4 a. What is a government subsidy and how does it help tackle poverty? 2 marks
 b. What other strategies are there for tackling poverty? 4 marks
5. Take a look at the fact files on Nairobi and London, two cities in which economic inequality is a problem. Use the information to answer the questions below.

Nairobi	London
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP of Kenya: 63,398 USD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP of UK: 2,848,755 USD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The urban growth rate in Kenya is about 4.2%, meaning Nairobi is a rapidly growing city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The urban growth rate of London in recent years has been about 1.3% which is more than double the rate for the rest of the UK.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no universal free healthcare system, however a subsidy system was set up in 2014, which it is hoped will enable the poorest members of society to access healthcare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK has a free healthcare system, the NHS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2007, there were an estimated 60,000 homeless children, living and working on the streets of Nairobi. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is estimated that there are currently 72,000 young people who are living in temporary accommodation, such as emergency hostels and B&Bs, with no permanent place of residence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 million people live in the slum settlements around Nairobi. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2015, 820,000 people were claiming housing benefits, with 560,000 families living in social housing. Social housing is still in very high demand.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No welfare state or benefits system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 525,000 Londoners claimed out-of-work benefits in 2015.

- a. What might be exacerbating the problem of economic inequality in Nairobi? 2 marks
- b. How has the UK government attempted to tackle economic inequality in London (and in the rest of the UK)? 2 marks
- c. How might the strategies for tackling economic inequality differ for London and Nairobi? 5 marks
6. What problems are created for urban areas as cultural diversity increases? 4 marks
7. How could you measure differing levels of quality of life across an urban area? You can refer to both primary and secondary sources of data. 6 marks
8. Why might gentrification be damaging to social cohesion? 3 marks

9. Study Figure 2 below, a satellite image of part of Nairobi, a megacity in Kenya.



Figure 2: Satellite image of Nairobi. Source: Google Earth: US Dept of State Geographer © 2016 Google. Image Landsat. Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

What evidence is there of social segregation and economic inequality in Nairobi in this photograph? 6 marks

Total: 40 marks

Extension Questions

10. Explain why cultural diversity and economic inequality are often inextricably linked. 4 marks
11. Assess the effectiveness of strategies used to manage social segregation in urban areas. 9 marks

Extension: 13 marks

Total: 53 marks

Test 3 – Urban Climate

1. Urban areas create their own microclimate, what does this mean? 2 marks
2.
 - a. What is the 'urban heat island effect'? 1 mark
 - b. What are the causes of the urban heat island effect? 4 marks
 - c. Give three examples of strategies that are used to reduce the urban heat island effect and a brief explanation of how they work. 6 marks
3. What impact does the urban form have on precipitation patterns in urban areas? 2 marks
4. How does industrial activity increase the occurrence of fog? 2 marks
5. Take a look at Figure 3 below.
How do the characteristics of the landscape that you can see in the photo affect wind patterns in the area? 8 marks



Figure 3: A photo of Kuala Lumpur

6.
 - a. What is particulate pollution? 2 marks
 - b. What is photochemical pollution? 3 marks
 - c. Why is it important for urban areas to improve air quality? 2 marks
 - d. What policies can governments or local authorities implement to reduce pollution in urban areas? 8 marks

Total: 40 marks

Extension Questions

7. Why is there concern over the magnitude of the urban heat island effect in urban areas? *5 marks*
8. Why is rainfall heavier and more frequent in urban areas? *8 marks*

Extension: 13 marks

Total: 53 marks

Test 4 – Urban Drainage and Waste Disposal

1. Why are drainage strategies so important in urban areas, but not needed in rural areas? 2 marks
2. What effect do impermeable surfaces in urban areas have on groundwater and soil water levels in that area? 1 mark
3. Study the hydrograph in Figure 4.

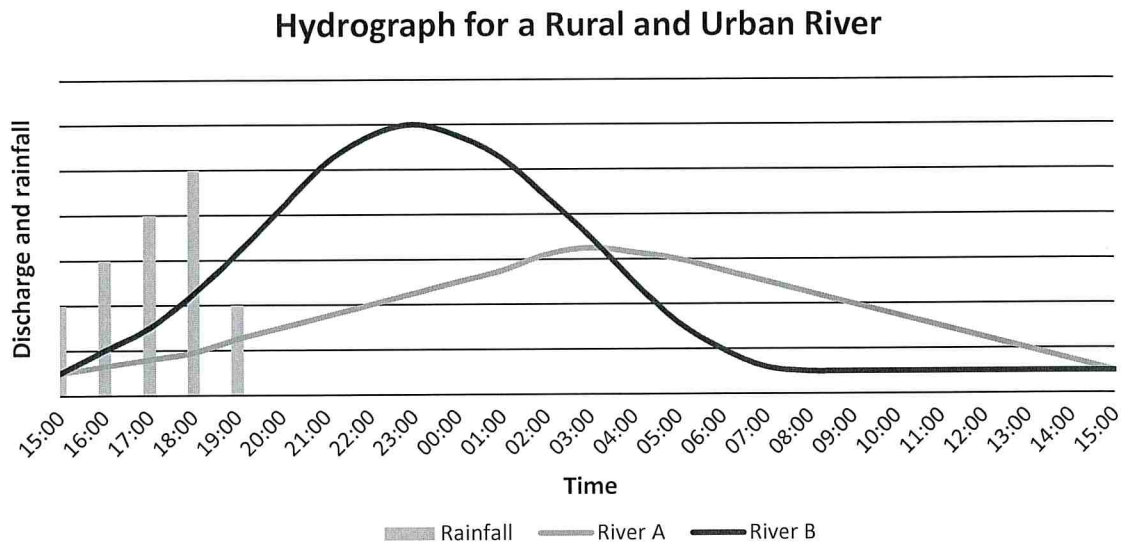


Figure 4

- a. Which line, A or B, do you think represents discharge in an urban river? 1 mark
 - b. At what time was peak rainfall? 1 mark
 - c. At what time was peak discharge for the urban river? 1 mark
 - d. At what time was peak discharge for the rural river? 1 mark
 - e. Why do you think the discharge of River B returns to base flow level faster than that of A? 4 marks
 - f. What does the rapid increase in discharge of River B indicate may happen in that catchment area? 1 mark
4.
 - a. What does 'SUDS' stand for? 1 mark
 - b. What is the purpose of SUDS? 3 marks
 - c. Describe how SUDS work. 6 marks
 5. What affects the composition of waste produced in urban areas? 3 marks
 6. What types of materials are likely to make up the waste in a developed city that has a wealthy population? 3 marks
 7. What are some of the impacts of increased waste generation? 4 marks
 8.
 - a. What are the two most common methods of waste disposal? 2 marks
 - b. For an urban area that you have studied, compare how these two types of waste disposal have been used to manage waste. 6 marks

Total: 40 marks

Extension Question

9. 'All strategies for waste management have negative environmental impacts.'
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

20 marks

Extension: 20 marks

Total: 60 marks

Test 5 – Urban Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development

1. Atmospheric pollution, water pollution and dereliction are the three greatest environmental challenges that urban areas face in the current day. What is 'dereliction'? *2 marks*
2. In what type of country is pollution from vehicles likely to be highest? Explain the reason for your answer. *4 marks*
3. How is it possible for local authorities to reduce pollution levels in urban areas without placing restrictions on private vehicles? *4 marks*
4. What is the difference between direct and indirect water pollution? *2 marks*
5. What are some of the causes of water pollution in urban areas? *4 marks*
6. Explain, in detail, one strategy for reducing water pollution in urban areas. *4 marks*
7. What is land remediation? *2 marks*
- 8 a. What is the relationship between wealth, development and a city's ecological footprint? *1 mark*
b. What does it mean if a city has a large ecological footprint? *2 marks*
9. What should a sustainable city provide to the people that live there? *4 marks*
10. Explain the concept of liveability and how liveability means different things for different people. *3 marks*
11. In terms of a city's inputs and outputs, how does a sustainable city differ from a non-sustainable city? *2 marks*
12. Why is resilience a key characteristic of sustainable cities? *6 marks*

Total: 40 marks

Extension Question

13. To what extent are the challenges faced by developing countries trying to improve socio-economic sustainability in urban areas, the same as those faced by developed countries? *20 marks*

Extension: 20 marks

Total: 60 marks

Test 6 – Case Studies

1. For one of the urban areas you have studied, how has deindustrialisation impacted on the economic and social wellbeing of the city? *6 marks*
2. For one of the urban areas you have studied, how has the development of a new urban landscape – for example, a fortress development or an edge city – impacted on the character of that place and the experiences of the population. *6 marks*
3. For one of the urban areas you have studied, what strategies have been implemented to improve environmental sustainability? *8 marks*
4. Social segregation is a problem in many urban areas across the world. Compare and contrast the issue of social segregation in the two urban areas that you have studied. *8 marks*
5. For one of the urban areas you have studied, describe how the local authority or governing body has used various policies and strategies to deal with issues relating to the microclimate of the city. *12 marks*

Total: 40 marks

Extension Question

6. To what extent have the consequences of urban growth on the socio-economic wellbeing of the population, differed between the two contrasting urban areas you have studied? *20 marks*

Extension: 20 marks

Total: 60 marks

Test 7 – Overview

1. What strategies can prompt urban resurgence? 4 marks
2. Choose one UK policy that has been implemented since 1979 and evaluate how effective it has been in regenerating urban areas. 4 marks
3. Gentrification can cause social tension, but in many cases it is necessary for the regeneration of urban areas.
Give an argument for why gentrification is a necessary step in urban redevelopment. 4 marks
4. What is meant by the term cultural diversity and what social issues can be associated with a culturally diverse city? 4 marks
5. Explain how the urban heat island effect can change precipitation patterns in urban areas. 5 marks
6. How are urban areas designed in a way that ensures rapid run-off of water following heavy rainfall? 4 marks
7. What is meant by the phrase ‘unregulated waste disposal’ and why is this type of waste disposal a problem? 4 marks
8. Take a look at the hydrograph in Figure 5.

Hydrograph for Rural and Urban Catchments

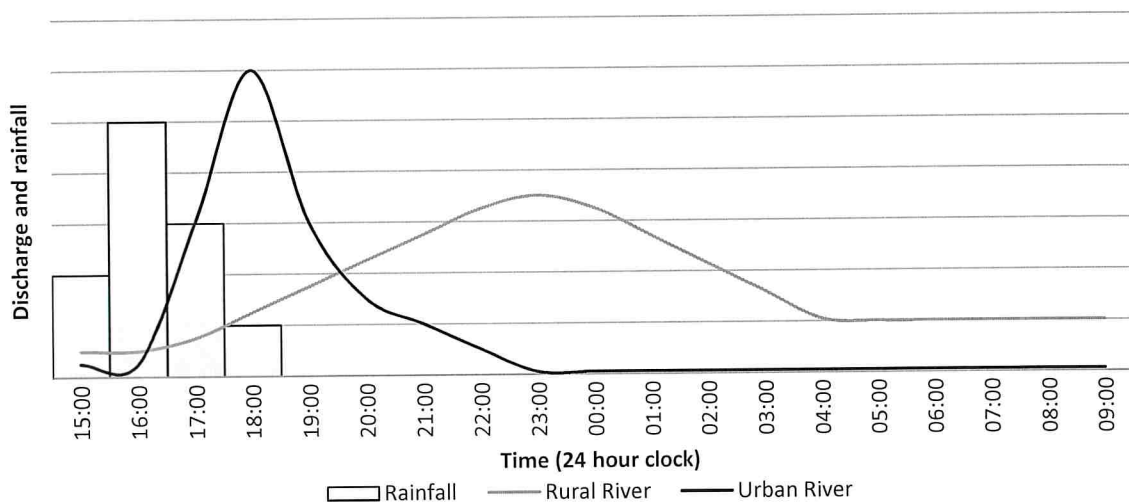


Figure 5

- a. Rainfall began at around 3pm. At what time was peak rainfall? 1 mark
- b. What is the difference in lag time between the rural river and the urban river? 1 mark
- c. i. What do you recognise about the differences in base flow of the rural and urban river? 1 mark
ii. Why do you think this is? 4 marks
9. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of using waste recovery and recycling to manage the increasing amount of waste that is generated in urban areas? 4 marks

Total: 40 marks

Extension Question

10. 'Urban growth offers more challenges than opportunities.'
Basing your answer on an urban area(s) you have studied, to what extent do you agree with this view?

20 marks

Extension: 20 marks

Total: 60 marks