

Past-paper walk-through

Urban Sustainability ■ 6.8

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 2 Q1

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 1

2025 Set 2 ■ Q1

Migration contributes to significant population growth and change in urban landscapes. As populations increase, urban areas face economic, social, and environmental challenges.

- (a) Describe one type of voluntary migration.
 - (b) Explain how migration may affect a city's economy.
 - (c) Describe one type of housing discrimination that may occur in urban areas.
 - (d) Explain how a city's infrastructure affects society.
 - (e) Describe one challenge to sustainability in urban areas.
 - (f) Explain how urban design initiatives are intended to affect cities.
 - (g) Explain why urban design initiatives may be criticized.
- 4 Food Exports Between Country X and Country Y

Solution 1

(a) Mark scheme

- - Transnational (external) migration is the movement of people across international borders to another country.
- - Transhumance is a seasonal or cyclical movement of people and livestock along traditional migratory routes, trade routes, and/or pathways between different climate or ecological zones.
- - Internal migration is the movement of people within the borders of their home country.
- - Chain migration is the movement of people who have followed other people (e.g., family members) to a particular location.

Solution 1

- - Step migration is the movement of people along a set or series of intermediate stops or stages toward a final destination.
- - Rural-to-urban migration and/or the movement of pastoral, country, farming, agrarian, mining, fishing, and/or forest peoples to cities or metropolitan areas.
- - Labor migration is the movement of people for the purpose of work, wages, education opportunities, employment opportunities (e.g., guest workers), and/or technological skills (e.g., brain drain).
- - Family migration is the movement of people to connect or reunify family members who have been separated.

Solution 1

(b) Mark scheme

- - Migrants may contribute to economic development by expanding the size, capabilities, and/or productivity of a city's labor force.
- - Migrants may start new businesses, expand existing businesses, and/or invest in existing businesses, resulting in local economic development, growth, and/or multiplier effects.
- - Migrants may increase a city's tax base (e.g., sales, income, property taxes) used to fund governments, resulting in additional funds for infrastructure (e.g., transportation, sanitation) and/or social programs (e.g., education, health care).

Solution 1

- - Migrants may purchase, rent, or invest in housing or commercial space, resulting in a more valuable real estate market.
- - Migrants may contribute to the ethnic or cultural makeup of the city, resulting in a more diverse workforce, improved availability of goods or services, or ethnic neighborhoods that develop new business (e.g., food, tourism).
- - Migrants moving away from a city may reduce the size and capabilities of that city's economy, reduce the size of its labor force, decrease the local tax base, and/or decrease local investment in business, housing, or real estate.
- - Governments may allocate funding to services for migrants (e.g., health care, education).

Solution 1

(c) Mark scheme

- - Redlining is a discriminatory practice in which providers (e.g., lenders, insurers) deny services or impose unfair terms on people in specific neighborhoods.
- - Blockbusting is a discriminatory housing practice in which realtors persuade homeowners to sell their homes cheaply because people of a specific race or ethnicity of people are moving to the neighborhood.
- - Urban areas may lack affordable housing, leaving lower-income residents with limited housing options and/or potentially leading to de facto segregation (e.g., zoning rules, regional planning initiatives, urban design initiatives).

Solution 1

(d) Mark scheme

- - Patterns of social development and/or societies are affected by a city's infrastructure (e.g., transportation, communications, energy, housing, industry) because the location and/or quality of infrastructure influence quality of life (e.g., access to health care, levels of education, quality of life, standards of living).
- - High-quality city infrastructure (e.g., housing, transportation, communications, schools, commercial buildings) may improve residents' quality of life by improving access to goods, services, and/or places of employment.
- - High-quality city infrastructure (e.g., public utilities, health care) may improve residents' quality of life by improving public health and sanitation.

Solution 1

- - Insufficient city infrastructure may inhibit social development by creating challenges such as lack of housing, lack of public utilities, pollution, and/or inadequate sanitation.

Solution 1

(e) Mark scheme

- - Expanding areas of suburban sprawl, insufficient sanitation systems, climate change causing local environmental effects, pollution affecting air and/or water, the large ecological footprint of cities, and/or inefficient energy use.
- - Any environmental and/or economic condition that may limit the long-term or continuous use of a resource or type of land use.
- - Rapid urbanization can increase the demand for resources (e.g., water, food, energy), strain infrastructure, reduce green spaces, lead to housing shortages, and/or proliferate informal settlements.

Solution 1

- - Public health challenges (e.g., sanitation, the availability of clean water) can challenge urban sustainability.
- - Aging or inadequate infrastructure can challenge urban sustainability.
- - Ineffective urban governance or planning may challenge urban sustainability.

Solution 1

(f) Mark scheme

- - The initiatives (e.g., zoning practices, mixed land use, walkability, transportation-oriented development, smart-growth policies, New Urbanism) are intended to reduce sprawl, improve walkability, accessibility, and/or transportation.
- - The initiatives are intended to improve or diversify housing options, improve livability, and/or promote sustainable options (e.g., land or resource use, combined living and workspace).
- - Socially, urban design initiatives are intended to improve public spaces (e.g., create parks, plazas, recreational areas), boost inclusivity (e.g., ensure accessibility), and/or enhance public health (e.g., reduce pollution) in cities.

Solution 1

- - Environmentally, implementing green building materials, renewable energy sources, and/or urban greenery can minimize environmental impact in cities.
- - Economically, by improving infrastructure (e.g., transportation, housing, public services, open space), urban planning, and/or zoning, cities can attract investment, create jobs, foster sustainable communities, and/or improve accessibility or mobility.
- - Culturally, urban design initiatives can incorporate the preservation of historical sites or cultural landmarks, design spaces for public art, cultural events, and/or community gatherings, fostering a sense of place, identity, and/or community.

Solution 1

(g) Mark scheme

- - Criticism might arise because initiatives may negatively affect the local population through increased housing costs (e.g., the cost of new construction, land speculation) and/or by resulting in possible de facto segregation (e.g., limited low-income housing options).
- - Urban design initiatives may reduce or eliminate land that could be used for housing development and/or for the development of institutions (e.g., schools, health care) or amenities (e.g., parks, play areas).
- - Urban design initiatives may attract outside visitors or vehicles that increase traffic or congestion or increase the cost of goods and services in the local area.

Solution 1

- - Urban design initiatives could be expensive to implement and/or could cost the city money that could be used in other ways.
- - Urban design initiatives may result in the potential loss of historical or place character.
- - Urban design initiatives may be seen as ineffective due to cost, lack of impact on the local economy, and/or lack of improvement in quality of life.