

Urban Geography

Absent Work #8

All questions require at least
THREE sentences on own paper.

PLACES & TERMS

city area with large populations, center of business and culture

urban geography the study of how people use space in cities

suburb political unit touching the central city or touching other suburbs that touch the city

metropolitan area a functional area made up of the city, its suburbs, and its exurbs

urbanization rise in the number of cities and the changes in lifestyle that result

central business district (CBD) the commercial core of the city

Growth of Urban Areas

What makes up an urban area??

Today, almost half of the world's population lives in cities. Cities are not just areas with large populations. They are also centers of business and culture. Geographers have developed the field of urban geography to study of how people use space in cities.

An urban area develops around a main city called the central city. The built-up area around the central city may include suburbs. Suburbs are political units touching the central city or touching other suburbs that touch the city. Some suburbs are mostly homes with a few businesses. Other suburbs have a whole range of urban activities.

Exurbs are smaller cities or towns with open land between them and the central city. The city, its suburbs, and its exurbs are linked together economically. They form a functional area called a metropolitan area. When several metropolitan areas grow together a *megalopolis* is formed

The rise in the number of cities and the changes in lifestyles because people are living in cities are called urbanization.

1. What are suburbs?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

City Locations

What is a good location for a city?

Many cities are found on a river, lake, or coast. These locations have access to good transportation. Other cities are found in places with easy access to natural resources.

Cities are places where goods are moved from one type of transportation to another. In the city of Chicago, Illinois, for example, goods may arrive by truck or train. Then, the goods are moved to ships on the Great Lakes.

Cities attract businesses and people to work in those businesses. Cities may specialize in certain economic activities because of their location. For example, the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is located close to iron ore and coal sources. It became a steel-producing center.

Urban areas may grow because of economic or governmental activities. In 1960, Brasilia, a new capital of Brazil, was constructed. Its population has grown to 1.8 million people. Cultural, educational, or military activities may also attract people to a specific location.

2. Why would location be important to a city?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Land Use Patterns

How is urban land used?

Urban geographers also study land use in cities and the activities that take place in cities. Basic land use patterns found in all cities are:

- **residential**, including single-family homes and apartment buildings,
- **industrial**, areas for manufacturing of goods,
- **commercial**, private businesses and retail businesses.

The core of a city is almost always based on commercial activity. This area of the city is called the **central business district (CBD)**. Business offices and stores are found in this part of the city. In some cities, expensive housing may also be found here. The value of land in the CBD is high. In fact, the land is so expensive that tall buildings must be built to get the most value from the land.

As you move away from the CBD, other activities become more important. Residential housing begins to be the main type of land use.

The farther you get from the CBD, the lower the value of the land. Lower land values may lead to less expensive housing. In these less expensive areas are industrial activities and retail areas, such as shopping centers, markets, or bazaars.

3. What is the CBD?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

The Functions of Cities

Why do cities need so much space?

The city is the center of many types of functions. For example, within a few city blocks of the CBD, you might find retail shops, entertainment, and public transportation. Business, education, and government services are also provided in the CBD.

Cities need a great deal of space to serve all these functions. This makes good transportation important. Geographers often study a city's transportation system to understand how well the city is fulfilling its functions.

Major cities have several forms of *mass transit*. Mass transit includes bus systems, subways, or commuter trains. They move people to and from the areas of the city where the various functions take place. In some areas, freeway systems link people in the suburbs to the city.

4. Why is transportation essential in cities?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.