SKILLS

UNIT 2 URBANISATION

READING

Urbanisation and its causes



1 You are going to read a text about urbanisation. Predict whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Urbanisation happened first in more economically developed countries, then in less economically developed countries.
2. Urbanisation has increased in rich countries since 1950s.
3. Lack of resources in rural areas is one of the factors leading to urbanisation in less developed countries.
4. The standard of living in cities and rural areas is more or less the same.
5. By 2050, more than two thirds of the world's population are expected to live in urban areas.

2 Read the text and check your predictions in 1.

Urbanisation is the process by which urban areas grow bigger as more and more people leave the countryside to live in towns and cities.

Before the 1950s, urbanisation mainly occurred in more economically developed countries (MEDCs). Rapid urbanisation happened during the period of industrialisation in Europe and North America in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A lot of people left their home villages for urban areas hoping to find jobs in the rapidly expanding industries in big towns and cities. Since 1950s urbanisation has become slower in most MEDCs. Now, some of the biggest cities are losing population because people go back to live in rural areas. This is known as counter-urbanisation.

Since 1950, urbanisation has grown rapidly in LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Countries) in Asia, Africa and South America. Between 1950 and 1990, while the urban population in LEDCs doubled, the increase was less than half in developed countries.

There are various causes of urbanisation in LEDCs. Here are some major ones. First, people migrate to urban areas on a massive scale due to lack of resources in rural areas. Second, small farmers find it harder to make a living not just because of bad weather conditions such as drought, floods, or storms, but because they can't compete with large agricultural companies. These are considered 'push' factors.

People living in rural areas are also 'pulled' to cities, which are known to be places of financial centres, services, wealth and opportunities. Believing that the standard of living in urban areas will be higher than in rural areas, many people come to the city seeking their fortune.

Today, about half of the world's population lives in urban areas. Urbanisation has provided job opportunities, higher incomes and better access to health facilities and education. The urban population will continue to grow and it is expected that its proportion will increase to 70% by 2050.

3 Find the meaning of the word in box in the text. Drag and drop it onto the suitable blank.

1. becoming larger in size or amount _____
2. the movement of people out of cities to the surrounding areas _____
3. became twice as big or twice as many _____
4. a rise in size, amount or degree _____
5. go to live in another area or country _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 4. Read the text on page 23 and answer the following questions.

1. What is the process by which more and more people leave the countryside for towns and cities?

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2. What do MEDCs and LEDCs stand for?

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3. Where did urbanization take place rapidly before the 1950s? Choose the best answer.

A. Europe
B. South America
C. Asia
D. Africa

4. How has urbanization grown in most MEDC since the 1950s.

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5. Since when has the process of urbanization in LEDCs increased considerably?

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6. What are some of the "push" factor of urbanization? Choose the best answer.

A. lack of resources in rural areas
B. bad weather conditions
C. competition from large agricultural companies
D. All are correct.

7. These are the "pull" factor of urbanization EXCEPT? Choose the best answer.

A. the centralization of resources such as money, services, and wealth.
B. the higher living standards
C. agricultural development
D. higher-paid jobs

8. What does the phrase "to make a living" mean? Choose the best answer.

A. to earn the money one needs to live
B. to make a lot of money
C. to make one's life more meaningful
C. to seek a better opportunity

LIVEWORKSHEETS