

1 - Read the article again.

CITYSCAPES OR city fakes?

Finding new places to live and work in an increasingly crowded world has never been easy. We take a look at some inspiring cities from the past, the present and possibly the future.

A Simulated city

If you went window shopping in Mcity, you would probably be very disappointed. Take a closer look and you'll see that behind the shop fronts there's nothing on sale at all. Although it appears to be a real city, it is in fact a 32-acre simulated urban environment that includes a network of roads, pavements and even authentic traffic signs defaced by graffiti and faded road markings. The idea behind Mcity was to create a safe and controlled environment to test driverless cars after it was discovered that many accidents in previous tests involved pedestrians. If the roads are empty, testing is safer. Without such sites, experts believe it would take a lot longer to establish the efficiency and safety of new technology. Further tests are also being carried out in a snowy Mcity as driverless cars have to react to deteriorating weather conditions. 'It's exciting to take these first steps toward autonomous cars that work in foul weather,' says Professor Edwin Olsen from the University of Michigan.

B Sunken city

It's undeniably a city despite being hidden forty metres under water. With imposing city walls and entrance gates – this is China's real life Atlantis. Shicheng or Lion City was once an important centre in the eastern province of Zhejiang and if it hadn't been for a decision to build a new hydro-electric power station, it would have stayed that way. But in 1959 a massive dam was built, and the city was flooded on purpose. 300,000 inhabitants had to be relocated, with many of them leaving their ancestral homes. The man-made lake that covered the metropolis meant that the thriving community was forgotten for more than fifty years. However, when the government realised how incredibly well-preserved it was, it decided to open the site to divers, who have since been rediscovering and remapping the city. Many claim that it could still almost function as a city if it wasn't for the water.

C Floating city

It looks like something out of a sci-fi film, doesn't it? But, if water levels continue to rise, aquatic or floating cities will be in high demand sooner than we think. Recent innovative designs have included floating platforms that incorporate agricultural fields and residential areas as well as centres for education and light industry. One design even boasts skyscrapers covered in living green plants! In short, floating cities will have all the amenities you would expect from any new urbanisation. Sceptics are bound to ask if such an innovation can solve some of the issues facing cities today, such as overpopulation, pollution and rising sea levels. Absolutely! In fact, town planners are certain that if they had paid more attention to these concerns years ago, they might have prevented the current housing crisis and flood risks. What is more, floating communities that are powered by renewable energy will be cleaner and more efficient. Great news for anyone keen on a greener lifestyle!

D Underground city

Where can you find a shopping centre or a swimming pool in a busy city? Well, in Helsinki, Finland, you'll find them underground. That's because architects are now turning their plans upside down – literally – and going subterranean. Underground communities once thrived in Poland, Australia and China amongst others. But if town planners knew about the benefits, they decided to ignore them. As a result, cities have sprawled, leaving little space for any more building. But things are changing and in order to create extra space and maintain a low rise skyline, Finnish architects have plans to keep housing on the surface but hide industry and public transport underground. In a country with increasingly severe winters there are huge benefits. Subterranean buildings are naturally insulated so residents can enjoy a warmer commute to work. If experts had had the knowledge years ago, those chilly mornings spent waiting at the bus stop could have been avoided for many.

2 - Choose the paragraph (A–D) that best answers each question. Each paragraph may be chosen more than once.

Exam tip: multiple matching

Look for words or phrases in each text that give you extra information or explain something in a different way about a person, a place or a thing.

In which paragraph does the writer say that...

- 1 deliberate flooding has made the city what it is?
- 2 the advantages of successful cities didn't influence how towns were planned?
- 3 people have been responsible for mishaps in transport trials?
- 4 the effort to control an energy supply redefined the landscape?
- 5 expanding cities have left fewer areas for new buildings?
- 6 some doubt the ability of new ideas to solve housing and environmental problems?
- 7 beneath the surface this shopping street has nothing to offer?
- 8 residents were moved away from homes that had been owned by their families?
- 9 attempts have been made to avoid tall buildings?
- 10 greater consideration of past concerns might have avoided the town having problems now?

3 - Find the words in the text that mean the following.

- 1 not real (text A) _____
- 2 damaged on the surface (text A) _____
- 3 large and impressive (text B) _____
- 4 belonging to a family member who lived a long time ago (text B) _____
- 5 useful features in a building or a place (text C) _____
- 6 problems (text C) _____
- 7 more and more (text D) _____
- 8 protected from cold, etc. (text D) _____

4 - Complete the words in the sentences.

- 1- We hardly recognised the area – the streets once _____ (d _ f _ _ _ d) by graffiti had been replaced with huge _____ (i _ p _ _ _ _ g) houses and fashionable shops.
- 2- The complicated _____ (i _ _ u _ s) of housing, transport and air quality face many cities, but each place has to come up with its own solution.
- 3- My brother's student accommodation is in an area that's quite cheap, but there aren't many _____ (a _ _ n _ _ _ _ s) like good shops nearby.
- 4- Cities are finding it _____ (i _ _ _ _ a _ _ _ _ _ y) difficult to meet the wide-ranging needs of their population.
- 5- It's important to people who have emigrated to keep in touch with their _____ (a _ _ e _ _ _ _ l) homeland.
- 6- Soon you may not need to go into town at all. Sit in your cosy, _____ (i _ _ _ _ l _ _ _ _ d) flat and experience the _____ (s _ _ u _ _ _ _ d) city of your dreams, all through virtual reality.