

Singapore's urbanisation

In 2018, the United Nations announced that Singapore was completely urbanised as 100 per cent of its population is defined as "urban". Urbanisation has brought both (1) _____ and disadvantages to the small city-state. On the one hand, Singapore (2) _____ a lot of skilled workers from many other countries to ensure the economy continues to grow. Migrants have also helped create a more culturally diverse society in Singapore.

On the other hand, urbanisation has caused some serious problems such as deforestation, overpopulation, and waste (3) _____. Since it was first colonised by the British in 1819 and Singapore was formally founded, over 95 per cent of its vegetation has been cleared. In terms of population (4) _____, in many parts of Singapore, there are over 20,000 people living per square kilometre. Waste treatment used to be another problem in Singapore. (5) _____, thanks to the development of technology, this problem has been solved. Singapore has even become a leader in urban waste management.

- Question 1:** A. features B. benefits C. impacts D. concerns
Question 2: A. was attracting B. will attract C. attracts D. has attracted
Question 3: A. management B. leadership C. pollution D. structure
Question 4: A. workload B. density C. usage D. product
Question 5: A. Although B. In conclusion C. However D. Therefore

Students born in 2007 have just received the university entrance mock exam issued by the Ministry of Education. The exam, which is reportedly shorter and more difficult than previous years, has left many (7) _____ feeling anxious. The questions are mainly focused on reading comprehension and vocabulary, requiring students to (8) _____ complex words and phrases.

Teachers have acknowledged that this is a (9) _____ exam, but they believe it has the potential to accurately classify students based on their abilities. (10) _____ the increased difficulty, the exam is considered fair and capable of assessing the students' true competencies.

Despite the pressure, the (11) _____ of students sitting for the exam remains high. With a focus on reading comprehension, the exam is expected to test the (12) _____ of students' preparedness for the university entrance process.

- Question 7:** A. another B. others C. other D. the other
Question 8: A. figure out B. look for C. take in D. give up
Question 9: A. challenging B. relaxing C. simple D. boring
Question 10: A. Instead of B. On account of C. In case of D. Irrespective of
Question 11: A. number B. amount C. quantity D. level
Question 12: A. accuracy B. width C. depth D. randomness

- Question 13:** a. Jane: Watch out! You're too close and will burn yourself!
 b. Jane: Hi, Nga. Is that a coal-burning stove?
 c. Nga: Hi. Yes, my dad bought it last week. It heats up our home very quickly. Let me put in some more coal.
 A. c-a-b B. b-c-a C. c-b-a D. a-c-b

- Question 14:** a. Mike: I went to India for two weeks.
 b. Sue: No. What happened?
 c. Mike: I felt as if I was a fish out of water.
 d. Mike: Hey, have I ever told you about the time I traveled alone?
 e. Sue: How did you feel?
 A. c-b-a-e-d B. c-e-d-b-a C. d-b-a-e-c D. d-e-a-b-c

- Question 15:** Dear Alex,
 a. However, if you could let us know which area you are most interested in and why, we can make sure we won't disappoint you.
 b. Thank you for your email. It sounds like you would be perfect for the course.
 c. Looking forward to your reply.
 d. It would also be helpful to know if there is any food you don't eat. This will make life easier for our cook.
 e. We offer lessons in all types of art.
 Best wishes,
 Hillary Mason
 A. d-b-a-c-e B. b-e-a-d-c C. a-d-b-c-e D. a-c-d-b-e

- Question 16:** a. After completing my degree in social work, I began working as a social worker and have been doing it for almost five years now.
 b. My advice to anyone who is considering a career in social work is to have a strong support system in place and take care of yourself mentally and physically.
 c. It can be emotionally challenging at times, but the reward of seeing people's lives change for the better is what keeps me motivated to work hard every day.
 d. I have always been passionate about helping others in my community.

e. I always try to make a positive difference in someone's life, no matter how small it may be. Knowing that I am able to make a positive impact on someone's life makes me feel good.

A. d-a-c-e-b

B. a-e-c-d-b

C. e-c-d-a-b

D. c-a-d-e-b

Question 17: a. The local park has been renovated and now features a brand-new playground.

b. However, the increase in visitors has led to some littering issues.

c. Many families and children enjoy spending time there on weekends.

d. To address this, the city plans to install more trash bins and hire extra staff for maintenance.

e. Overall, it's a great improvement, but keeping the park clean will require community effort.

A. a-d-b-c-e

B. a-b-e-c-d

C. a-c-d-b-e

D. a-c-b-d-e

The future of electric vehicles (EVs) is promising, as technological advancements and environmental concerns (18) _____. As governments worldwide implement stricter emissions regulations and offer incentives for EV adoption, manufacturers are investing heavily in research and development. (19) _____, resulting in longer ranges and faster charging times. For instance, new solid-state batteries have the potential to enhance energy density and safety, making EVs more practical for everyday use.

Additionally, the rise of autonomous driving technology is set to revolutionize the way we interact with vehicles. Many electric models are now equipped with advanced driver-assistance systems (20) _____. Furthermore, the integration of smart technology allows for seamless connectivity, enabling drivers to monitor their vehicle's performance and locate charging stations through mobile apps.

As charging infrastructure continues to expand, (21) _____, the convenience of owning an EV is increasing. This transition to electric vehicles not only promises a reduction in carbon emissions but also fosters a cleaner, healthier environment. Overall, (22) _____ and sustainable transportation.

Question 18:

A. driving the automotive industry toward a sustainable transformation

B. drive the automotive industry toward a sustainable transformation

C. that drive the automotive industry toward a sustainable transformation

D. from which drive the automotive industry toward a sustainable transformation

Question 19:

A. This focus has led to significant improvements in battery technology

B. Having led to significant improvements in battery technology

C. This focus of significant improvements in battery technology S

D. Significant improvements have led to this focus on battery technology

Question 20:

A. who not only enhances safety but also paves the way for fully autonomous driving

B. which not only enhance safety but also pave the way for fully autonomous driving

C. who not only enhance safety but also pave the way for fully autonomous driving

D. which not only enhances safety but also paves the way for fully autonomous driving

Question 21:

A. more public charging stations are being installed

B. with more public charging stations being installed

C. more public charging stations being installed

D. with more public charging stations installing

Question 22:

A. the future of electric vehicles holds immense potential for innovation

B. immense potential for innovation holds the future of electric vehicles

C. electric vehicles for innovation hold immense potential for the future

D. the future for innovation holds immense potential of electric vehicles

Graduation is a significant milestone that marks the end of an educational journey and the beginning of a new chapter in life. As graduates step into the real world, they are faced with the daunting task of choosing a career path. This decision is influenced by various factors, including personal interests, skills, job market trends, and financial considerations. It is crucial for graduates to carefully evaluate their options and make informed decisions to ensure long-term success and satisfaction.

One important factor to consider when choosing a career is personal interests. Graduates should identify fields that align with their passions and hobbies, as this can lead to a more fulfilling and enjoyable career. Additionally, skills and strengths play a vital role in career choice. Understanding one's abilities and how they can be applied in different professions can help graduates narrow down their options and choose a career that suits them best.

Another key consideration is the job market. Researching current job market trends and future projections can provide valuable insights into which industries are growing and which ones may decline. This information can help graduates make strategic

decisions and choose careers with good job prospects and stability. Financial considerations, such as salary potential and job benefits, are also important factors to take into account.

Networking and gaining practical experience through internships or part-time jobs can significantly impact career choice. **Building a professional network and gaining hands-on experience can provide graduates with valuable connections and insights into different industries.** This can help them make more informed decisions and increase their chances of success in their chosen career.

While the process of choosing a career can be challenging, it is important for graduates to remain flexible and open to new opportunities. The job market is constantly evolving, and being adaptable can help them navigate changes and seize new prospects. With careful planning and a proactive approach, graduates can find a career that aligns with their goals and aspirations.

Question 1. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a factor influencing career choice?

- A. Personal interests
- B. Job location
- C. Skills
- D. Financial considerations

Question 2. The word "daunting" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:

- A. easy
- B. intimidating
- C. familiar
- D. encouraging

Question 3. The word "their" in paragraph 4 refers to:

- A. personal interests
- B. graduates
- C. job market trends
- D. future projections

Question 4. The word "narrow down" in paragraph 2 could be best replaced by:

- A. expand
- B. limit
- C. ignore
- D. overlook

Question 5. Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 4?

- A. Graduates should avoid gaining practical experience.
- B. Networking and internships are not valuable for career choice.
- C. Practical experience and networking can significantly influence career decisions.
- D. Graduates should focus solely on academic achievements.

Question 6. Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?

- A. Personal interests should not influence career choice.
- B. The job market is irrelevant to career decisions.
- C. Financial considerations are important in choosing a career.
- D. Networking has no impact on career choice.

Question 7. In which paragraph does the writer mention the importance of adaptability in choosing a career?

- A. Paragraph 1
- B. Paragraph 2
- C. Paragraph 3
- D. Paragraph 5

Question 8. In which paragraph does the writer discuss the role of skills in career choice?

- A. Paragraph 1
- B. Paragraph 2
- C. Paragraph 4
- D. Paragraph 5

[I] Urbanization refers to the increasing population shift from rural to urban areas, resulting in the growth of cities and metropolitan regions (Hall, 2014). [II] This phenomenon is driven by various factors, including economic opportunities, improved living standards, and social amenities available in urban centers. [III] As a result, urbanization significantly impacts both individuals and communities, leading to a range of benefits and challenges (Davis, 2016). [IV]

One of the primary advantages of urbanization is the economic growth it fosters. Cities often provide a plethora of job opportunities, attracting individuals seeking better employment and higher incomes. In urban areas, businesses flourish due to increased demand for goods and services, leading to enhanced economic productivity. Moreover, urbanization encourages innovation and technological advancements, as a dense concentration of people often fosters creativity and collaboration (Florida, 2017).

However, urbanization also presents significant challenges. Rapid population growth in cities can lead to overcrowding, straining public services such as transportation, healthcare, and education. Many urban areas struggle to provide adequate housing, resulting in the proliferation of informal settlements and slums. According to the United Nations (2018), nearly one billion people live in slums, lacking access to basic services. They also face adverse living conditions. This situation exacerbates social inequality and can lead to increased crime rates and health issues.

To address the challenges of urbanization, sustainable urban planning is essential. **Governments and urban planners must prioritize creating inclusive, well-connected cities that provide access to essential services for all residents.** Strategies such as developing affordable housing, enhancing public transport systems, and promoting green spaces can help improve the quality of life in urban areas while mitigating the negative impacts of urbanization (World Bank, 2019).

(Adapted from *Urbanization and Its Impact* by Hall, Davis, and others)

Question 1. Where in paragraph I does the following sentence best fit?

Urban areas offer a wide array of social services that are often unavailable in rural areas.

A. [I]

B. [II]

C. [III]

D. [IV]

Question 2. The phrase "plethora of job opportunities" in paragraph 2 could be best replaced by ____.

A. limited job options

B. abundant job opportunities

C. scarcity of jobs

D. specific job roles

Question 3. The word "they" in paragraph 3 refers to ____.

A. urban areas

B. public services

C. people

D. basic services

Question 4. According to paragraph 2, which of the following is NOT a benefit of urbanization?

A. Economic growth

B. Job opportunities

C. Increased social inequality

D. Technological advancements

Question 5. Which of the following best summarizes paragraph 3?

A. Urbanization creates a range of challenges, including overcrowding and insufficient public services.

B. Urban areas have ample housing options for all residents.

C. Rapid urbanization has no impact on crime rates or health issues.

D. The growth of cities automatically improves living conditions for all.

Question 6. The word "proliferation" in paragraph 3 is CLOSEST in meaning to ____.

A. reduction

B. increase

C. stabilization

D. disappearance

Question 7. Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?

A. Urbanization exclusively benefits individuals with higher incomes.

B. All urban areas can easily provide adequate housing for their residents.

C. Sustainable urban planning is crucial to addressing the issues arising from urbanization.

D. Rapid urbanization has no effect on public services or living conditions.

Question 8. Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 4?

A. Creating well-designed urban areas requires collaboration between governments and city planners.

B. It is essential for governments to implement urban planning strategies to enhance city life.

C. The planning of urban areas must not focus on environmental sustainability.

D. Urban planning should prioritize attracting businesses rather than improving living standards.

Question 9. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

A. Urbanization is a recent phenomenon that has minimal global impact.

B. Slums are a direct result of effective urban planning.

C. Sustainable urban planning can help mitigate some of the negative effects of urbanization.

D. Economic opportunities in urban areas lead to an equal distribution of wealth.

Question 10. Which of the following best summarizes the passage?

A. Urbanization leads to job creation and economic growth, but also results in challenges such as overcrowding and social inequality that require sustainable urban planning to address.

B. The shift from rural to urban living has little effect on economic productivity or community growth.

C. Urban areas are perfect solutions for all rural problems, including housing and public services.

D. Cities provide the best quality of life without the need for any planning or development.