

Read the passage and choose the correct answer for each question.

The New Big Cities

Between 1750 and 1950, there was a large increase in city living in Europe and the United States. During that time, the number of people living in cities in these places grew from 15 million to 423 million. Another wave of big city development is now beginning in other areas, particularly in Asia and Africa. Some people think that cities in these regions will grow faster than in other areas.

Of course, such fast growth will bring challenges. As new streets and roads are constructed, traffic problems will increase. Beautiful parks may be removed to make space for ugly parking lots. Large numbers of people who have to live in small spaces will probably meet with difficulties, too. However, this growth will also bring some welcome changes. The bigger a city gets, the bigger its businesses get. Successful businesses contribute between one-half and four-fifths of the money a country makes each year.

However, in order for the businesses to succeed, they must have places for the workers to live. If growing cities in Asia and Africa can provide clean, safe housing, the future of the people moving there should be a very good one.

1. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. Many people will probably move to big cities.
 - b. A lot of people will be living in small spaces.
 - c. Fast growth causes problems.
 - d. Parking lots are ugly.

2. In the second sentence of the third paragraph, what does the word its refer to?
 - a. city's
 - b. money's
 - c. country's
 - d. business's

3. When were 423 million people living in the big cities of Europe and the United States?
 - a. two centuries ago
 - b. 20 years ago
 - c. in 1750
 - d. in 1950

4. According to the writer, what kinds of cities are beginning to experience fast growth?

- a. cities in Europe and the United States
- b. cities with big businesses
- c. cities in Asia and Africa
- d. cities with safe housing

5. Which statement would the writer probably agree with?

- a. The growth of big cities in Asia will not cause any problems.
- b. Cities should be responsible for providing good housing.
- c. Most big businesses bring in less money each year.
- d. More big businesses should move to small towns.