Town & country

1 Match the sentences in the left-hand column with the most appropriate sentence in the right-hand column. Use the words and phrases in bold to help you.

1. London is a truly ***cosmopolitan*** city.
2. A modern ***metropolis*** needs a good integrated transport system.
3. London suffers a lot from traffic ***congestion.***
4. ***Poverty*** in the ***inner-city*** areas can ***breed crime.***
5. Cities around the world have seen a huge ***population explosion.***
6. Birmingham has plenty of ***amenities.***
7. A lot of people visit Paris for its ***cultural events.***
8. Cities in poorer countries often lack basic ***infrastructures.***
9. The ***pressures of modern city life*** can be difficult to deal with.
10. The ***cost of living*** in some places can be very high.
11. A lot of people appreciate the ***anonymity*** of living in a large city.
12. I love the ***urban lifestyle*** I lead.
13. In Singapore, private cars are banned from the ***central business district*** at ***peak periods.***
14. ***Urban sprawl*** is prevalent in most cities.

A. ***Drug abuse*** is also a big problem.

B. Shops, libraries, hospitals and entertainment complexes are just a few of them.

C. Chief among these are concerts and exhibitions.

D. In particular, I enjoy the ***atmosphere*** that is unique to the city.

E. Prices in London are particularly exorbitant.

F. Without them, they are unable to function properly as cities.

G. It is especially bad during the ***rush hour,*** when thousands of ***commuters*** try to enter or leave the city.

H. Stress-related illnesses are very common in cities like New York.

I. Nowadays there are more ***city dwellers*** than ever before.

J. Everywhere you go there are ***building sites, pedestrian precincts, blocks of flats*** and ***housing estates*** spreading into the countryside.

K. They like to feel that they can do something without everybody knowing about it.

L. Most people use buses and the underground to get to the banks and offices where they work.

M. Unfortunately, this is something that most large capital cities lack.

N. It's a ***melting pot*** for people from all parts of the world.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Town & country

2 Match the sentences in the left-hand column with an appropriate response in the right-hand column. Use the words and phrases in bold to help you.

1. I enjoy a ***rural*** lifestyle.
2. There isn't much ***pollution*** if you live outside a town.
3. There is a lot of ***productive land*** in this area.
4. In recent years, there has been a lot of ***migration*** from the towns to the cities.
5. The government has promised to leave the green belt alone.
6. There has been a huge reduction in the amount of ***arable land*** over the last 20 years.
7. My uncle's farm covers almost 800 ***hectares.***
8. What are the main ***crops*** grown in this area?

A. Really? So why are we seeing so much ***construction*** in the countryside around London?
B. I'm not so sure. All those ***pesticides*** and ***chemical fertilisers*** that farmers use nowadays can't be good for the ***environment.***
C. That's probably because we import more food from abroad.
D. Mostly ***wheat, oats*** and ***barley.***
E. Really? How much is that in ***acres***?
F. I'm not surprised. With such terrible ***prospects*** within towns, ***depopulation*** is inevitable.
G. Well I can't see much evidence of ***cultivation.***
H. Do you? I always find there's nothing to do in the countryside.

3 Complete this article with words and phrases from Exercises 1 and 2. In some cases, more than one answer is possible.

For seven years I lived in Singapore, a 1..... of almost three million people. Like London, Paris and New York, Singapore is a 2..... city, with people from different parts of the world living and working together. I enjoyed the 3..... lifestyle I led there, and made the most of the superb 4..... , ranging from the excellent shops to some of the best restaurants in the world. In the evenings and at weekends there were always 5..... ; with such diverse attractions as classical western music, an exhibition of Malay art or a Chinese opera in the street, it was difficult to get bored. Perhaps most impressive, however, was the remarkable transport 6..... , with excellent roads, a swift and efficient bus service and a state-of-the-art underground system which could whisk 7..... from the suburbs straight into the heart of the city (this was particularly important, as the government banned private cars from entering the 8..... during the morning and afternoon 9..... in order to reduce 10..... on the roads and 11..... from the exhausts).

Of course, living in a city like this has its disadvantages as well. For a start, the 12..... can be very high – renting an apartment, for example, is very expensive. And as the city is expanding, there are a lot of 13..... where new apartments are continually being built to deal with the 14..... which is a direct result of the government encouraging people to have more children.

Fortunately, Singapore doesn't suffer from problems that are common in many cities such as 15..... , which is partly the result of the government imposing very severe penalties on anyone bringing narcotics into the country, so it is safe to walk the streets at night. In fact, the 16..... housing estates there are probably the safest and most orderly in the world.

Singapore wouldn't be ideal for everyone, however, especially if you come from the countryside and are used to a 17..... lifestyle. The traditional villages that were once common have disappeared as the residents there realised there were no 18..... for their future and moved into new government housing in the city. Nowadays, there is very little 19..... around the city, which means that Singapore imports almost all of its food. And despite a 'green' approach to city planning, the 20..... which has eaten into the countryside has had a detrimental effect on the 21..... .

LIVEWORKSHEETS