

Reading Practice Set 4 – Add Text and Passage Summary

Directions: Read the passage. Give yourself 10 minutes to complete this practice set.

Effects of Population Growth

The rapid increase in global urbanization constitutes one of the greatest issues facing the world in the coming decades. It is estimated that the global urban population will double over the next 30 years. The most rapidly urbanizing regions of the world are to be found in the developing world. Cities in these countries are rapidly transforming into mega cities – **massive** conurbations of more than 20 million people.

The rapid growth of these cities is a reflection of the considerable economic growth in these newly developing economies. [1] ■ The absence of infrastructure such as roads and water supply in many cities leads to a lower quality of life for their citizens. In many cities, **it** has resulted in the emergence of large-scale slums and shanty towns. [2] ■ Furthermore, the impact of ever-increasing demand for energy, food, goods, and other resources by urban populations is causing degradation of the surrounding environment, which in turn exacerbates the migration of rural populations. [3] ■

On the other hand, urbanization can also have a positive impact. [4] ■ Countries with highly urbanized populations tend to have a generally higher standard of living and their economies are more stable. Cities can deliver education, health care, and other services more efficiently than rural areas because of their **advantages of scale and proximity**. In both developed and developing countries, cities generate the most wealth and provide extensive opportunities for employment and investment. However, evidence suggests that the prosperity generated by cities does not automatically reduce poverty; on the contrary, in many cities, inequalities between the rich and the poor have increased.

Directions: Answer the questions.

1. The word **it** in the passage refers to
 - ☐ water supply.
 - ☐ economic growth.
 - ☐ lower quality of life.
 - ☐ absence of infrastructure.
2. The word **massive** in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - ☐ complex.
 - ☐ wealthy.
 - ☐ huge.
 - ☐ expensive.
3. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
 - ☐ The urban population needs food, but people are not able to afford it.
 - ☐ People are moving to the cities because there are more resources there.
 - ☐ People are moving to the countryside because there are not enough resources in the cities.
 - ☐ More people are moving to the city because demand for resources is destroying rural areas.

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TOEFL PREPARATION COURSE

4. An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the **THREE** choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. This question is worth two points.

The passage discusses the effects of population growth.

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Answer options

- 1. Large cities have many wealthy as well as many poor people.
 - 2. Cities with over 20 million people are known as metacities.
 - 3. Social inequality in cities is decreasing.
 - 4. The high demand for resources is damaging to the environment.
 - 5. The increasing world population presents many problems.
 - 6. There is less economic stability in cities.
5. Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage. Where would the sentence best fit?
- Yet these cities are also the location of increasing poverty, disease, and pollution.**
- Answer _____