Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions from 20 to 29.

Urban life has always involved a balancing of opportunities and rewards against dangers and stress; its motivating force is, in the broadest sense, money. Opportunities to make money mean competition and competition is stressful; it is often at its most intense in the largest cities, where opportunities are greatest. The presence of huge numbers of people inevitably involves more conflict, more travelling, the overloading of public services and exposure to those **deviants** and criminals who are drawn to the rich pickings of great cities. Crime has always flourished in the relative anonymity of urban life, but today's ease of movement makes its control more difficult than ever; there is much evidence that its extent has a direct relationship to the size of communities. City dwellers may become trapped in their homes by the fear of crime around them.

As a defence against **these developments**, city dwellers tend to use various strategies to try and reduce the pressures upon themselves: contacts with other people are generally made brief and impersonal; doors are kept locked; telephone numbers may be ex-directory; journeys outside the home are usually hurried, rather than a source of pleasure. There are other strategies too which are positively harmful to the individual; for example, reducing awareness through drugs or alcohol. Furthermore, all these defensive forms of behaviour are harmful to society in general; they cause widespread loneliness and destroy the community's concern for its members. **Lack of informal social contact and indifference to the misfortunes of others, if they are not personally known to oneself, are amongst the major causes of urban crime.**

Inner areas of cities tend to be abandoned by the more successful and left to those who have done badly in the competitive struggle or who belong to minority groups; these people are then geographically trapped because so much economic activity has migrated to the suburbs and beyond.

Present-day architecture and planning have enormously worsened the human problems of urban life. **[I]** Old-established neighbourhoods have been **ruthlessly** swept away, by both public and private organisations, usually to be replaced by huge, ugly, impersonal structures. **[II]** People have been forced to leave their familiar homes, usually to be rehoused in tower blocks which are drab, inconvenient, and fail to provide any setting for human interaction or support. **[III]** Instead, every effort should be made to conserve the human scale of the environment, and to retain familiar landmarks. **[IV]**

(Cambridge Proficiency Examination Practice 5)

Question 20. According to paragraph 1, which of the following is NOT mentioned as an inevitable consequence of the vast population density in cities?

A. Overburdening of public service systems
B. Higher incidence of mental health problems
C. Increasing daily travel time
D. Increased levels of conflict among people

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Question 21. The word "deviants" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____.

A. strangers
B. offenders
C. activists
D. outsiders

Question 22. Which of the following statements best summarises paragraph 1?

A. Urban life involves a tension between opportunities and pressures, largely shaped by financial motives and competition.
B. The growth of large cities increases crime and social strain due to today's ease of movement and overburdened services.
C. High population density in cities leads to competition, conflict, and stress among individuals seeking economic success.
D. The main difficulty of city life lies in managing crime, which is intensified by the ease of movement and anonymity.

Question 23. In paragraph 2, the phrase "these developments" primarily refers to _____.

A. the rich pickings of great cities
B. urban chances, wealth, and rewards
C. city dwellers trapped in their homes
D. rising urban stress, crime, and fear

Question 24. Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 2?

A. People who do not have personal acquaintances in the city are more likely to become victims of crime and misfortune.
B. The main cause of crime in urban areas is that residents are too busy to establish formal social contacts with their neighbors.
C. A significant factor in city crime is the absence of casual social interaction and a lack of concern for strangers' problems.
D. Urban crime is primarily driven by the fact that city dwellers do not know how to help strangers who are in trouble.

Question 25. The word "ruthlessly" in paragraph 4 is OPPOSITE in meaning to _____.

A. aggressively
B. efficiently
C. indifferently
D. compassionately

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Question 26. Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?

A. Old neighbourhoods were improved and replaced by large modern buildings that strengthened community interaction and support.

B. There might be little or no significant correlation between the scale of a community and the scope of criminal activity within it.

C. Urban residents often adopt impersonal behaviours that contribute to greater psychological pressure and decreased social isolation.

D. The more affluent move out of inner-city areas, leaving poorer groups confined to places where economic activity has shifted to the suburbs.

Question 27. Where in the paragraph 4 does the following sentence best fit?

This destruction of established social structures is the worst possible approach to the difficulties of living in a town or city.

A. [III] B. [II]

C. [I] D. [IV]

Question 28. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

A. Efforts to strengthen social cohesion in cities may be limited in effectiveness only if underlying structural and environmental issues remain unaddressed.

B. Measures aimed at reducing crime are unlikely to succeed unless individuals alter their defensive behaviours and increase social interaction.

C. Preserving aspects of traditional urban environments could play a role in mitigating certain social and psychological problems in cities.

D. Expanding economic activity beyond city centres would likely reduce inequality and improve social conditions for disadvantaged urban populations.

Question 29. Which of the following best summarises the passage?

A. Financial motives in cities lead to social strain, which is exacerbated by flawed architectural design and defensive behaviours that undermine community structures.

B. The inherent stresses and dangers of urban life, exacerbated by individual coping mechanisms and flawed urban development, lead to societal breakdown and increased crime.

C. Urban life offers financial rewards but creates individual stress and social isolation, which are further worsened by poor architectural planning and rising criminal activities.

D. Urban life provides economic wealth but causes social conflict and individual fear, while modern planning supports human interaction and prevents widespread community crime.

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