

Exercise walk-through

6.9

Urban Data

AP Human Geography

Change and sustainability

- **Suburbanization** and urban sprawl consume land.
- **Gentrification** raises values and can displace residents.
- **Smart growth** and greenbelts support sustainability.



Uneven growth shapes who gets housing

Key points

Site = physical; **situation** = relative position

Rank-size vs **primate-city** distributions

Three models: **concentric**, **sector**, **multiple nuclei**

Sprawl + gentrification
are key urban challenges

Worked example – the command word is the question

“Compare the concept of a metacity with the concept of a world city.” (real AP question)

“A metacity is defined by size – a continuous urban area of more than 20 million people – while a world city is defined by influence, acting as a command centre for the global economy. Tokyo can be both, but a large metacity in a poorer country may not be a world city.”

Compare needs an **explicit point of difference** (size versus influence), **not** two definitions sitting side by side.

Exam tips

- Separate a city's **site** (physical setting) from its **situation** (position relative to others).
- Apply the **rank-size rule** (the n th city is about $1/n$ of the largest) and spot a **primate city**.
- Match a city description to the right model: **concentric zone**, **sector**, or **multiple nuclei**.
- Link **land value** to density – costly central land is used by building upward.
- Discuss change with **suburbanization**, **sprawl**, and **gentrification**, and **smart-growth** responses.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State one source of quantitative urban data and one of qualitative. [2]

2.2 Explain how urban data guides planning. [2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

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2.1

- quantitative: census/traffic counts; qualitative: resident interviews/field observation
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2.2 Explain how urban data guides planning. [2]

2.2

- it shows where people live, move, and lack services; planners target housing, transit, and investment accordingly

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A city uses a census plus interviews to plan a new district.

(a) State what the census provides.

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- numerical counts of population/housing

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A city uses a census plus interviews to plan a new district.

(b) State what the interviews add.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A city uses a census plus interviews to plan a new district.

(b) State what the interviews add.

[1]

(b)

- residents' needs, opinions, and experiences

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A city census provides mainly

[1]

☐

A qualitative opinions

B quantitative population data

C map projections

D toponyms

3.2 One limitation of urban data is that it may

[1]

☐

A always be perfect

B miss informal settlements and marginalised groups

C replace all planning

D never change

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A city census provides mainly

[1]

☐

- A qualitative opinions
- B quantitative population data
- C map projections
- D toponyms

3.1 B

- a census gives quantitative population data

3.2 One limitation of urban data is that it may

[1]

☐

- A always be perfect
- B miss informal settlements and marginalised groups
- C replace all planning
- D never change

3.2 B

- data can miss informal/marginalised populations

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 Planners combine satellite imagery with resident surveys.

(a) State one advantage of using both data types.

[1]

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(a)

- numbers plus lived experience give a fuller, more accurate picture

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Planners combine satellite imagery with resident surveys.

(b) State one limitation they should watch for.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Planners combine satellite imagery with resident surveys.

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[1]

(b)

- data may be outdated or miss some groups

Exercise 3.4

3.4 Fictional districts C and D have 400 of 800 and 700 of 2,800 residents beyond a stated transit distance. Compare the rates, distinguish them from the counts, and name one additional qualitative question for planning. [4]

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3.4

C: $400/800 = 50\%$; D: $700/2800 = 25\%$; D has the higher affected count but C the higher affected proportion; a relevant interview question, such as whether services run at needed times or are affordable, adds a missing dimension.