

6.9 Urban Data

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

KEY WORDS urban data • quantitative • qualitative
• informal settlements

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **urban data**.

You must be able to:

- distinguish **quantitative** from **qualitative** urban data
- name sources of urban data (census, surveys, remote sensing)
- explain how data guides urban planning
- state one limitation of urban data

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Types and sources

Urban planners use **quantitative** data (census counts, traffic numbers) and **qualitative** data (resident interviews, field observation).

■ Using data

Data reveals where people live, commute, and lack services, guiding decisions on housing, transit, and investment.

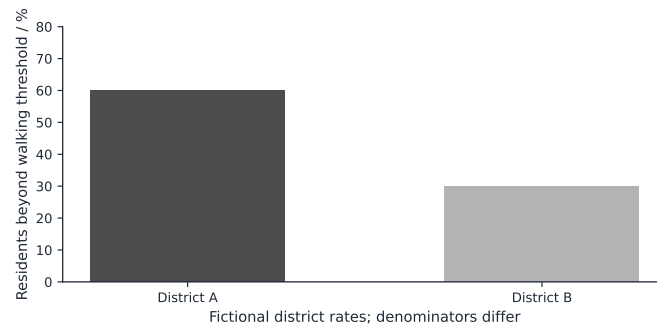
■ Limitations

Data can be out of date, incomplete, or miss informal settlements and marginalised groups.

■ Worked application: Check the denominator before comparing neighbourhoods

Original fictional data: District A has 600 residents beyond a ten-minute walk from a clinic out of 1,000 residents; District B has 900 out of 3,000. Counts alone put B higher, but rates are $600/1000 = 60\%$ and $900/3000 = 30\%$. A has the larger share facing that distance barrier; B still has more people affected. A planning decision may

consider both scale and proportion. Resident interviews can identify opening-time or affordability barriers that walking distance misses. Check the date and coverage of both datasets and avoid treating a district average as every resident's experience.



2 Practice

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

2.2 Explain how urban data guides planning. [2]

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

(a) State what the census provides. [1]

(b) State what the interviews add. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

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

3.3 Planners combine satellite imagery with resident surveys.

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

[1]

(b) State one limitation they should watch for.

[1]

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]
