Vocabulary related to city life

Urban living • Transport • Housing • Social issues

Name: _____ Date: _____

VOCABULARY AT A GLANCE

Urban atmosphere	vibrant • bustling • cosmopolitan • overcrowded
Transport & planning	traffic congestion • infrastructure • urban sprawl
Housing & society	run-down • residential area • housing shortage

A Vocabulary in context

Complete the sentences with the words and expressions in the box. Use each answer once.

WORD BANK vibrant • infrastructure • run-down • residential area
traffic congestion • housing shortage • cosmopolitan • urban sprawl

1. During rush hour, many commuters get stuck in _____ on the ring road.

2. The rapid growth of new suburbs is an example of _____.

3. After years of neglect, the old shopping street became _____.

4. The council wants to improve public _____, including roads and bus stops.

5. With live music and street markets, the city centre feels _____.

6. People from all over the world have made the city increasingly _____.

7. Many young people struggle to find a flat because of a serious _____.

8. They moved to a quiet _____ away from the busy city centre.

Building stronger word partnerships

Collocations and word formation for more accurate B2–C1 English

B Collocations

Match each beginning (1–8) to the correct ending (A–H). Write the letter in the space provided.

BEGINNINGS	ENDINGS
1. traffic _____	A. diversity
2. cost _____	B. rate
3. cultural _____	C. congestion
4. rush _____	D. lanes
5. cycle _____	E. pollution
6. crime _____	F. opportunities
7. career _____	G. of living
8. air _____	H. hour

C Word formation

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the word in CAPITALS.

1. The rapid _____ of the city has put pressure on local services. (EXPAND)

2. The new rail network should make public transport more _____. (EFFICIENCY)

3. The council has introduced new measures to reduce air _____. (POLLUTE)

4. Rising rents have made many flats _____ for young families. (AFFORD)

5. The area is famous for its cultural _____ and lively art scene. (DIVERSE)

6. The city plans to _____ several ageing railway stations. (MODERN)

Use the vocabulary

Move beyond definitions: express ideas, give reasons and support your opinions.

D Speaking: City life

Discuss the questions with a partner, or make notes for your answers. Try to use at least two expressions from the lesson in each answer.

1. What makes a neighbourhood a pleasant place to live?

2. How does traffic congestion affect everyday life in your town or city?

3. What should local authorities do to improve transport and infrastructure?

4. Do large cities offer better career opportunities than smaller towns? Why?

E Writing challenge

Write one balanced paragraph (110–140 words).

Topic: Some people believe that life in a large city offers a better quality of life than life in a small town. Discuss one advantage and one disadvantage of living in a large city.

Use at least five expressions from this worksheet. Support your ideas with explanations or examples.

SELF-CHECK □ clear advantage and disadvantage □ five target expressions □ linking language

Answer key & model responses

For self-study, classroom checking and independent revision.

A Vocabulary in context

1. traffic congestion
2. urban sprawl
3. run-down
4. infrastructure
5. vibrant
6. cosmopolitan
7. housing shortage
8. residential area

B Collocations

1 C • 2 G • 3 A • 4 H • 5 D • 6 B • 7 F • 8 E

Full expressions: traffic congestion; cost of living; cultural diversity; rush hour; cycle lanes; crime rate; career opportunities; air pollution.

C Word formation

1. expansion
2. efficient
3. pollution
4. unaffordable
5. diversity
6. modernise

D Speaking: Sample ideas

1. A pleasant neighbourhood has reliable public transport, green spaces and a vibrant community.
2. Traffic congestion makes rush hour stressful and can increase air pollution.
3. Councils could modernise infrastructure and add more cycle lanes to reduce car use.
4. Large cities may offer greater career opportunities, but the cost of living is often much higher.

E Writing: Sample paragraph

Living in a large city can offer an exciting lifestyle, but it also brings challenges. One major advantage is the wide range of career opportunities. In a vibrant, cosmopolitan environment, people can meet employers from different industries and benefit from cultural diversity. However, urban living can be expensive and stressful. The high cost of living makes it difficult for young adults to afford housing, while traffic congestion during rush hour often leads to long journeys and air pollution. Although efficient public transport can make daily life easier, not every city has the necessary infrastructure. Overall, I believe large cities offer valuable opportunities, but quality of life depends on affordable housing and good public services.

Other well-supported answers are acceptable. British spellings are used throughout.