Urbanization Worksheet

Grade 10 geography · settlement

Name: Date: Score: / 26

A one-way shift

In 1800 roughly one person in twenty lived in a town or city. Today it is more than half, and the share is still climbing. **Urbanization** is the name for that shift, and it is one of the few trends in human geography that has almost never reversed anywhere for long.

The causes split into pushes and pulls. Mechanized farming needs fewer hands, inherited plots get divided until they cannot feed a family, and drought can end a holding in one season. At the same time cities concentrate the jobs, hospitals, universities and transit that only work at scale.

The consequences are the part that needs managing. Cities that grow faster than their **infrastructure** end up with traffic, water shortages and **informal settlements** on land nobody planned to build on. Cities that grow outward instead of upward consume farmland and lock in long commutes for decades.

Part A — Vocabulary match each term to its meaning (8 marks)

1. Urbanization	_____	A. A rising share of a population living in towns and cities
2. Rural-urban migration	_____	B. Low-density growth outward across former farmland
3. Megacity	_____	C. A city with more than ten million residents
4. Central business district	_____	D. Housing built without legal title or planning permission
5. Urban sprawl	_____	E. Wealthier residents moving into a poorer area and raising its costs
6. Informal settlement	_____	F. The roads, water, power and transit a settlement needs to function
7. Gentrification	_____	G. Movement of people from the countryside into cities
8. Infrastructure	_____	H. The commercial core of a city, with the highest land values

Part B — Fill in the blanks (6 marks)

1. A city with over ten million people is a _____.

2. The commercial core of a city is the central _____ district.

3. Low-density growth outward across farmland is urban _____.

4. Housing built without legal title is an _____ settlement.

5. Movement from the countryside into cities is _____-urban migration.

6. Roads, water, power and transit together are a city’s _____.

Part C — Push or pull? write P for push or L for pull (6 marks)

Reason people move to the city	P or L
Farm work mechanized, so fewer labourers are needed	
Factory and service jobs concentrated in the city	
Hospitals and universities only exist at city scale	
Drought or soil exhaustion makes a holding unviable	
Family already settled in the city can offer a first room	
Rural land divided between heirs until plots are too small	

Part D — Read the graph use the bars in the diagram (2 marks)

1. Between which two dates on the graph does the urban share rise fastest?

2. What does the shape of the 2050 bar suggest about the pace of urbanization after 2000?

Part E — Think it through (4 marks)

1. A city of two million is expected to double in fifteen years. Name two things the city government should build first, and say why those two.

2. Explain one way gentrification can improve a neighbourhood and one way it can harm the people already living there.

Urbanization Worksheet — Answer Key

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Part A — Vocabulary

1. **Urbanization** → A
2. **Rural-urban migration** → G
3. **Megacity** → C
4. **Central business district** → H
5. **Urban sprawl** → B
6. **Informal settlement** → D
7. **Gentrification** → E
8. **Infrastructure** → F

Part B — Fill in the blanks

1. **megacity**
2. **business**
3. **sprawl**
4. **informal**
5. **rural**
6. **infrastructure**

Part C — Push or pull?

1. **P** — Farm work mechanized, so fewer labourers are needed
2. **L** — Factory and service jobs concentrated in the city
3. **L** — Hospitals and universities only exist at city scale
4. **P** — Drought or soil exhaustion makes a holding unviable
5. **L** — Family already settled in the city can offer a first room
6. **P** — Rural land divided between heirs until plots are too small

Part D — Read the graph

1. **Between 1950 and 2000**
   That bar nearly doubles in height, the largest single jump on the graph.
2. **It is slowing.**
   The 2050 bar is taller than 2000 but the increase is much smaller than the one before it. Urbanization is continuing, but the fastest phase has passed.

Part E — Think it through

1. **Water and sanitation, plus transit.**
   Accept any two with a real reason. Water and sewerage come first because disease spreads fastest where they are missing, and both are nearly impossible to retrofit once housing is built. Transit is second because the road pattern laid down now fixes commuting for fifty years. Housing, power and schools are all defensible answers if the reasoning holds.
2. **Investment and repair against displacement.**
   Improvement: shops, maintenance and services return to a neglected area, and property owners who stay gain value. Harm: rents and taxes rise faster than existing residents' incomes, and renters are pushed out of an area they built the community of. Both halves needed for full marks.