

Tampines Meridian Junior College
2023 JC1 H1 Geography YearEnd Examination (8834) - Suggested Answers

Cluster 1 – Sustainable Cities

1(a)	With reference to Resource 1, describe the distribution of slums in Nairobi, Kenya.	[4]
	<p><u>Indicative content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most are located in the southern part of Nairobi. • Highest concentration in Kibera (cite data -about 23 slum dwellings) • Lowest concentration in Pumwani (cite data- only 3 slum dwellings) • Anomaly: none located in Central Administrative Division of Nairobi 	
(b)	Describe the characteristics of slum dwelling in Kibera, Nairobi, as shown in Resource 2.	[4]
	<p><u>Indicative content</u></p> <p><i>*Must support each described characteristic with evidence from R2.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly constructed, unstable structures standing on wooden poles, flimsy corrugated zinc sheets that are not strongly held in place – mostly made of discarded materials including black plastic sheets, pieces of cloth as seen in the foreground of the photo (R2). • Unsanitary living conditions as seen from the litter strewn around the slums that paved their walkways. • Lacks access to basic amenities like water (woman carrying two pails of dirty water in the foreground) and electricity (another woman cooking over fire stove). • Relatively densely packed housing haphazardly built on slopes – slums looked very cramped, lacking in living space as seen in R2. 	
(c)	With reference to Resource 2 and your own knowledge, explain how the presence of slums can lead to Nairobi's being unsustainable in its urban development.	[6]
	<p><u>Indicative content</u></p> <p><i>*Classify in terms of economic, social and environmental urban sustainability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic unsustainability – eye-sore to potential investors, negatively affect city's image as one that is poorly unplanned and unable to offer a good environment for not only its urban dwellers but possibly also for facilitating economic operations. This may not bode well for Nairobi when investors are deterred from investing in the city, negatively affecting its economic sustainable development. • Social unsustainability – R2 shows lack of access to clean water as slum dwellers even need to draw filthy water from nearby dam. This, together with air pollution from trains, can negatively affect the health of the slum dwellers, causing them to 	

	<p>fall ill easily as they fall prey to water-borne diseases such as cholera and dysentery, as well as long term chronic respiratory diseases such as lung cancer respectively. Unsanitary living conditions with litter/waste strewn along the alleys or walkways in R2 also reflects the high possibility of the slum area being a breeding ground for bacteria and the cramped living space facilitates the ease in spread of diseases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental unsustainability – lack of proper waste disposal methods can lead to environmental unsustainability in terms of not only land pollution but also water pollution i.e. when water comes into contact with decomposed wastes piled up, leaching process occurs and this will result in the contamination of water sources. 	
(d)	Suggest some positive effects of slum dwellings.	[4]
	<p>Indicative content</p> <p>Social – R3 indicates that Nairobi has rapidly expanding populations – slum dwellings could offer some form of shelter for the poor, offering a way for the city to cope with its housing shortages for its growing population.</p> <p>Economic – slum dwellings can be a ‘city attraction’ for some tourists who may prefer the less travelled roads, and the railway passing by such slum dwellings can be an informal way in which the slum dwellers can earn a living from tourism.</p>	
(e)	Using Resource 3, explain how creating public spaces can make the city of Nairobi’s low-income neighbourhoods more sustainable.	[6]
	<p>Indicative content</p> <p>Economic – offers possible employment to youths in designing and transforming the neighbourhood’s public spaces, and at the same time, aid in developing their planning and leadership skills, enabling them to transfer these skills in workforce, possibly generating higher income. At the same time, the low-income group can also rent these public spaces for revenue-generating events or the city can tap on revenue-generating carparks for income that can be channelled towards improving the lives of these low-income group..</p> <p>Social – community-based activity involving public participation gives people a sense of belonging and ownership. This may help to ensure that the neighbourhood is well-maintained. The transformed public spaces in the neighbourhoods can offer an avenue where self-help groups, families or friends can meet up to interact, promoting cohesion in the community.</p> <p>Social - Children can play safely in these public spaces like parks, unlike in R2, where railways can be a safety hazard to children.</p> <p>Environmental – spaces are cleared of dumped wastes which will help to reduce the negative impacts such as contamination of water sources due to leaching process from such wastes that were previously dumped carelessly in the slum environment.</p>	

	Cluster 1: Liveable Cities for the Elderly	
2(a)	Describe the changes in Tokyo's populations of the two age groups from 2000 to 2060 as shown in Resource 4.	[4]
	<p>Generally,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokyo's population aged 65 or older shows a significant increase of more than double in population numbers from about 1.8 million in year 2000 to a projected number of 4 million in year 2060. • whereas its population aged 64 or younger experiences a relatively significant decline of nearly half in population numbers from 10.2 million in year 2000 to a projected number of 6.2 million in year 2060. <p><u>Specifics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokyo's population aged 65 or older increased steadily from 1.8 million in year 2000 and projected to peak at 4.4 million in year 2050, remaining at the same number for the next 5 years before declining marginally by 0.4 million to 4 million in year 2060. • On the other hand, its population aged 64 or younger increased marginally from 10.2 million in year 2000 to peak at about 10.6 million in 2010 before declining marginally to about 10 million in 2025. There was a more rapid rate of decline in this population numbers since then and is projected to decrease by almost 40% to 6.4 million in 2060. 	
(b)	Account for the changes in Tokyo's population distribution from 2000 to 2060 shown in Resource 4.	[4]
	<p>R4 shows that Tokyo's elderly population aged 65 and older has been increasing while those aged 64 and younger has been decreasing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increasing proportion of people aged 65 and older can be attributed to the increase in life expectancy and lower mortality rate, including infant mortality rate. This is due to better access to food and nutrition, quality medical care and technology as well as better living conditions in the city such as proper hygiene and sanitation that have all prolonged the life span of its population. In the city with urban modern amenities and high quality of life, more living in Tokyo are able to meet their basic needs with less vulnerability to the spread of diseases. • The decreasing proportion of population aged 64 and younger can be attributed to the decline in fertility rate. DINKS (couples with dual income and no kids) in urban cities have urban mindsets and tend to prioritise career goals over setting up families, resulting in delay in marriage or preference to have nuclear families as they view children as financial burden. In addition, the result of feminisation of labour also saw women pursuing their education and career goals and thus delaying their marriage, resulting in shorter childbearing years. All these 	

	contributed to Tokyo's low fertility rate, and hence there are fewer younger people replacing the older population.	
(c)	With reference to Resource 5, explain possible challenges that Tokyo would face in ensuring the well-being of its growing elderly population.	[4]
	<p>Economic well-being – R5 shows rising percentage of elderly population from 5.7% in 1960 that has more than tripled to 17.3% in year 2000. Tokyo may face economic challenge in terms of increasing expenditure to be incurred in the provision of adequate long-term care insurance plans and healthcare, as well as building sufficient facilities such as intensive care homes to look after its elderly population. Besides this, the city may also need to employ more professional doctors and nurses to ensure that the number of unattended elderly deaths do not continue to rise.</p> <p>Social well-being – R5 shows rising number of unattended elderly deaths in 23 hospital wards that almost doubled from 1450 in year 2003 to 2875 ten years later. This is indicative that the city is unable to offer sufficient or professional healthcare workers to ensure the elderly patients in hospitals are well-monitored in terms of their medical or palliative needs. In addition, it may also suggest that these elderly patients may not have family members or caregivers to visit them regular basis, and thus their deteriorating conditions may have gone undetected. This implies that Tokyo may face a social challenge in ensuring the well-being of its elderly even after they are discharged as they have no dependants to rely on or to care for them.</p>	
(d)	Referring to Resource 5 and your own knowledge, suggest what Tokyo can do to ensure the well-being of its elderly.	[4]
	<p>Social – R5: Community programmes aimed to foster family ties, close bonding amongst family members and their peers, instil filial piety/family values among its community → more people involved in looking after the elderly, rather than being heavily dependent on the city to do so.</p> <p>Socio-Economic - Possibly create more jobs that will allow the elderly to be gainfully employed in their old age → also can help to address their socio-emotional well-being in terms of allowing them to be meaningfully engaged at their workplace, where they can not only be more financially independent but also can interact with others at the workplace.</p> <p>Psychological – (own knowledge) Studies have shown that elderly meaningfully engaged at workplace will not only be more physically healthy but also helps in alleviating their sense of loneliness and not be bored with inactivity at home.</p>	
(e)	With reference to Resource 6 and your own knowledge, suggest how Sun City in Yokohama can impact on the well-being of seniors living there.	[7]
	Economic (negative impact): R6 highlighted that it is a private development project and given its well-built infrastructures, including provision of skilled nursing facility, the monthly rent to stay in such a premise may be quite high and probably beyond the means of those with low income. (own knowledge)	

	<p>Social (positive impact): R6 shows sprawling compound and large community spaces like communal dining hall that can foster much social interactions where activities can be carried out, allowing elderly to build good relationships with their peers. Prompt and timely medical aid or advice can easily be rendered from the close proximity to medical team located within the same compound.</p> <p>Psychological (positive impact): R6 natural scenic landscape can help to destress and improve the psychological well-being of seniors. Given that it is community-based living, there will some form of interactions with other elderly seniors that may help to alleviate an elderly's sense of loneliness.</p> <p>Psychological (negative impact): (own knowledge) the community-based retirement homes may seem like a haven in terms of offering modern, well-built physical infrastructures but these alone cannot make up for the sense of emptiness that elderly may face, even with the company of their peers and medical workers in the homes.</p>	
--	---	--

Cluster 1: Sustainable Cities

3	Evaluate the success of urban reimagining strategies used to improve the quality of city living for urban dwellers.	[13]
	<p><u>Indicative content</u> <i>(Level Marked)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer should clearly make a stand on the extent to which candidates agree or disagree with the statement, using examples of different cities to highlight the advantages and disadvantages of the different urban re-imaging strategies that include mega events such as Olympics, flagship development project, 24-hours cities, heritage & cultural tourism. • Include links to how re-imaging strategies are effective in projecting a better image of the inner city to attract investment back so as to reverse the negative effects of inner city decline e.g. unemployment, deteriorating social (drugs, crime) and environmental (road congestion and pollution) conditions. • A higher-level response would recognise that re-imaging strategies are merely marketing strategies that change the physical landscapes via redevelopment but often, they do not solve root problems of inner city decline of social inequality and economic restructuring. 	
4	“The key to effectively manage waste in cities is to incinerate them.” Evaluate this statement.	[13]
	<p><u>Indicative content</u></p> <p>Non-hazardous solid waste management has become one of the major environmental issues facing cities today. As urban populations increase, so too, has the amount of waste generated. The essay response should aim to fully evaluate the effectiveness of incinerating as a waste management strategy compared to the others. Concepts of ‘not-in-my-backyard syndrome’, ‘social and environmental injustice’, ‘Extended producer responsibility policies’, as well as ‘Reduce, Reuse and Recycle’ and the need to reduce waste generation can be discussed, where applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer should clearly make a stand on the extent to which candidates agree or disagree with the statement, using examples of cities at different levels of development to analyse the effectiveness of incinerations strategies. • A higher-level response would make links to the extent on how cities by incinerating waste can aid them in achieving sustainability (long term feasibility, achieving a balance between social, economic and environmental aspects etc) It may also point out the challenges faced as cities at different levels of development are likely to face differing issues/concerns. 	

Level Marking Rubrics for Essays

Generic Level Descriptors for H1 Essays		
Level	Marks	Descriptors
4	11–13	Evaluation is analytical and coherent. Response is mostly well-supported by relevant material, including the appropriate use of examples. Response features accurate geographical knowledge and reflects adequate understanding of the subject content relevant to the question.
3	8–10	Evaluation is broadly analytical and generally coherent. Response is moderately well-supported by relevant material, including some appropriate use of examples. Response features accurate geographical knowledge and reflects adequate understanding of the subject content relevant to the question.
2	5–7	Response is largely descriptive with limited analysis and evaluation. Response is partly coherent and may lack clarity in parts. Response is poorly supported by relevant materials, including the limited use of examples. Response features inaccurate geographical knowledge and poor understanding of the subject content relevant to the question.
1	1–4	Response is descriptive with no analysis or evaluation. Response is fragmented and lacks clarity. Response consists of unsupported assertions. Response features largely inaccurate geographical knowledge and a lack of understanding of the subject content relevant to the question.
0	0	No creditworthy response

Note:

- Assessment using generic level descriptors involves qualitative rather than quantitative evaluation. Judgements on the level to be awarded to an answer will be based on the principle of 'best fit' determined by the descriptors within each level.
- As a general guideline, responses deemed to have fulfilled all the descriptors within a level may be awarded the top mark in that level.