



PRUEBA COMÚN

Inglés

Are cities sustainable?

For the first time in human history most people in the world live in cities. Can we now make these cities green? Modern cities are unsustainable: they consume 75% of the world's resources and produce most of its waste. To be sustainable they would have to make sure they did not damage the ecology for future generations and did not overexploit or pollute the area around them. Meanwhile, the percentage of people living in cities is growing. In 1900, just 15% of the world's people were urban. Today it's approximately 50%, and by 2025 it will probably be at least 60%. So what should we do? Abandon cities? Go back to the country?

I don't think so. Cities themselves hold the solution and human density may present the greatest opportunity for a greener future. The environmental benefits of compact cities are clear: housing, workplaces and shops are either mixed or closed to each other. If you can walk or cycle around your city, that reduces the need for cars and buses. By using cheap, efficient and clean public transport, the compact city could be almost car-free. Compact cities use half as much energy and produce half as much air-pollution per capita as sprawling cities¹, because buildings are more economic to heat when they are closed together. Health, emergency, education and other services are also cheaper to deliver.

1. Reading comprehension. Choose the correct answer. Only one answer is correct (50%)

1. From the information in the text...

- A. Less than half of the world's population lives nowadays in cities.
- B. Around half of the world's population lives nowadays in cities.
- C. More than half of the world's population lives nowadays in cities.

2. According to the text...

- A. Modern cities cannot continue functioning as they are just now.
- B. Modern cities can keep their growing model in the future.
- C. Modern cities do not damage the environment considerably.

3. Choose the correct answer.

- A. The solution for the problem of the cities' growth is to go back to the country.
- B. Compact cities cannot offer any solution to the problem of pollution.
- C. The answer to the cities' problems may be found in compact cities.

4. Choose the correct answer.

¹ *Sprawling cities*: ciudades "desparramadas", esto es, con un gran centro de negocios y multitud de zonas residenciales periféricas, donde se han de recorrer largas distancias para desplazarse.

- A. Compact cities are as polluting and produce as much waste as sprawling cities.
- B. Compact cities are much more energy-efficient and much less polluting than sprawling cities.
- C. In compact cities you must use your own car.

5. Can citizens help make their city more sustainable?
- A. Yes, by walking, cycling and taking buses.
 - B. No, there's nothing they can do.
 - C. Yes, especially if they live in a sprawling city.

II. Writing. Read the following statement and write a commentary of approximately 50 words, using your own expressions (25%).

The text foresees a more sustainable future for compact cities, and it gives practical examples. Say if you agree/disagree with it and give reasons/examples to justify your opinion.

III. Grammar and use of English. Answer the following questions (25%)

1. Vocabulary. Match the words in A with their meaning in B.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 are unsustainable 2 overexploit 3 waste (noun) 4 per capita | <p>B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a use too much, usually with a negative effect b for each person c cannot continue as they are d what remains after using, and is of no use |
|---|---|

2. Complete the conditional sentences with an adequate verbal tense:

- 2.1. If people walked or cycled around the city, that _____ (reduce) the need for cars.
- 2.2. If cities _____ (continue) growing at such speed, they _____ (cause) more waste and pollution.
- 2.3. If sprawling cities had never been built, nowadays there _____ (be) so many traffic problems.

3. Rewrite the following sentences. The first part of each sentence is given.

- 3.1. Modern cities consume 75% of the world's resources.
75% _____
- 3.2. The percentage of people living in cities was 15% in 1900. Today it's 50%.
Today, the percentage of people living in cities is _____
- 3.3. Should we abandon cities and go back to the country?
The author of the text asks _____

4. Complete with an appropriate word:

- 4.1. The world's population has increased steadily _____ 1990.

4.2. The world's population has increased steadily _____ a century.

4.3. Many ecological problems could be solved _____ urging governments to take measures.