

**Gr 12 Geography**  
**SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY**  
**URBAN SETTLEMENT ISSUES**

**7.1 Recent urbanisation patterns in South-Africa.**

- ✓ Change in demographic profile of SA cities.
- ✓ Cities attract high numbers of youth – largest proportion of formal and informal labour market.
- ✓ Represent skilled workers, HOWEVER – biggest number of unskilled, economically inactive and in search of employment.
- ✓ Rural areas: former homelands, limited economic activities – characterized by outward migration and decline in young population.
  
- ✓ CBD's in SA have changed with new shopping centres and altered transport projects, e.g Gautrain and Bus Rapid Transport.
- ✓ CBD's changed because of decline in people visiting the city centre.
- ✓ Shops moved to suburban shopping centres.
- ✓ People avoid pollution and traffic congestion.
  
- ✓ Also competition for land on rural-urban fringe:
  - Less expensive
  - Less traffic congestion
  - Less air pollution
  - Environment is unspoilt
  
- ✓ Cities = more sustainable with aim of remaining healthy for a longer period of time.
- ✓ Want to improve quality of life of all their people by preventing pollution, saving energy, reducing waste, creating eco-friendly buildings and promoting conservation.
  
- ✓ Recent change = growth of golf estates and security living – due to crime

**7.2 Urban issues related to rapid urbanisation: lack of planning, housing shortage, overcrowding, traffic congestion and problems with service provision**

URBAN ISSUES	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
<p><b>Lack of planning:</b>            Due to rapid urbanization – no proper planned developments:            Informal settlements growing            Extensions to buildings            Housing alongside industry            Inadequate services like water, electricity and sewerage            Low-cost housing poorly built</p>	<p>Government and municipality need to allocate funding for new developments and infrastructure.            New urban developments must be managed and inspected professionally            Centres must be attractive            Control crime            Clean up streets and buildings            Improve parking and transportation            Green the CBD with plants and trees            Provide street entertainment            Water features</p>
<p><b>Housing shortages:</b>            Due to increased urban population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Insufficient space</li> <li>✓ Not enough adequate houses</li> <li>✓ Informal settlements</li> <li>✓ Shanty towns</li> <li>✓ Homelessness</li> <li>✓ Street children</li> <li>✓ Overcrowding in inner-city apartments</li> <li>✓ Inadequate services</li> <li>✓ Deterioration of living conditions</li> </ul>	<p>Regulate rural-urban migration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Government low-cost housing programmes</li> <li>✓ Formalize informal settlements</li> <li>✓ Rehabilitate street children</li> <li>✓ Establish shelters to take care of homeless people</li> <li>✓ Monitor and control absent landlords who exploit tenants in inner-city high-rise blocks</li> </ul>
<p><b>Overcrowding:</b>            Cities = crowded with high population densities            Slums develop            Schools, hospitals and other public services can be oversubscribed            Shortage of office space for businesses            High rents</p>	<p>Provide sufficient housing            Regulate number of people per room/apartment            Stimulate growth in nearby smaller towns to encourage people to live there            Build more schools and hospitals</p>
<p><b>Traffic congestion:</b>            To many vehicles            Congested roads            Time- and fuel-consuming traffic jams            Delays            Anger and frustration            Shortage of parking            Reduced accessibility to CBD</p>	<p>Improve public transport            Ban or tax private cars in CBD            Build more high-rise inner-city parking garages            Park-and-ride systems            Flexitime            Better use of one-way streets in and out of CBD at rush hours            Bus and taxi lines            Lift clubs</p>
<p><b>Problems with service provision:</b>            Growing cities demand and require services like water, electricity,</p>	<p>Maintained infrastructure continually            New power stations</p>

sewerage, refuse removal – all supported by appropriate infrastructure, some infrastructure in cities are old and not well maintained – leads to problems. Service providers cannot meet growing demand: power and water cuts, cable theft = power cuts and waste of funds

Sewerage works and water supplies need to be planned  
Recycle water  
Environmentally friendly energy sources, e.g solar and water power.

## 7.3 The growth of informal settlements and associated issues

### What is an informal settlement?

*Unplanned residential area of self-built dwellings made of reclaimed, found and bought material (e.g wood, iron or plastic) constructed on land to which the occupants normally do not have any legal claim.*

Also known as:

- ✓ Slums
- ✓ Shanty towns
- ✓ Squatter camps

Not conform to building, safety and health regulations.

Most informal settlements lack basic services like water, electricity and sanitation.



## **ISSUES RESIDENTS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS FACE:**

- ✓ Dwellings are exposed to extreme weather: extremely warm in summer and freezing cold in winter. Roofs leak during rain.
- ✓ If built in low lying areas – where drainage is poor, vulnerable to flooding and damp. Dwellings close to rivers wash away or are flooded.
- ✓ Fires = regular caused by candles, paraffin stoves and open fires – spread quickly because houses are built close together.
- ✓ Services are lacking, e.g toilets, water taps is far away, illegal electricity connections = dangerous, causing injuries and fires.
- ✓ Unhealthy and unhygienic living conditions – waterborne diseases like diarrhea and cholera can occur.
- ✓ Residents are unemployed and poor.

## **7.4 How selected urban areas in South-Africa are managing urban challenges, handling environmental, economic, and social justice concerns.**

Strategies to address issues relating to informal settlements

- Building of low cost housing by government
- Infrastructure development
- Improved service delivery
- Skills development
- Social support programs
- Poverty, child and old age grants

### **7.4.1 Environmental injustices**

- ✓ Air pollution – due to industries, motor vehicles and open fires.
- ✓ Noise pollution – industries and motor vehicles
- ✓ Destruction of ecosystems – due to water pollution and urban sprawl

### **7.4.2 Economic injustices**

- ✓ Poverty – due to unemployment and lack of skills
- ✓ Poor public transport systems – poor planning and competition

### **7.4.3 Social injustices**

- ✓ Unequal access to services – poor service delivery
- ✓ Unequal access to resources – rural urban and rich poor disparities.

## WORKSHEET 8:

### QUESTION 1:

Refer to the newspaper extract in the **FIGURE** below on urban problems and answer the questions that follow.

#### FIGURE URBAN PROBLEMS

**JOHANNESBURG BURSTING AT THE SEAMS**

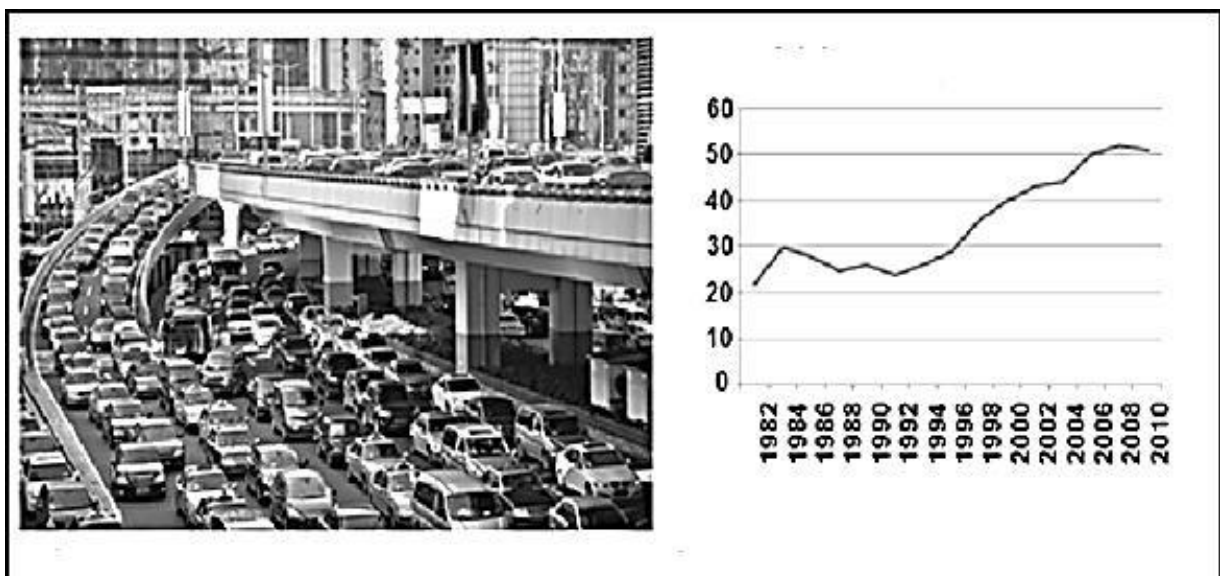
Johannesburg is in the midst of urban renewal. An amount of R2 billion has been allocated to get rid of the rot and grime in the inner city. Currently the inner city is the main entrance point for immigrants, with more than 200 000 now living there. A task team will look at rehabilitating buildings, waste management and by-law enforcement. Provision has also been made for inner city 'green lungs'.

[Adapted from an article by David Jackson]

- 1.1 Give a phrase from the extract that explains the meaning of urban renewal. (1 x 1) (1)
- 1.2 With reference to the newspaper extract, explain why the inner city of Johannesburg has become overcrowded. (2 x 2) (4)
- 1.2 Suggest TWO reasons why the provision and the quality of services to the inner city of Johannesburg is steadily declining. (2 x 2) (4)
- 1.4 What do the 'green lungs' in the extract refer to? (1 x 2) (2)
- 1.5 Suggest TWO advantages of 'green lungs' in a city. (2 x 2) (4)

### QUESTION 2:

Refer to the following **FIGURE**, showing traffic congestion, and answer the questions that follow.



- |     |   |             |
|-----|---|-------------|
| 2.1 | Define the term traffic congestion.   | (1 x 1) (1) |
| 2.2 | State ONE negative effect of traffic congestion on the physical environment.                                    | (1 x 1) (1) |
| 2.3 | What is the trend shown by the graph from 1982 to 2010 with regard to the hours of delay per commuter per year? | (1 x 2) (2) |
| 2.4 | Give a possible reason for your answer to QUESTION 2.3  | (1 x 2) (2) |
| 2.5 | Describe TWO negative effects that this delay may have on commuters.  | (2 x 2) (4) |
| 2.6 | Suggest TWO possible ways in which traffic congestion in urban areas can be reduced.                            | (2 x 2) (4) |
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