

a-level exam questions & answers: contemporary urban environments (section c) > mark scheme | 20-mark question #4

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Q.:	Sp. Ref.:	Information For Markers:	B'down:	Marks:
1)	3.2.3.1 & 3.2.3.6 	<p>With reference to two contrasting urban areas, assess the role played by the process of suburbanisation in creating patterns of economic and social wellbeing.</p> <p>AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of the patterns of economic and social-wellbeing in contrasting urban areas. Knowledge and understanding of the process of suburbanisation.</p> <p>AO2 – Application of knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the extent to which suburbanisation is responsible for patterns of economic and social-wellbeing in two contrasting locations.</p> <p>Notes for answers The question links various aspects of the Contemporary urban environments section of the specification, specifically suburbanisation and the section requiring the study of two contrasting urban areas. The contrasting areas could be different parts of the same urban area. They may consider that suburbanisation has had no effect in their urban areas and may suggest that other factors have created patterns of economic and social well-being. This is a legitimate response as long as they explain the absence of suburbanisation as a factor.</p> <p>AO1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the key idea of suburbanisation should be expected. Its role as a process of urbanisation over time. Suburbanisation refers to the movement and outward growth of people, goods and services. • Knowledge and understanding of the generic impacts of suburbanisation and other processes of urbanisation such as counter-urbanisation and urban resurgence. For example, suburbanisation can result in urban sprawl, causing the loss of rural habitats. Traffic congestion becomes a problem due to increased levels of commuting. Retail parks built on the edge of urban areas create employment in low-skilled jobs. • Knowledge of patterns of economic and social well-being in two contrasting locations. Highest levels of wealth in London occur in inner boroughs in the west such as Kensington, whereas low levels of economic well-being found in inner boroughs in the east such as Tower Hamlets. In Nairobi the lowest levels of economic well-being are found on the outskirts some 30 km from the centre and in Kibera a large slum. However, it much 	AO1=10 AO2=10	20

more mixed as Kibera sits next to the university and a large golf-course.

- The causes of patterns of social well-being and economic well-being in the two locations without reference to suburbanisation. In London, Notting Hill has high levels of economic well-being due to gentrification and land-use with large Victorian villas that frequently sell for more than £10 million. In Mumbai, Dharavi has low levels of social wellbeing as people live in slums next to the railway land as this is the only land they can find.

AO2

- Assessment of the link between suburbanisation and economic and social well-being. For example suburbanisation has resulted in the development of retail and science parks on the edge of cities increasing levels of economic well-being in the suburbs. Social wellbeing has also improved due to increased levels of employment for those living in the suburb, reducing traffic congestion in the inner city.
- Suburbanisation can also cause social well-being to decline in the suburbs due to urban sprawl, reducing access to green space.
- Evaluation of the impact of suburbanisation on the inner-city for example, dead-heart syndrome and resulting inner-city decline, socially and economically. This is also true of CBD, for example in building out-of-town retail parks such as Cribbs Causeway had a detrimental effect on Broadmead in Bristol.
- Evaluation of the impact of suburbanisation in the two contrasting locations. For example, suburbanisation in Los Angeles has resulted in poor levels of social well-being in inner city areas such as South Central have led to riots, as those with limited choice are left behind creating social segregation. However, in Sao Paulo, higher levels of social well-being are seen in the centre as suburbanisation is less about choice as people locate slums in the suburbs where there is space and a long way from the CBD.
- The extent to which suburbanisation is responsible for patterns of social and economic well-being will very much depend on the two urban areas studied and this should be considered.
- The extent to which other factors are responsible for patterns of social and economic well-being may be considered, for example, deindustrialisation may be a more important factor. They could also consider land-use as playing a vital role.
- They may consider temporal change in that whilst suburbanisation has had an impact, this impact is now lessening due to regeneration. This will very much depend on the urban areas studied.
- They may also consider alternative futures. In Mumbai for example, suburbanisation has caused land prices to rise in Dharavi as wealthy houses have been built around

		<p>it. This has resulted in the plan for Dharavi to be redeveloped – they may consider what effect this may have on future social and economic well-being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall judgement of the extent to which suburbanisation creates patterns of economic and social well-being should be addressed as a final conclusion. Any conclusion is valid as long as it supports the body of the essay 		
Credit any other valid approach				

Examiner Marking Level Criteria:

Level/Mark Range	Criteria/Descriptor
<p>TOP LEVEL 4 (16-20 marks – 80+% - typically an A* answer)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed evaluative conclusion that is rational and firmly based on knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question. Interpretations are comprehensive, sound and coherent (AO2). Detailed, coherent and relevant analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding throughout (AO2). Full evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2). Detailed, highly relevant and appropriate knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments used throughout (AO1). Full and accurate knowledge and understanding of key concepts, processes and interactions and change throughout (AO1).
<p>HIGH LEVEL 3 (11-15 marks – 55-75% - B to A grade answer)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear evaluative conclusion that is based on knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question. Interpretations are generally clear and support the response in most aspects (AO2). Generally clear, coherent and relevant analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding (AO2). Generally clear evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2). Generally clear and relevant knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments (AO1). Generally clear and accurate knowledge and understanding of key concepts, processes and interactions and change (AO1)
<p>LOWER LEVEL 2 (6-10 marks – 30-50% - D-C grade answer)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some sense of an evaluative conclusion partially based upon knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question (AO2). Interpretations are partial but do support the response in places. Some partially relevant analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding (AO2). Some evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2). Some relevant knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments which is partially relevant (AO1).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some knowledge and understanding of key concepts, processes and interactions and change. There may be a few inaccuracies (AO1).
<p>LOW LEVEL 1 (1-5 marks) - <25% - E or below answer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very limited and/or unsupported evaluative conclusion that is loosely based upon knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question (AO2). Interpretation is basic. • Very limited analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding. This lacks clarity and coherence (AO2). • Very limited and rarely logical evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2). • Very limited relevant knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments (AO1). • Isolated knowledge and understanding of key concepts, processes and interactions and change. There may be a number of inaccuracies (AO1)
<p>LEVEL 0 (0 marks) – no answer provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing worthy of credit (something has gone ridiculously wrong if you're here!)