

Urban Planning Foundations

Urban Planning · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with the implementation of the 'Hippodamian plan,' characterized by a grid layout of streets?

- A) The Egyptians
- B) The Ancient Greeks
- C) The Aztecs
- D) The Mayans

2. What is the primary purpose of 'zoning' in urban planning?

- A) To increase municipal tax revenue
- B) To define permissible uses for land and building structures
- C) To identify areas for historical preservation only
- D) To determine the demographics of residential neighborhoods

3. The 'Garden City' movement, which advocated for self-contained communities surrounded by greenbelts, was initiated by which planner?

- A) Le Corbusier
- B) Ebenezer Howard
- C) Jane Jacobs
- D) Daniel Burnham

4. In urban transport planning, what does the acronym TOD stand for?

- A) Transit-Oriented Development
- B) Total Occupancy Density
- C) Traffic Optimization Design
- D) Transport Operations Department

5. Which architectural movement, prominent in the mid-20th century, favored functionalism and geometric forms such as 'The Radiant City'?

- A) Art Deco
- B) Modernism
- C) Neo-Classicism
- D) Gothic Revival

6. What is the 'Urban Heat Island' effect primarily caused by?

- A) Increased volcanic activity near cities
- B) The absorption of heat by concrete, asphalt, and building materials
- C) Higher levels of precipitation in urban centers
- D) The use of geothermal heating in high-rises

7. In the context of urban infrastructure, what is 'brownfield' land?

- A) Agricultural land used for organic farming
- B) Land previously used for industrial purposes that may be contaminated
- C) Public parks managed by municipal councils
- D) Unused land designated for future forest growth

8. The concept of the '15-minute city,' popularized by Carlos Moreno, aims to ensure that residents can reach essential services within a 15-minute walk or cycle. This model focuses on which primary goal?

- A) Increasing high-speed rail connectivity
- B) Reducing dependency on private motor vehicles
- C) Expanding city borders into rural land
- D) Mandating underground living spaces

9. What is the 'Floor Area Ratio' (FAR) used to determine in city building codes?

- A) The total cost of construction materials
- B) The proportion of land occupied by buildings versus open space
- C) The density and total bulk of a building on a lot
- D) The maximum height of a skyscraper

10. Which Australian city is famous for its 'Hoddle Grid,' laid out in 1837?

- A) Sydney
- B) Melbourne
- C) Brisbane
- D) Perth

11. What do 'utility easements' grant to service providers?

- A) The right to tax residential properties
- B) The legal right to access private property to maintain infrastructure
- C) The authority to sell residential land to developers
- D) The power to change zoning laws in a specific district

12. What is the main function of 'urban growth boundaries' (UGBs)?

- A) To prevent urban sprawl by limiting land development to designated areas
- B) To define the international borders of a city
- C) To identify areas where no buildings are allowed
- D) To mandate the construction of high-density housing

13. Which of these is a key component of 'New Urbanism'?

- A) Prioritizing suburban shopping malls
- B) Focusing on human-scaled, walkable neighborhoods
- C) Encouraging the expansion of multi-lane highways
- D) Reducing the amount of green space to increase housing

14. What does 'mixed-use development' refer to?

- A) Combining residential, commercial, and cultural functions in one building or area
- B) Sharing public schools between two different cities
- C) Allowing both public and private transport on the same lane
- D) Building skyscrapers next to single-story cottages

15. In urban geography, what is 'gentrification'?

- A) The process of building new cities in rural areas
- B) The displacement of lower-income residents by wealthier ones following property redevelopment
- C) The abandonment of urban centers for rural living
- D) The integration of public transport into existing suburbs

16. Which term describes the pattern of development characterized by low-density, car-dependent residential expansion?

- A) Urban Sprawl
- B) Infill Development
- C) Transit-Oriented Development
- D) Centralized Planning

17. What is the primary role of 'infrastructure' in urban planning?

- A) To regulate the personal behavior of citizens
- B) To provide the physical and organizational structures required for the city to operate
- C) To restrict the population growth of a city
- D) To choose the architectural style of all new homes

18. What is 'infill development'?

- A) Developing vacant or underutilized land within existing urban areas
- B) Building new cities on reclaimed coastal land
- C) Expanding the city outward into forests
- D) Replacing historic buildings with modern parks

19. Which type of urban planning focuses on the design of the 'public realm' including streets, plazas, and parks?

- A) Environmental Engineering
- B) Urban Design
- C) Economic Forecasting
- D) Building Construction

20. What is a 'master plan' in urban planning?

- A) A temporary sketch for a single building
- B) A dynamic long-term planning document that provides a layout for future growth
- C) A legal document that only applies to residential properties
- D) A history book documenting the city's past construction