

Level 5

Cities

More people than ever before now choose to live in cities. Just over half of the world's population live in urban areas. By 2050, that figure is predicted to jump to almost 70 percent. 100 years ago, more people lived in the country than in the city. Why do so many people nowadays choose to live in cities?

For many, it is simply the lack of employment opportunities in the country, or rural areas. There are many more jobs in the city. This wasn't always the case. In the 1700s, the Industrial Revolution brought an end to many agricultural jobs and introduced many new jobs based around manufacturing goods in factories. Because the manufacturing factories were all located in cities, many people were forced to leave the country for the city. To this day, jobs in cities tend to be better paying. People believe that a higher paying job will lead to a higher standard of living. Farming jobs are often poorly paid for the long hours worked.

Another reason people continue to choose city life over country life is better access to basic services such as hospitals and schools. People living in the rural areas have access to education, however the choices are much greater for people living in cities due to the larger population. As a result, parents can choose the right school for their child. This is particularly important for older students who want to attend subject-specific schools or universities. The closest doctor in rural areas may be an hour's drive away, or even more. The proximity to health care is a convenience many people won't do without. Hospitals in the city look after a much larger number of people than hospitals in urban areas, and therefore city hospitals are also better resourced. This means they often have technology that smaller rural hospitals do not have.

City life is fast paced and for many, exciting. People can easily visit museums, theme parks, galleries, attend sporting matches, see their favourite band play, or have a night at the theatre. These facilities appeal to many people, therefore drawing them away from rural areas and into cities.

Despite these reasons, there are still many people who choose not to live in cities.



Task A: Comprehension

1. What occurred during the 1700s that caused many people to move to cities?

2. Why might having a greater choice of schools be particularly important for older students?

3. What does it mean if a hospital is better 'resourced'? Give an example.

4. Which word from the text means 'closeness'?

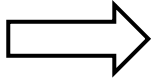
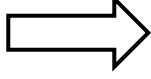
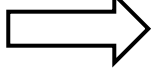
5. Give 3 reasons many people prefer living in cities.

6. Why do you think some people choose not to live in cities?

7. Would you prefer to live in a city or in the country? Explain.

Task B: Language and Grammar

1. This text mentions a number of **cause and effect** relationships. Show 3 of them below.

Cause		Effect
Cause		Effect
Cause		Effect

2. **Synonyms** are words that have a similar meaning. Eg. 'favourite' and 'preferred'.
Search the text for **synonyms** of the following words:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| a. farming- _____ | b. quality- _____ |
| c. benefit- _____ | d. required- _____ |

Task C: Challenge

Is country or city life better? Write a persuasive text arguing your point of view.