

Material Covered:

Urban Studies looks at the historical development of cities, from the earliest known example to the latest megacities. Along the way, we will look at the geographic, economic, political and social factors that affect urban development, the factors that must be taken into account when making urban and regional planning decisions, city governance and how it affects urban quality of life, and 21st Century urbanization issues.

Your course is comprised of the following five topics:

- City Growth and Decline
- City Planning
- City Governance
- Megacities
- Urbanization Issues

Textbooks:

This course does not use any traditional textbooks. All resources used are found online. URLs have been shortened for easy typing.

Workbooks, Inquiries, and Tests:

Each unit introduces the topic with a workbook to help you explore and familiarize yourself with the material. Included in each workbook are two assignments. In addition, to allow you to demonstrate deeper understanding, each unit also has an inquiry project which you pick from a list of choices (or negotiate your own topic with your teacher. And finally, each unit culminates in a unit test.

Grading:

The workbooks you complete for each unit comprise 25% of your mark for the course. Unit inquiries are worth 45% of your mark, and Unit Tests are worth 30%.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to explore the development and decline of cities, from the first identified urban centres of Mesopotamia to those of the 20th and 21st Centuries.

Key Concepts:

While completing this unit you will:

- Explain why and how humans began to amass and coexist in organized centres.
- Explain the impact of industrialization on urban centres.
- Compare and contrast early cities with modern cities.
- Begin to identify and assess the challenges presented by urbanization.

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 1 Worksheet and complete the work there.

- When you are ready, ask your teacher for both the Unit 1 test and the Unit 1 Inquiry Project. Remember, you must get 80% to pass, so studying hard is essential to do well.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to explore processes, strategies, and impacts of urban planning.

Key Concepts:

While completing this unit you will:

- Outline typical rules and practices of land-use in urban centres.
- Explain how rules and practices of land-use define and impact cities.
- Describe and assess the goals of urban planners
- Evaluate the most important considerations of city planners.
- Apply models and theories of city-building to hypothetical and existing cities in the world.
- Recognize patterns of historic and ongoing inequity that affect, or are represented by, division in urban centres.

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 2 Worksheet and complete the work there.

- When you are ready, ask your teacher for the Unit 2 test or inquiry project. Remember, you must get 80% to pass, so studying hard is essential to do well.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to explore the structures by which cities are governed, and how their governments manage the city's growth and problem-solving.

Key Concepts:

While completing this unit you will:

- Explain the most common organizational structures of municipal governments in North America, and specifically in B.C.
- Examine the powers and responsibilities that municipal governments have.
- Discuss how municipal governments can impact the growth and development of their cities.
- Compare and contrast the priorities of urban governments and the citizens who live in their neighbourhoods.

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 3 Worksheet and complete the work there.
- When you are ready, ask your teacher for the Unit 3 Test or inquiry project. Remember, you must get 80% to pass, so studying hard is essential to do well.

- The cumulative assessment for this theme is an inquiry project into a topic of your choosing. Ask your teacher for the Theme #1 Inquiry worksheet, then read and complete the work there.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to explore the phenomena of Megacities, their origins and future.

Key Concepts:

While completing this unit, you will:

- Explain the concept of the Megacity and the ways in which they are becoming bigger and more common.
- Identify and assess the special challenges presented by Megacities.
- Identify and assess unique positive features of, and opportunities presented by, Megacities.
- Compare and contrast successful and unsuccessful Megacities

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 4 worksheet and complete the work there.

- When you are ready, ask your teacher for the Unit 4 Test or inquiry project. Remember, you must get 80% to pass, so studying hard is essential to do well.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to take a closer look at the issues that are caused, or exacerbated, by urbanization.

Key Concepts:

While completing this unit, you will:

- Explain the impacts that cities can have on the environment, social-division, housing, and disease.
- Identify and assess solutions to the problems presented by increased urbanization.
- Examine the ways that historic and contemporary cities have caused, and attempted to remedy, specific problems.
- Consider the role/s a city could or should have in approaching social, environmental, economic, and/or health related issues among their citizens.

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 5 worksheet and complete the work there.
-
- When you are ready, ask your teacher for the Unit 5 Test or inquiry project. Remember, you must get 80% to pass, so studying hard is essential to do well.

Congratulations! You've finished Urban Studies 12!