

People and the environment

UNIT AIMS

TASK 1 Environmental vocabulary
Describing a trend over time
Time expressions

TASK 2 Vocabulary related to buildings
Stating opinions
Giving examples

Task 1 Describing a trend

1 Look at the pictures. Where would you prefer to live? Why?



2 What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in both places?

3 Match 1–5 with a–e to make collocations.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1 over | a generation |
| 2 urban | b areas |
| 3 conservation | c of houses |
| 4 elderly | d population |
| 5 construction | e growth |

4 Complete the sentences with the collocations in 3.

- In order to meet the demands of a growing population we need to increase the _____ so that people have homes.
- Higher population numbers in the _____, achieved through healthier living and better healthcare, have added to a general increase in population, putting further pressure on housing.
- If we develop more housing in cities, this could contribute to _____.
- However, this is preferable to building in _____, which has a negative effect on the environment.
- If the number of people continues to grow too fast, we will have a situation of _____.

5 Do you agree with the sentences in 4? Why/why not?

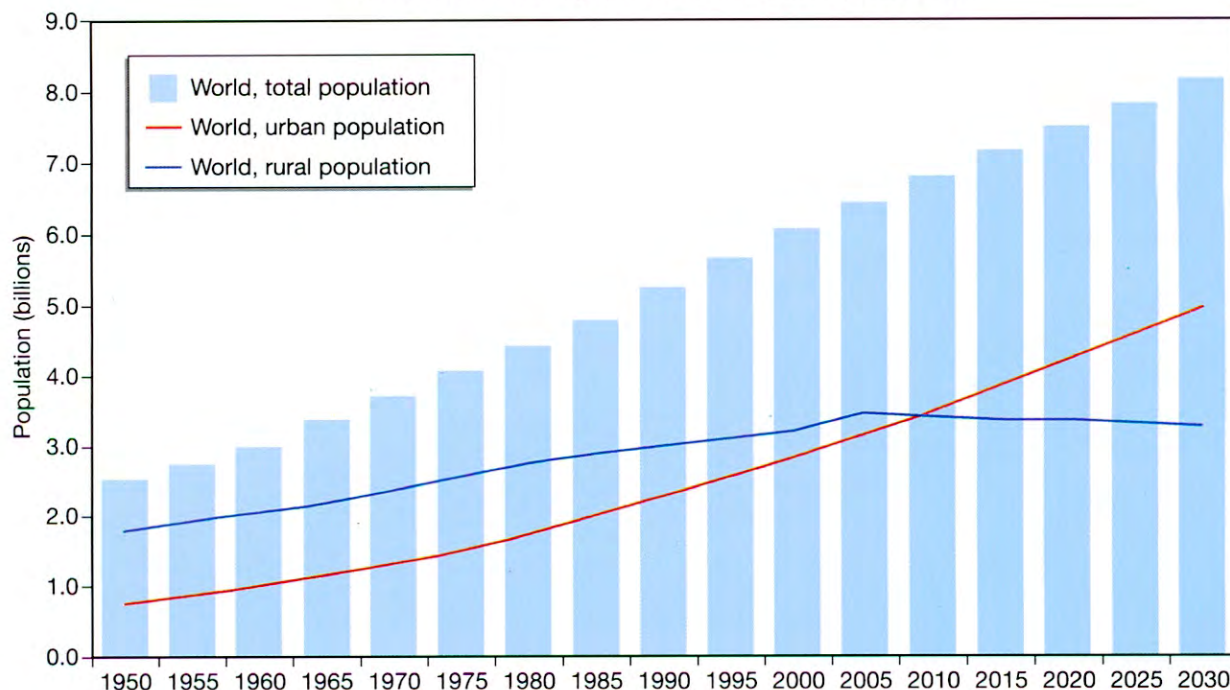
Technique

Record groups of vocabulary in topics when you note down new words. Add a note of any collocations and related prepositions. You should also record different forms of words (noun/adjective/verb forms, for example) at the same time as recording the 'key' word.

6 Look at the chart below, which shows changes in rural and urban populations in the world.

- 1 Draw a line to divide the diagram into three parts: the past, around the current period, the future.
- 2 What tenses do you need to use to describe each section?

The urban and rural population of the world, 1950–2030



7 Read the paragraph below and answer the questions.

- 1 What tense is used in the first sentence and why?
- 2 Underline the section that refers to the past and find the three verbs in the past simple tense.
- 3 Underline the section that refers to the current period. Which two tenses are used here? Why?
- 4 Underline the section which talks about the future. Which tenses are used here and why?

According to the chart, the urban population of the world has risen steadily since 1950. At that time it was at a level of just under 1 billion people and rose gradually until the year 2000 when the number of people living in cities was roughly double its previous level. It is still increasing now and has been growing more rapidly since 2005 when it overtook rural population levels. The numbers of city dwellers are predicted to rise further and it is projected that they will reach just under 5 billion by 2030.

- 8 Complete the table below with examples from the paragraph in 7 which relate to the times given.

Time expression	Tense	Example
since 1950		<i>The urban population of the world has risen steadily</i>
at that time		
the year 2000		
now		
since 2005		
by 2030		

- 9 Read the final sentence about the urban population again. Rewrite the sentence twice, replacing both underlined verb forms with the alternatives a and b. Use the passive when possible.

The numbers of city dwellers are predicted to rise further and it is projected that they will reach just under 5 billion by 2030.

- a likely to/expect
b set/forecast

- 10 Look at the information about the rural population in the chart in 6. Complete the text below with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

The rural population of the world ¹ _____ (follow) a very slight upward trend overall since 1950. It ² _____ (begin) at a level slightly below 2 billion and then ³ _____ (increase) marginally until it ⁴ _____ (reach) a peak in 2005. This ⁵ _____ (maintain) until 2010. Since then the number of people living in rural communities ⁶ _____ (fall) very slightly. It ⁷ _____ (predict) to fall slightly further and it ⁸ _____ (project) that the rural population ⁹ _____ (drop) further to a level of roughly 3 billion.

11 Match each time expression 1–12 with the tense(s) a–d often used with it.

- 1 since 1950
 - 2 during that period
 - 3 in the current period
 - 4 ... in 2005
 - 5 from 1950 to 1970
 - 6 from now until 2030
 - 7 currently
 - 8 in 5 years' time
 - 9 by 2050
 - 10 between now and 2045
 - 11 at the moment
 - 12 for the last month
- a** present simple/present continuous
b present perfect
c past simple/past continuous
d future forms

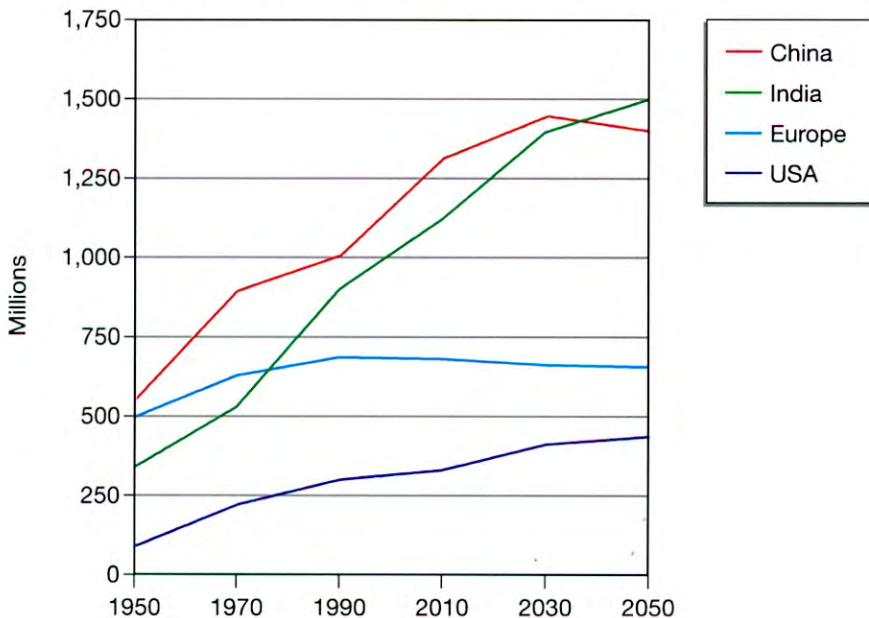
Technique

If the line graph covers a period of time, use your pencil to mark the change from one period to another and divide it into three sections (e.g. past years, the current year and future years). This will remind you to check that your use of tenses is appropriate and accurate.

12 Look at the graph, which shows the population in China, India, Europe and the USA. Write sentences describing 1–7.

- 1 the trend for all four countries between 1950 and 1960
- 2 the change for India and China up to 2010
- 3 the trend for the USA up to 2010
- 4 the trend for Europe up to 2010
- 5 the trend for the USA and Europe compared to China and India around the current time
- 6 the projected trend for China and India by 2050
- 7 the projected trend for Europe and the USA by 2050

Population growth and projections



Task 2 Stating opinions



1 Look at the pictures. Match the buildings a–d with the features 1–5. There may be more than one answer.

- 1 pillars or columns
- 2 beams
- 3 glass windows
- 4 a geometric design
- 5 many storeys

2 Do you like contemporary or traditional architecture? Why?

3 Look at the Task 2 question below. What type of essay is it?

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

It is more important to use the space in cities well than make them look beautiful. To what extent do you agree?

Write at least 250 words.

4 Look at the plan opposite. The key points 1–11 are listed but one supporting detail for each point is missing. Complete the plan with the correct details a–e.

- a e.g. younger people tend to want to live in city – work opportunities. But housing very expensive – not enough of it.
- b e.g. some companies spend money creating beautiful surroundings – improves productivity; many famous buildings used on tourist websites to attract interest.
- c e.g. megacities – Tokyo, Mexico City, Mumbai – huge. High population and larger areas covered.
- d e.g. roof-top gardens
- e e.g. in Dubai tallest building created

Introduction

- 1 Cities: have high density of buildings.
- 2 _____
- 3 I partly agree that space needs to be used well.

Reason 1 – agree because

- 4 Important to use space effectively – population of world increasing/more people need to live in cities
- 5 _____

Reason 2 – agree because

- 6 Design of high-rise architecture suitable for buildings in city – buildings in cities generally contemporary and high rise – economic use of space
- 7 _____

Reason 1 – disagree because

- 8 Attractive surroundings improve quality of life/attract tourists and income
- 9 _____

Reason 2 – disagree because

- 10 Nowadays good design includes green space but still economic – also better for environment
- 11 _____

Conclusion

Agree space is important but not the only factor to consider.

Technique

Decide on your viewpoint before you begin. This helps you present the information consistently throughout the essay. Remember your adverbs, introductory phrases and general language should indicate your attitude, not just the introduction and conclusion of your essay.

- 5 It is important to distinguish between opinions you hold and those that are more general. Look at each statement in the plan in 4 and decide if it is a generally accepted opinion (g) or an opinion held by the writer specifically (w). Write (g) or (w).
- 6 Read the introduction and first paragraph of a model answer below. Underline the phrases that introduce opinions.

It is generally accepted that contemporary cities are growing in size and population. Various recent reports have indicated growth in megacities such as Mumbai, Tokyo and Mexico City, which cover huge areas and are still developing. Along with the increase in population globally, it is therefore commonly acknowledged that there is pressure on available space and housing. I would therefore maintain that space is an important factor in city planning and must be taken into account in any kind of planning activity. However, although space is key to good city design, it is not the only thing that should be considered and this essay will go on to discuss other factors, too.

To begin with, a primary factor for consideration is population. Experts claim that the population of the world is increasing quickly and it is true that urban societies are growing very rapidly. More young people, for instance, are moving to cities for work opportunities as well as all the facilities and opportunities they can find there. For this reason, I believe we need to find more economic ways to live. Good design, with high-rise living space, can help. It seems to me that the cost of accommodation in many cities is prohibitive, which restricts opportunities and could be solved by better town planning.

Technique

When writing an opinion essay you need to present different viewpoints. These can be varied to appear personal or impersonal. Both are possible approaches.

7 Add the underlined phrases from 6 to the correct place in the table below.

Personal opinion	Impersonal idea

8 Add the phrases 1–12 to the correct place in the table in 7.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 I think | 7 As far as I'm concerned |
| 2 In my opinion | 8 Reports show/state/demonstrate/reveal that |
| 3 It should be noted that | 9 Personally, I am certain |
| 4 It is claimed that | 10 A general assertion is |
| 5 To my mind | 11 Predictions suggest that |
| 6 Many might claim | 12 I feel (that) |

9 Match 1–6 with a–f to make sentences.

- 1 Personally, I feel that green spaces in the city
- 2 It is commonly accepted that more
- 3 Many might claim that they
- 4 It seems to me
- 5 In my opinion
- 6 It should be noted that some cities

- a housing would make homes more affordable for people such as key workers.
- b major cities, Istanbul or Shanghai for instance, are relatively expensive places to live.
- c make them nicer places. In other words they make cities healthier and more beautiful.
- d enjoy the benefits of the countryside, for example the fresh air, but others would say it is too boring.
- e that work opportunities are better in cities. That is to say you have more chance of finding a job.
- f are known as megacities due to their size. A case in point is Tokyo.

Technique

Giving supporting details or examples is key to strengthening your argument. But use a variety of methods to introduce the evidence or examples.

10 Do you agree or disagree with the sentences in 9?

11 In each sentence in 9 there is an example. The phrases a–f below introduce examples. Answer the questions 1–4.

Which ...

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 two phrases are used to repeat and clarify the information? | a for example |
| 2 phrase gives a single, exact example? | b for instance |
| 3 phrase precedes a noun? | c such as |
| 4 two phrases are general and can be followed by subject or a verb? | d in other words |
| | e That is to say |
| | f a case in point is |

12 Choose the correct phrase from a–f in 11 to complete the sentences.

- 1 I love flowers _____ roses.
- 2 Flowers are beautiful. _____ the rose, which is often used for weddings.
- 3 We should have more greenery in towns and cities. _____ city planners should try to include gardens in their designs.
- 4 If old buildings, _____ abandoned houses or shops, are empty they should be used for homeless people.
- 5 I love old buildings, _____ medieval houses and bridges. I find it interesting to consider their history.

Practice Test 5

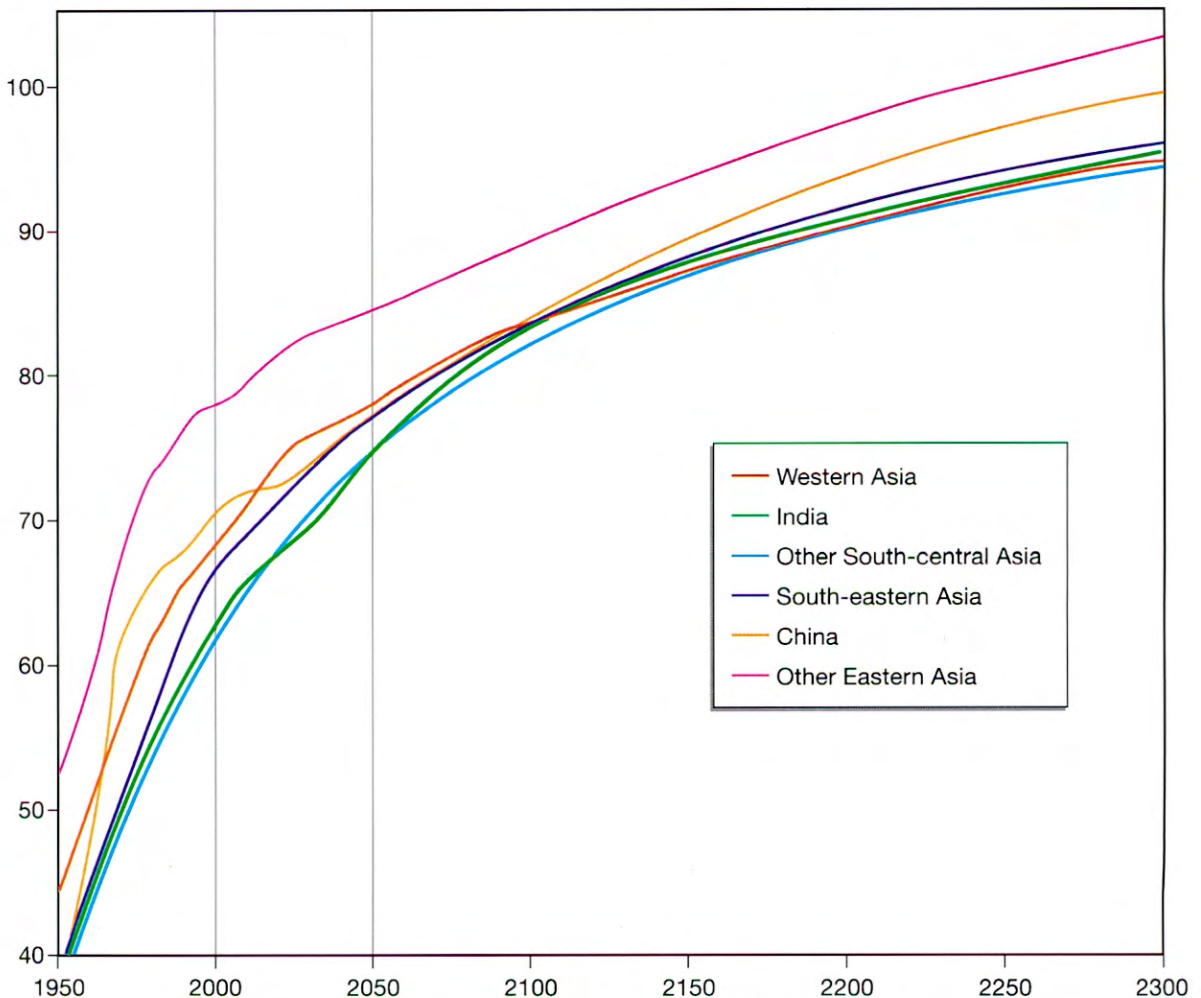
Task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The graph shows the life expectancy of people living in Asian regions from 1950 and predicts life expectancy until 2300. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Life expectancy at birth, Asian regions: 1950–2300



Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Traffic congestion is becoming increasingly problematic in major cities. What solutions can you suggest to help solve the problem?

Write at least 250 words.