**IB OPTION UNIT – URBAN ENVIRONMENTS**

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| **30 HOURS** | **G** | **A** | **R** |
| **URBAN POPULATIONS** | | | |
| Define urbanization and explain the variation in global growth rates and patterns. |  |  |  |
| Explain the processes of centripetal movements (rural– urban migration, gentrification, re-urbanization/urban renewal). |  |  |  |
| Explain the processes of centrifugal movements (suburbanization, counter-urbanization, urban sprawl). |  |  |  |
| Explain the contribution of natural change to patterns of population density within urban areas. |  |  |  |
| Explain the global increase in the number and location of megacities (population over 10 million). |  |  |  |
| **URBAN LAND USE** | | | |
| Explain the location of residential areas in relation to wealth, ethnicity and family status (stage in life cycle). |  |  |  |
| Examine patterns of urban poverty and deprivation (such as slums, squatter settlements, areas of low-cost housing and inner-city areas). |  |  |  |
| Examine the causes and effects of the movement of socio-economic groups since the 1980s. |  |  |  |
| Explain the spatial pattern of economic activity, the zoning of urban and suburban functions and the internal structure of the central business district (CBD). |  |  |  |
| Describe the informal sector; its characteristics and location in urban areas. |  |  |  |
| Examine the causes and effects of the movement of retailing, service and manufacturing activities to new locations, including brownfield sites. |  |  |  |
| **URBAN STRESS** | | | |
| Examine the effects of structures and human activity on urban microclimates, including the urban heat island effect and air pollution. |  |  |  |
| Examine the other symptoms of urban stress including congestion, overcrowding and noise, depletion of green space, waste overburden, poor quality housing, social deprivation, crime and inequality. |  |  |  |
| **THE SUSTAINABLE CITY** | | | |
| Describe the city as a system in terms of:  • inputs—energy, water, people, materials, products, food (urban agriculture)  • outputs—solid, atmospheric and liquid waste, noise, people. |  |  |  |
| Distinguish between a sustainable circular system where inputs are reduced and outputs are recycled and an unsustainable (open/linear) city system with uncontrolled inputs and outputs. |  |  |  |
| Referring to at least two city case studies, discuss the concepts of:  • Sustainable city management |  |  |  |
| • The urban ecological footprint. |  |  |  |
| Evaluate a case study of a socially sustainable housing management strategy. |  |  |  |
| Evaluate a case study of a environmentally sustainable pollution management strategy. |  |  |  |
| Evaluate a case study of a strategy to control rapid city growth resulting from in-migration. |  |  |  |