

# Work Life & Leisure: Cities in the Contemporary World

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## Check Point 01

### Q. 1. How did food supplies help in developing ancient cities?

**Answer:** Food supplies helped in developing more cities as this meant that more people can be fed.

Developing food was directly related to developing the cities as there would be more people, more job opportunities and better standards of living. It all led to the betterment of the people and development of the cities.

### Q. 2. How has historian Gareth Stedman Jones described the city of London in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

**Answer:** Historian Gareth Stedman described the city of London as "A city of Clerks and Shopkeepers".

He described the city full of growing number of semi-skilled workers, soldiers and servants. The city had full skilled artisans and small masters.

### Q. 3. What steps were taken to clean-up London city?

**Answer:** The steps taken to clean the London city were as follows:

- a. Housing Problem: For large no. of migrants and workers new apartments were constructed to avoid the congestion in the streets
- b. The Principle of Green Belt and Garden City: A pleasant space full of trees and plants were built. It provided a clean and green environment for people to work and live.
- c. Housing and British Government: Cottages were built for families by local authorities.

### Q. 4. Why were people scared to travel by underground railways in the beginning?

**Answer:** People were scared to travel by underground railways in the beginning because of the danger it did on health. It created a lot of mess during its construction.

Because of the underground railway there was a lack of air and heat was produced in high amounts in the train compartments. Large-scale cutting of forests and natural resources was done.

## Check Point 02

Q. 1. What were the sources of entertainment for people in urban Britain in the 19th century?

Answer: The sources of entertainment for people in urban Britain were as follows:

A. Pleasure Gardens – They provided the facilities of sports, entertainment and refreshment.

B. Music Halls and Cinemas- It was a source of entertainment for lower classes. It provided mass entertainment.

C. Beaches- It was a facility availed by industrial workers. This helped them relax and enjoy holidays.

**Q. 2. For whom the annual ‘London Season’ was organised?**

**Answer:** The annual “London Season” was organised for wealthy Britishers.

The season organised had several cultural events like Opera, Theatre, Classical Musical Performances, etc. This was organised for the elite group of families ranging from 300-400.

**Q. 3. Mention the main demand of the 10-hour movement.**

**Answer:** The main demand of the 10-hour movement was to pass a law restricting the demand length of the workers of the workday in the factories to 10 hours.

It was a movement by skilled craftsman in the major cities of US in the 1820s.

**Q. 4. In what way Bombay became the important city of India?**

**Answer:** In the 17th century, Bombay (Mumbai) was under the Portuguese control. It was a group of seven islands. Later, it got passed into British hands and became a prominent and an important city.

It was a base for East India Company and a major cotton textile outlet. Later it functioned as a port which dealt with raw materials like cotton and opium.

**Q. 5. How was the lifestyle in the chawls?**

**Answer:** The chawls were built in a multi-storeyed structure divided into smaller one-room tenements with no private toilets. Many people lived together in single tenements.

They led a difficult lifestyle. There were no water connections. Gutters were near the houses which led to spread of many diseases.

**Q. 6. Name the first Indian City to get smoke nuisance legislation.**

**Answer:** Kolkata became the first Indian city to get the smoke nuisance legislation in 1863. It was because of a long history of pollution.

Pollution was mainly caused by the burning of cow dung as a fuel on daily basis.

### **Self Assessment**

**Q. 1. Why was London Underground Railway considered a menace to public health?**

**Answer:** London Underground Railway was considered a menace to public health because a massive destruction was done in the process of construction. A huge number of houses were knocked down and streets broke through.

Deep pits of trenches were dug into the ground causing damage and creating difficulties for the people.

**Q. 2. Name one factor which changed the form of urbanisation in the modern world.**

**Answer:** One factor which changes the form of urbanisation in the modern world was industrialization. It resulted in construction of more factories and settling down of people near them. There was an increase in movement of people from rural to urban areas in search of jobs.

Other factors were unemployment and capitalism.

**Q. 3. When was the London Underground Railway started?**

**Answer:** London underground railway started on 10 January 1863.

The formation was done in the late 1700s but it eventually started in 1863.

**Q. 4. Which city of India is called 'Mayapuri' or 'the city of dreams'?**

**Answer:** Bombay is called the city of Mayapuri because it was a city of opportunities and dreams for those who came from the outside cities. It was also called the city of dreams because people found their creative energy being well used in the Bombay film industry which inspired others.

**Q. 5. Who was the director of the film 'Raja Harishchandra'?**

**Answer:** Dadasaheb Phalke was the director of the movie Raja Harishchandra. He directed the movie in the year 1913.

The film produced was a silent film and had English and Hindi language intertitles.

**Q. 6. Which British king got Bombay as a dowry from the Portuguese?**

**Answer:** King Charles II got Bombay as a dowry from the Portuguese.

This happened after he married Catherine de Braganza, daughter of King John IV of Portugal in the year 1662.

**Q. 7. In which year, Bombay become the capital of Bombay Presidency?**

**Answer:** In 1819, Bombay became the capital of Bombay Presidency after the Maratha defeat in the Anglo - Maratha War.

It became an important administrative and industrial centre of westernisation.

**Q. 8. Which cities were known as Presidency cities?**

**Answer:** Calcutta (Kolkata), Bombay (Mumbai) and Madras (Chennai) became the Presidency cities.

They became important presidencies because they were the centres of British power in India in the 18th century for the economic activities and trade.

**Q. 9. What were the measures taken to decongest London during the 19th and 20th centuries?**

**Answer:** Measures taken were:

A. New plans were created like underground railway was created so that people could settle in far off place.

B. Rent control was brought into account.

C. Unsafe tenements were removed and single cottages were built outside the city.

Criminals were being watched and penalties were given to criminals for their acts. A green belt was built around the city which was called the "new lungs". Holiday homes were built in the countryside for residents of London.

**Q. 10. Who was listed as criminals by Henry Mayhew and why they called criminals? What steps did the authorities take to discipline them?**

**Answer:** According to Henry Mayhew, listed criminals were poor people who lived by stealing petty things like clothes, bread, coal etc. They were called criminals because they used to steal things. To control the crime, authorities took various steps to discipline them.

Authorities imposed high penalties on the victims. Various rules and regulations were made to discipline them and keep them in order. The government organised several vocational courses so that they could easily get jobs and stop their stealing activities.

**Q. 11. What was the reason for the increasing concern of the city dwellers for providing houses for the poor? To what extent were these philanthropic in nature?**

**Answer:** The reasons were as follows:

There were many dangers related to fire and social hazards.

During the migration period, a huge number of people migrated causing stress and congestion. The conditions of the living were poor and filthy because of one room houses. There were construction activities taking place on large scale leading to more people living on the road. Also, due to large people migrating housing schemes were planned.

It is philanthropic in nature as poor people got to live under a shelter. But on the other hand, they also faced many problems because of the living conditions. Also, constructing houses caused a huge ruckus economically and created an imbalance in the environment.

**Q. 12. How did the working population of London prove to be both, a threat and an opportunity?**

**Answer:** Population of London proved to be an opportunity as:

- 1) It marked the way for industrialization.
- 2) Industrialization brought with it new technologies and science.
- 3) This helped in creating more job opportunities for the people.
- 4) It led to modernization and development in the society
- 5) It provided a wide network of a market to the common people.

The population proved to be a threat because:-

- 1) There was a huge number of people living in poor conditions.

- 2) The working sector of the people worked in unhygienic working conditions
- 3) Huge pressure was created for the people to meet societal challenges.
- 4) Due to the increased number of slums there was a rapid increase in diseases.

**Q. 13. Mention the major characteristic of an ancient town.**

**Answer:** Ancient towns such as Ur, Nippur and Mohenjo-Daro were the ancient towns. They appeared along the river valleys. They were larger in scale than the other human settlements.

Cities were often the centre of political power, administrative network, trade and industry, religious institutions and intellectual activities. They supported various group of artisans, merchants and priests. Ancient cities were developed only when the increase in food supplies was huge to support the areas of non-food producers. They varied greatly in size and complexity.

**Q. 14. What do you mean by 'Land Reclamation'? Explain the history of land reclamation in Bombay.**

**Answer:** Land reclamation means reclaiming of marshy or submerged areas for settlement or other use. The history of land reclamation of marshy and submerged is as follows:

- 1) William Hornby approved the building of the great sea wall.
- 2) Both government and private companies made plans to help build new areas.
- 3) Bombay port trust created 22- acre Ballard estate.
- 4) Back Bay Reclamation Company in 1864 won the right to reclaim foreshore.

**Q. 15. What adequate step should be taken to prevent pollution without hampering the development process?**

**Answer:** Some of the ways of preventing pollution without hampering the development process are as below:

1. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels and moving towards renewable energy options.
2. Conserving energy by switching off appliances when not in use.
3. Modifying a production process to reduce waste generation.
4. Following the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
5. Promoting afforestation.