Lesson Description

In this lesson we:

- Discuss recent urbanisation patterns in South Africa
- Look at Urban issues related to rapid urbanisation
- Discuss inner city problems
- Discuss the growth and issues associated with informal settlements as well as strategies to address issues related to informal settlements.
- Consider environmental injustices, economic injustices as well as social injustices.

Summary

Recent Urbanisation Patterns in South Africa

![Urbanisation Trend in RSA](image)

*Source: Stats SA*

- South Africa is experiencing rapid urbanisation due to rural-urban migration and international migration.
- South Africa is approximately 62% urbanised.
- Urbanisation continues to increase in South Africa.

Inner City Problems

Due to rapid urbanisation the urban area, especially the inner city, experiences great pressure to try and cope with this increase. This results in inner city problems.

Urban Blight

![Urban Blight Images]
- Urban blight refer to a city or part of a city that is in a dilapidated state
- Low owner occupation ratio
- It was part of a fully function urban area.

Traffic Congestion

- Due to an increase in urbanisation we have an increase in vehicles leading to traffic congestion
- The transport networks cannot cope effectively with this increase
- Occurs mainly during peak hours e.g. morning when going to work and afternoon when coming from work

**Strategies to reduce traffic congestion**
- Staggered working hours/flexitime
- Introduce other forms of transport
- Lanes dedicated to public transport, e.g. buses and taxis
- Decentralisation of offices, industries and shops
- Park-and-ride facilities
- Outer ring roads and bypasses
- More efficient public transport system, e.g. Gautrain and Rea Vaya
- One-way streets
- Underground transport
- Subsidise the cost of public transport
- Encourage lift clubs

Lack of Planning

- Many people are moving to cities and the city cannot plan effectively to cater for the needs of these people
This leads to unhindered growth and urban sprawl
People build shelters where ever possible
This is uncontrolled and basic services are difficult to provide

Overcrowding

- Many people moving to urban areas are poor
- They live in areas with low rentals
- This results in families living in small rooms, shacks or even a few families sharing a room resulting in overcrowding
- This creates huge pressure on basic services and facilities e.g. schools

Housing Shortages
Growing urban populations create housing shortages
This has resulted in informal settlements, urban blight and urban sprawl
The government’s RDP house project has helped but due to the massive increase in urbanisation it was not as effective. More than 3 million urban dwellings have been built by the state
Another form of housing built to accommodate the large urban population are flats.

Service Provision

Due to rapid urbanisation and unplanned settlements it has made it difficult to provide services to all the people.
The increasing demand for services and infrastructure is greatest in the informal settlements and the transition zone, and this is where poverty is also the greatest problem.
Basic services include housing, healthcare facilities, educational facilities, sanitation, clean drinking water and electricity.
These are basic services because they are required for human wellbeing. Infrastructure includes roads, power lines and communication networks.
People need infrastructure to access the services and function offered by the city.
This result in many protests
Government project have increased the provision of services but more needs to done
Informal Settlements

- Settlement which are densely populated areas
- High building density
- Self constructed shelters
- Lack of basic services
- Mostly due to rural-urban migration

Growth of Informal Settlements

- Approximately 11% of South Africans live in informal settlement
- It is caused by rural-urban migration, natural growth, poverty etc.
- As the country becomes more urbanised more informal settlements develop

Issues Associated with Informal Settlements
• Overcrowding
• Limited service provision
• Social problems
• Poorly constructed shelters
• Unhygienic living conditions
• Overcrowding
• High level of pollution
• Limited access to emergency services

**Strategies to address issues relating to informal settlements**

• Education
• Employment
• RDP houses
• Involve locals in projects
• Partnership with private sector (financial Support etc)

**Environmental Injustices**
Damage to the natural environment by man

<p>| Air Pollution | Carbon emissions / greenhouse gases from vehicle, industries, people etc. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noise Pollution</th>
<th>From vehicle, people, activities etc.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Destruction of Ecosystems</th>
<th>Ecosystems are destroyed by:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Urban development</td>
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<td>• Deforestation</td>
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<td>• Pollution</td>
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**Economic Injustices**

**Poverty**

- Due to:
  - Lack of employment
  - Lack of education
  - Economic decline
Poor public transport systems

- Mostly taxis many of which are not road worthy
- Poor transport networks
- Poor quality buses which are not reliable.
- Projects such as Rea-Vaya and Gautrain try to handle problem

Social Injustices

Unequal access to resources and services

- We have two different economic worlds in one country
- A good example is the high income areas and the informal settlements
- They vary with regards access to resources and services

Managing of Urban Challenges in South Africa

- Increase employment opportunities thereby promoting economic growth
- Encouraging the decentralisation of functions and people
- Development of green cities, this incorporates the green area and open spaces into the design from the start
- Provide housing and basic services to the population
- Make different land uses walking distance from each other
- Having functions in one area, limits movement
- Transport routes with pedestrian access in residential areas
- Wider streets which integrate with the environment e.g. planting trees on the side of the road
Test Yourself

Question 1
Underline the correct word/s from the alternatives given.
1.1 Overcrowding is a major problem in urban/rural areas
1.2 The bigger demand for service provision is in the rural/urban fringe/low income areas
1.3 Green belt development/industrialisation assists in handling urban environmental challenges.
1.4 New towns are characterised by open spaces/factories
1.5 Creating employment is an environmental/social justice.

Question 2
Fill in the missing word, from the words provided.

overcrowding/lack of planning/service provision /apartheid/housing shortages
2.1 … results in unhindered growth.
2.2 … is a major problem in most urban areas.
2.3 … deal with providing the basic services to the people.
2.4 … occur when the demand for housing is more than the supply.
2.5 The … government enforced the group areas act in South Africa.

Question 3
Various options are given as possible answers to the following questions. Choose the answer and write only the letter (A–D) next to the question number.
3.1 Unemployment can result in…
A economic injustices
B environmental injustices
C social injustices
D all of the above
3.2 One of the main purposes of a green belt is to…
A provide aesthetic appeal for informal settlements.
B reduce urban sprawl.
C attract tourists to the urban area.
D none of the above.
3.3 Green cities are cities which …
A do not allow any further urban development to occur.
B only use solar energy.
C incorporates the green area and open spaces into their design from the start.
D are only found in developed countries.
3.4 Urban blight mainly occurs in the …
A. rural areas.
B. informal settlements.
C. low income areas
D. inner city.

3.5 Edge cities mainly occur as a result of …
A. decentralization of functions.
B. centralization of functions.
C. service provision
D. urban governance.

Question 4
Choose a term from COLUMN B that matches the description in COLUMN A. Write only the letter (A–I) next to the question number.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Humans ecological footprint</td>
<td>A. Social injustice</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Lack of employment opportunities and investment in the country</td>
<td>B. Environmental injustice</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Crime, lack of housing and basic services</td>
<td>C. Economic injustice</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Develops due to rural-urban migration</td>
<td>D. Environmental justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>A solution to traffic congestion</td>
<td>E. Informal settlements</td>
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<td>F. Rea Viya</td>
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**Improve your Skills**

**Question 1**
Refer to the figure below and answer the questions that follow

1.1 Name ONE social and ONE environmental injustice visible in the figure.
1.2 Give ONE possible cause of each of the injustices that you mentioned in QUESTION 1.1
1.3 Explain why laws introduced by the local municipality can be regarded as both an advantage and disadvantage in cities
1.4 In a paragraph discuss possible sustainable strategies to these problems
Question 2

Refer to the figure below and answer the questions that follow.

2.1 What is a traffic jam?

2.2 Give TWO possible reasons for traffic congestion in the CBD.

2.3 Traffic congestion threatens the sustainability of cities. Explain this statement.

2.4 Give FOUR possible solutions to solve the problem of traffic congestion in the CBD.

Question 3

Refer to the case study below and answer the questions that follow.

THE URBAN PROBLEM CONTINUES.

Johannesburg has almost the same number of people living in informal settlements now as it did in 1994. This is in spite of the fact that government has provided nearly three million houses during this period. Johannesburg increased by 1.2 million people between 2001 and 2011. The city's population is around 3.6 million. This significant rate of growth, the largest in our South African cities, is a signal of a trend, rather than of the uniqueness of Johannesburg. Most of the urbanisation is taking place in informal settlements or slums. What this means is that people who migrate to the cities find city life alienating in all forms. A smaller percentage of new arrivals were able to afford city life. The poor tend to live on marginal land, in unplanned areas that are consequently poorly serviced; distances are huge and transport costs expensive. Government needs to act and plan ahead and needs to urgently devise and implement credible plans to intervene and make our cities inclusive bringing the majority of citizens of our cities into the mainstream and not the periphery. People needed to be educated and equipped with skills to take advantage of opportunities in cities.

3.1 Explain the term informal settlement

3.2 Name TWO causes of informal settlements

3.3 Three million houses have been built but the problem continues. Give a reason for this.

3.4 The government needs to act urgently. Explain strategies the government could put in place to address the problem of informal settlements
Question 4

Refer to the case study below and answer the questions that follow.

Case Study 2 – Cosmo City – Example of Urban Planning

The Cosmo City Greenfield Project, northwest of Johannesburg's city centre, began in 2004 and in a few short years, the area has become a welcoming haven for people of all social and financial backgrounds. It developed on land that had not been developed before. It was undertaken by the City in partnership with the Gauteng provincial government. The area is a complex development, providing three types of housing to suit the finances of different people. There are fully subsidised houses, credit linked houses and fully bonded houses. There are 5 000 RDP units, of which 2 899 are occupied by people who moved from Zevenfontein and River Bend; there are 3 000 partially subsidised units, of which 468 are already taken up; and there are 3 300 bonded houses, of which 2 839 are occupied. Among the new residents there are people who moved from the informal settlements. Over the past few years, the area has developed with a full range of municipal and social facilities. All these people share the facilities that has been set up e.g. the schools, medical facilities, recreational facilities and religious facilities. Residents’ associations have been set up to help people deal with day-to-day issues faced by the community.

4.1 State and explain the social injustice that is being addressed in the article.

4.2 Explain how this social injustice, mentioned in QUESTION 4.2, was addressed.