

European School of Urbanism and Architecture

*Introductory e-learning Module
“Whatever Happened to Urbanism?”*

Examination Questions

Your name:

Your email address:

Questions

*Instructions: Fill in your name and email address above, and answer the questions by changing the font of the correct answer to **bold**. Then type in your essay question responses. Email the completed and saved document, saved under your last name, to your course instructor. (See the website for details.)*

1. Urbanism is important because

- A. It is in cities that many modern challenges to humanity will play out.
- B. The pattern of urban activities affects emissions and pollution.
- C. The pattern of urban form affects land use and protection of ecosystems.
- D. All of the above.

2. Urbanism is described here as

- A. The space between buildings
- B. The connected system of public and private spaces
- C. Big cities
- D. The public realm

3. A factor that is not critical to the success of urbanism is

- A. The level of detail at pedestrian scales
- B. The style of buildings
- C. The shape and position of buildings, and how they shape public space
- D. The aesthetic character of buildings

4. The aesthetic quality of urbanism matters most because

- A. It reflects the vision of leading contemporary artists
- B. It stimulates shopping and economic activity
- C. It raises property values
- D. It promotes quality of life and sustainability

5. Mixed use is important because
- A. It promotes interaction between different people during the day
 - B. It provides visual interest
 - C. It provides social equality
 - D. It increases economic performance
6. Diversity was noted to be important because
- A. It creates a fairer and more just city
 - B. It promotes urban creativity and success
 - C. It creates visual interest
 - D. All of the above
7. Diversity should include variations in
- A. Income
 - B. Ethnicity
 - C. Age
 - D. All of the above
8. Density is important because
- A. It tends to be associated with lower carbon emissions
 - B. It can be used to create urban interaction and vitality
 - C. It supports connectivity and public transport
 - D. All of the above
9. Higher density should be applied
- A. Uniformly
 - B. Only in large cities
 - C. In a range of situations, depending on context
 - D. In a range of situations, but always as high as possible
10. The difference between a hierarchy and a network is
- A. A hierarchy is more complex
 - B. A hierarchy is more ordered
 - C. A network branches out like a tree
 - D. A hierarchy branches out like a tree
11. The fundamental element of the sustainable neighbourhood is the
- A. Pedestrian shed
 - B. Transit stop

- C. Wildlife corridor
- D. District energy plant

12. Design for change and resilience is important because

- A. A neighbourhood will grow and change in unpredictable ways
- B. A neighbourhood's growth must be controlled
- C. The urban designer needs to know which businesses or activities will likely occur
- D. A neighbourhood can always be rebuilt when it becomes unfashionable

13. Urbanism in history has been found to be

- A. Surprisingly primitive
- B. Surprisingly sophisticated and complex
- C. Surprisingly rigid and formal
- D. Surprisingly chaotic

14. According to the author, which of the following statements is true?

- A. The world is completely different today, and there are few important lessons to learn from history.
- B. The design strategies of historical urbanism often allowed growth and change.
- C. We must copy the successes of historical urbanism.
- D. The most important thing about urban design is the excitement of a new artistic vision.

15. Garden cities were

- A. A humane response to real problems in industrial cities.
- B. Based on segregation of people and functions.
- C. A model for modern low-density suburbs.
- D. All of the above.

16. Early modernists like Le Corbusier advocated city planning based upon

- A. Isolated and standardised components
- B. Differentiated components
- C. Organic complexity
- D. Regional differences

17. The early modernists were motivated primarily by

- A. The need to make profits
- B. The need to serve humane goals
- C. The need to make cities more efficient
- D. The need to create work for architects

18. The blueprint for post-war development in America was largely inspired by
- A. Le Corbusier's vision of "towers in the park" in France
 - B. The suburban model of the Garden Cities in England
 - C. Bel Geddes' Futurama exhibit at the New York World's Fair
 - D. All of the above
19. Which of these was NOT a major problem with the suburban development model?
- A. It consumed valuable farmland and sensitive ecological areas
 - B. It created social inequality
 - C. It increased emissions from automobile travel
 - D. It drew people out of declining city cores
20. Which of these statements best reflects the author's point?
- A. We cannot go back to the kind of organic urbanism that once existed
 - B. We must understand the technical and legal conditions of urban development in order to change its characteristics
 - C. Technology is evolving, and we must re-examine the old assumptions about urban development
 - D. This is a time of lively debate and fertile development of ideas

Essay questions

1. Do you think it is possible to recover a high quality of urbanism in the modern world? To what extent? If not, why not? If so, what do you believe are the key elements needed?

2. What kind of problem is a city, according to Jacobs?

3. Why does it matter whether a city is not a “tree” according to Alexander?

4. What does Duany mean by “replacing the system” instead of destroying it? Why does he use the analogy of a virus?

5. What does Hillier say are the key areas we still don't understand about the self-organising nature of cities?