

# AP<sup>®</sup> HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

## 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 2

A large proportion of urban residents in the megacities of the periphery of the world system live in squatter settlements.

#### Part A (1 point)

Describe a typical location of squatter settlements within urban areas of megacities on the global periphery.

- Edge of city
- Elsewhere in the built area other than the edge (with explanation)
- Vacant or undesirable land, such as steep hillsides, floodplains, dumps/landfills, cemeteries, close to industries
- Land with unclear title

#### Part B (2 points)

Describe two factors that contribute to the formation of squatter settlements.

- Large-scale rural-to-urban migration
- Poverty (with elaboration)
- Lack of enough affordable housing (public/private)
- Lack of, or failure to enforce, land use policy (government or private)
  
- NOT immigration, unless clearly talking about rural-to-urban migration
- NOT refugees

#### Part C (3 points)

Give a detailed account of THREE consequences of the rapid growth of squatter settlements. The three consequences you discuss may be social, economic, political, or environmental.

- Unhealthy living conditions leading to high morbidity and/or mortality rates in squatter settlements
- Increase in crime
- Development of gangs or other nonlegal authority systems that use force to impose their rules
- Development of political action and/or political unrest
- Increased water pollution resulting from lack of sanitation facilities and refuse collection
- Increased soil erosion on hillsides as existing vegetation is removed
- Decreased air quality resulting from fires used for cooking and heating in settlements
- Deforestation
- Visual pollution
- Increase in the availability of cheap labor
- Increased risk of disasters, such as fires, industrial accidents, mudslides, flooding
- Strain on the already inadequate infrastructure—such as water, electricity, education, sewer, and fire protection—resulting in an increased burden on existing taxpayers

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

A. Squatter settlements or shanty towns are usually settled around the megacity's boundaries.

B. Two factors that contribute to the formation of shanty towns are expensive housing and lack of jobs in the city. Usually, people who live in shanty towns are people who migrated from farms who can no longer support them, thus causing migration to the city. When they get to the city either they are not skilled enough to work or there just are not job vacancies. Couple this with expensive housing and there is possibly no way they live in the city unemployed. They can't afford the city, the farm cannot support them, their only reasonable option is to settle in between, thus the formation of shanty towns.

C. Three consequences of rapid shanty town growth are, increased unemployment, pollution to the environment, and a negative aspect of a country's reputation.

All who live in shanty towns are unemployed, that could drastically raise the unemployment rate and poverty. Shanty towns have little to no infrastructure, so they have no alternative way

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

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of disposing waste. This could pollute bodies of water such as streams, rivers, lakes, etc. - The pollution could also lead to direct infection of the population of diseases, like e.coli, parasites, and other bacterium. Shanty towns have a negative impact on a country's reputation. It can bring criticism to the country about not handling the issue well enough. It takes away from the beauty the city/country might have. ~~It takes away~~

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

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A. Squatter settlements generally occur on the outskirts of cities. There is some open space, but still access to the ~~city~~ city. Cities are difficult to police so this outer location makes them more difficult to find. Squatters are illegal, so ~~but~~ they locate themselves away from easy places to be caught.

B. Squatter settlements occur because some people cannot afford housing. This means that they must illegally live off someone else's property. Another factor besides financial despair that creates squatter settlements is the lack of a welfare system. Megacities of the periphery of the world may not have welfare systems, so if someone loses their job, they may be forced to live as a squatter. Normally welfare will cover for unemployment but without it people will ~~not~~ be unable to live off their own income.

C. Squatter settlements increase crime rates because they are desperate for the necessities of life. Squatters may need to steal food to survive, in addition to the fact that squatting in itself is a crime.

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

Another consequence that can arise is political and social unrest. Squatters can interfere with lives and daily routines of others. If no political action or policing against squatters occurs, then voters and citizens will become dissatisfied. Protests or other actions can lead to an unstable society.

Squatter settlements also negatively affect the environment. They create waste that is not always cleaned up. This excess waste creates unsanitary conditions for everyone. It can possibly lead to disease. The waste is not removed and often pollutes the environment, damaging ecosystems.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

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2. A. Squatter settlements are usually found <sup>on</sup> the ~~outskirts~~ <sup>and scattered throughout</sup> the inner cities in urban areas.

B. A major <sup>of</sup> reason for the formation of squatter settlements would be job loss. Cities or urban areas are a hustle and bustle kind of place where you have to work hard to survive, some though can not survive this rugged environment. People in the urban area workforce lose their jobs daily and without a job they have no means of supporting themselves in this tough work dependant environment. This lack of income may lead to for closer on homes, the eviction out of an apartment, and even the repossession of cars. All of these things pull the person into a downward spiral eventually leading to homelessness, a major problem in urban areas. When homeless the person only cares about survival and will dwell any where they can which is usually in the slums or ghettos of the innercity. ~~The second~~ The second reason for the formation of squatter settlements ties into the first. The homeless are attracted to the urban area because of the abundance of abandoned buildings, warehouses, and even homes. The abundance of available and abandoned housing is another reason for the formation of squatter settlements. The only reason the homeless are pulled to the innercity is because all the empty places to live whether they be ~~factories~~ that were ~~to~~ warehouses or factories left abandoned because the company shipped them over seas for cheap labor or built a Magnitilona in Mexico, or partial burned buildings yet to be demolished and

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even the former houses and shops of those who have been evicted and kept empty. The homeless are pushed on to the streets by a lack of income but pulled to the inner city by the abundance of shelter which creates squatter settlements.

C. A serious consequence of the rapid growth of squatter settlements are increased crime rates in urban areas. Those who live in squatter settlement will do anything to survive and if that means killing someone just so that they can get ~~food~~ <sup>money</sup> for food to eat they will. Higher crime rates and <sup>the</sup> higher growth of squatter settlements has a positive correlation. The next two reasons are intertwined. The rapid increase of squatter settlements decreases the areas value and appearance and to fix it the citizens must pay more taxes to clean up the streets. The inner cities are already usually not very pleasant places to live but the increase in <sup>the</sup> homeless on streets deprecates its value even more and the only way to bring up the city's worth and appearance is by cleaning it up which takes money that comes from higher taxes placed on the citizens.

# AP<sup>®</sup> HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2009 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Question 2

### Overview

This question was designed to evaluate students' knowledge of urban geography, economic development, population geography (especially rural-to-urban migration), and world-systems theory, as well as their ability to synthesize knowledge gained in different parts of the course curriculum. They were asked to use this information to answer a significant question about the megacities of the global periphery (the developing countries), which are the future centers of population and industry in the world.

Part A of the question required students to describe a typical location of squatter settlements within urban areas of megacities on the global fringe. This question determined how well students understood the internal spatial structure of cities in the less-developed countries of the world and assessed their ability to apply the models of the internal structure of these cities.

Part B required students to describe two factors that contribute to the formation of squatter settlements. This question determined how well students understood the processes that produce the spatial structure of these cities.

Part C required students to describe three consequences of the rapid growth of squatter settlements. They were told they could discuss social, economic, political, or environmental consequences. This question assessed how well students could evaluate the significance of geographical patterns and processes.

Students needed to have a firm grasp of the spatial models of cities and the generalization of world-systems theory to answer all parts of this question successfully. They were helped if they understood issues of political geography in the developing world.

### Sample: 2A

#### Score: 6

This essay shows a fundamental understanding of the location and formation of squatter settlements in the world's megacities and demonstrates knowledge of the consequences of the rapid growth of these settlements. In part A the essay received 1 point for correctly indicating that squatter settlements are found at the edges of cities in the global periphery. In part B the essay was awarded 2 points for a correct description of two factors that contribute to the formation of squatter settlements: the description of rural-to-urban migration patterns earned 1 point, and a discussion of issues of poverty related to unemployment earned the other point. The essay received full credit (3 points) in part C for discussing three consequences of the rapid growth of squatter settlements: lack of proper waste disposal, leading to water pollution (1 point); unhealthy living conditions (1 point); and visual pollution that detracts from the beauty of the city (1 point).

### Sample: 2B

#### Score: 5

The essay received full credit in parts A and C, earning 4 points, and partial credit (1 point) in part B. In part A the essay received 1 point for correctly explaining that squatter settlements are formed "on the outskirts of cities" in the global periphery. The essay received 1 point in part B for describing how poverty means that "some people cannot afford housing," but the discussion about "the lack of a welfare system" did not receive credit. The essay received full credit in part C (3 points) for discussing three consequences of the rapid growth of squatter settlements: "increase[d] crime rates" (1 point); "political and social unrest" (1 point); and unhealthy living conditions that "can possibly lead to disease" and other problems (1 point).

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**Question 2 (continued)**

**Sample: 2C**

**Score: 3**

The essay received no credit in parts A and B and full credit (3 points) in part C. The response earned no points in parts A and B because it confuses the outskirts of “inner cities in urban areas” with typical squatter settlements located on the edges of megacities. The essay received full credit (3 points) in part C for discussing three consequences of the rapid growth of squatter settlements: “increased crime rates” (1 point); visual pollution (1 point); and the fact that “the citizens must pay more taxes to clean up the streets” (1 point).