Towns

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each planning term with its meaning.

1 mixed-use development	____	a previously developed land available for reuse
2 pedestrianisation	____	b uncontrolled low-density expansion at a city's edge
3 public realm	____	c land-use rules assigning activities to particular areas
4 urban sprawl	____	d renewal of declining urban areas
5 brownfield site	____	e buildings combining homes, shops or workplaces
6 affordable housing	____	f homes priced within reach of lower or middle incomes
7 transport hub	____	g removal or restriction of motor vehicles in an area
8 green belt	____	h protected open land limiting outward growth
9 zoning	____	i major interchange connecting several transport modes
10 urban regeneration	____	j streets, squares and parks accessible to everyone

2 Complete the planning collocations.

belt | development | housing | hub | realm | regeneration | site | sprawl

1 approve mixed-use _____

2 improve the public _____

3 contain urban _____

4 redevelop a brownfield _____

5 provide affordable _____

6 create a transport _____

7 protect the green _____

8 fund urban _____

3 Choose the most precise term for the context.

1 Cars are removed from a shopping street: *pedestrianisation / zoning*.

2 Homes and offices share one block: *mixed-use development / green belt*.

3 A derelict factory plot is reused: *brownfield site / public realm*.

4 Housing spreads far into surrounding countryside: *urban sprawl / regeneration*.

5 A station connects rail, tram and buses: *transport hub / industrial estate*.

6 A park and civic square belong to everyone: *public realm / private realm*.

7 Planning rules separate factories from homes: *zoning / pedestrianisation*.

8 A declining district receives coordinated investment: *urban regeneration / urban sprawl*.

Towns

4 Complete the planning proposal with terms from the box.

affordable housing | brownfield site | green belt | mixed-use development | pedestrianisation | public realm | transport hub | urban regeneration | urban sprawl | zoning

The proposal places a **1** _____ on a former **2** _____. It combines offices, shops and **3** _____ beside a new **4** _____. Partial **5** _____ will reduce through-traffic, while trees and seating improve the **6** _____. Revised **7** _____ permits higher density near transit. The plan is intended to support **8** _____, limit **9** _____ and protect the surrounding **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Density with quality

Higher urban density can reduce travel distances and make frequent public transport viable. Yet density alone does not create a liveable neighbourhood. Residents also need daylight, privacy, trees, schools, shops and safe public space. Poorly designed towers may isolate people, while well-planned mid-rise streets can support lively local services. The key question is therefore not simply how many homes fit on a site, but how buildings, movement and shared spaces work together over time.

1 Give two possible benefits of density. _____

2 Why is density alone insufficient? _____

3 Name three things residents also need. _____

4 What problem may badly designed towers create? _____

5 What may mid-rise streets support? _____

6 What broader question should planners ask? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 The project combines homes, shops and offices. **MIXED-USE** _____

2 The city is spreading into rural land. **SPRAWL** _____

3 The former depot will be redeveloped. **BROWNFIELD** _____

4 The square and streets have been improved for everyone. **REALM** ___

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** evaluation of an urban development proposal. Discuss land use, housing, transport, public space, environmental impact and likely benefits or risks.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Link form to everyday experience. [ ] Evaluate trade-offs rather than listing features.

ANSWER KEY

1 Planning terms

1 **e** 2 **g** 3 **j** 4 **b** 5 **a** 6 **f** 7 **i** 8 **h** 9 **c** 10 **d**

2 Planning collocations

1 **development** 2 **realm** 3 **sprawl** 4 **site** 5 **housing** 6 **hub** 7 **belt** 8 **regeneration**

3 Precise terms

1 **pedestrianisation** 2 **mixed-use development** 3 **brownfield site** 4 **urban sprawl**
5 **transport hub** 6 **public realm** 7 **zoning** 8 **urban regeneration**

4 Planning proposal

1 **mixed-use development** 2 **brownfield site** 3 **affordable housing** 4 **transport hub** 5 **pedestrianisation** 6 **public realm** 7 **zoning** 8 **urban regeneration** 9 **urban sprawl** 10 **green belt**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Shorter journeys and viable public transport. 2 Liveability depends on design and services. 3 Any three: daylight, privacy, trees, schools, shops, safe space.
4 Isolation. 5 Lively local services. 6 How buildings, movement and shared spaces work together.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 It is a **mixed-use development**. 2 The city is experiencing urban **sprawl**. 3 It is a **brownfield site**. 4 The public **realm** has been improved.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check planning terminology, lived experience and balanced evaluation.