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## Analysis of Answers for GP Paper 2 Comprehension Exercise #20 (‘City Living’)

1. *The purpose is to highlight the fact that cities had adverse effects on our health in the past **which may be surprising to the readers as** cities are far less damaging in today’s context.*

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

2. *The main distinction is that **cities in the past were** heavily polluted and rampant with contagious illnesses, **whereas cities today have** well-maintained environments that are conductive to promoting better health for its inhabitants.*

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

3. *Cities are linked to handsome salaries, aesthetic novelty and innovative companies. **Additionally**, cities are also known to make available natural food products to its inhabitants who benefit from healthy lifestyles and prolonged lifespans. **Finally**, cities provide excellent medical infrastructure and healthcare.*

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

4. *The author is suggesting that there is a pronounced divide in the standard of living, and this can be witnessed in three areas: **firstly**, between urban centres and outlying areas; **secondly**, between wealthy cities and those that are less affluent; and **thirdly**, between privileged and marginalized communities within cities.*

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

5. *The author thinks so because city life involves lengthy travelling time between places and being physically inactive when we are doing our jobs. **Moreover**, it creates a frequent desire for unhealthy snacks and results in an excessively hectic pace of life with excessively packed schedules.*

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

6. *(See Summary Exercise later)*

7. *The author does this phrase to indicate that an increasing number of social commentators are confidently admitting that a slower pace of life is preferred, **despite** the common perception that favours a speedy lifestyle.*

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

8. *The author is implying that **just as** it is difficult to press the brakes to slow down when everyone else in the race is accelerating, **similarly**, it is also a challenge for us to slacken our lifestyles when the society is functioning at a frenetic pace.*

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

9. *The reasons are low incomes, poor literacy levels, limited ability to rise up the social ladder and isolation due to a lack of social connections.*

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

10. *The author suggests this by highlighting the projection that by 2050, three-quarters of the world's population will be living in cities, **making this** the very era in history where the development of cities will reach its zenith.*

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

## 6. Summary Question (ANSWERS)

#	Points from the Passage	Paraphrased Points
1	Our lives are spinning out of control	We are unable to manage our lives / Our lives have become chaotic / messy
2	The major cause in the speed-up of life is...economics	Mainly because life has become hectic / accelerated due to financial / commercial / material concerns / objectives / goals
3	The nature of work has changed now that bosses are demanding more hours of work <b>Or</b> After a long work week...	We are expected to commit / devote / dedicate more time to our jobs / careers
4	...the rest of our life becomes a rat race... <b>Or</b> ...to hurry from one activity to activity, with one eye always on the clock.	We are equally frenzied / preoccupied in our free time / leisure time
5	Home cooked meals give way to frozen pizzas...	Our diets have become unhealthy
6	Sundays turn into a whirlwind of errands	Rest days are used to complete overwhelming chores / tasks / activities
7	We have quickened the pace of life only to become less patient.	This results in use becoming harried / intolerant / easily frustrated / irritable
8	Less spontaneous,	Overly / excessively structured in our lives
9	Less joyful <b>Or</b> less able to enjoy the present...	Derive less happiness / delight from life
10	Reflect on the past	With no time to process / contemplate life's events.
11	At the same time, the prevalence of lifestyle diseases...	Simultaneously / Concurrently, illnesses related to our way of life are widespread
12	And the whole panoply of bad things that are associated with obesity, smoking, alcohol and drug abuse is rising alarmingly.	Coupled with / Together with the drastic increase in the adverse effects of harmful pursuits / indulgences
13	...the social isolation that occurs	A sense of loneliness / desolation
14	...increasing incidence of mental health problems and suicides	Which results in the rise in psychological illnesses and suicides

15	..mobilise the resources needed to mitigate them	<b>However, cities are able to alleviate these problems</b>
16	Well-established infrastructure...delivery of social welfare and health services	<b>With their recognized organisations / institutions for community support and healthcare</b>
17	...more and more effective medical interventions <u>Or</u> Medical schools and medical professionals reach better understandings of specifically urban dimensions of health problems, better able to respond to them	<b>And more efficient actions are taken to address diseases successfully as doctors learn more about urban-related afflictions / conditions</b>
18	Urban density and...	<b>Furthermore with a large population / being closely packed</b>
19	Diversity	<b>And a variety / array of people</b>
20	Accelerate the transmission of information and ideas <u>Or</u> raise awareness	<b>Information is easily / readily facilitated / disseminated</b>
21	Change behaviours	<b>Which can help people alter their lifestyles</b>

### Sample Summary Answer

One problem is that [we are unable to manage our lives]<sup>1</sup> **mainly because** [life has accelerated due to material concerns]<sup>2</sup>. **Not only are we** [expected to devote more time to our careers]<sup>3</sup>, [we are equally frenzied in our leisure time]<sup>4</sup> **and** [our diets have become unhealthy]<sup>5</sup>. **Consequently**, [we become irritable]<sup>7</sup> **and** [derive less delight from life]<sup>9</sup>. **With** [no time to process life's events]<sup>10</sup>, [a sense of loneliness pervades]<sup>13</sup> **resulting in** [a rise in psychological illnesses]<sup>14</sup>. **However**, [cities are able to alleviate these problems]<sup>15</sup> **due to** [their recognized institutions for community healthcare and support]<sup>16</sup> **allowing** [more efficient actions taken to address diseases successfully]<sup>17</sup>. **Finally**, [with large populations]<sup>18</sup> and [a variety of people]<sup>19</sup>, [information is easily disseminated]<sup>20</sup> **which can** [help people alter their lifestyles]<sup>21</sup>.

(120 words)

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