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

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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