

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL 5
FINAL EXAMINATION – SEMESTER II - 2018/19
SSU3136/DSU5336 – URBAN ECONOMICS



DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)

Date: 11.08.2019

Time: 1.30 pm to 4.30pm

Instructions:

➤ Answer 5 questions only. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. 'Cities are often associated with a high concentration of unemployed persons and the phenomenon often referred to as the urban paradox.'
(a) Explain why there is a concentration of unemployed persons in cities. (10 Marks)
(b) Explain the concept of 'urban paradox' mentioned above. (10 Marks)
2. Explain how the eviction of un-regularized slums dwellers affect industrial activities in the urban areas particularly in the developing countries. (20 Marks)
3. Elaborate how agglomeration forces facilitate strong economic growth in cities? (20 Marks)
4. Urbanization has helped millions of people to escape poverty in developed countries.
(a) Discuss the links between urbanization, productivity and employment opportunities. (10 marks)
(b) Explain how urbanization could lead to better education based on the experiences of East Asian countries. (10 marks)
5. (a) Explain the factors determine the requirements of urban housing (10 Marks)
(b) Discuss the causes of urban homelessness with examples. (10 Marks)
6. (a) Discuss the functions of goods and services in the 'higher order' and 'low order' centers. (10 Marks)
(b) Explain the emergence of city clusters (10 Marks)
7. Explain why urban development is considered as fundamental to achieve the national economic goals. (20 Marks)
8. (a) List the attributes identified for competitiveness of urban economic growth. (05 Marks)
(b) Select three of them and elaborate the challenges face by developing countries in achieving those attributes. (15 Marks)
9. Write short notes on any **four (04)** of the following: (5 Marks each)
(a) Environmental risk in the urban areas. (d) Habitat Agenda 1996
(b) The Colombo Port City (e) Urban Legislation
(c) Slums and Development