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Answers

Quiz: Informal settlements

This short quiz could be used as a brief introductory activity to begin discussion about informal settlements. It's designed to help students understand the timescales involved. The correct answers are given below, along with some additional information.

- 1 The correct answer is C, 1,100 million (1.1 billion). The number of people living in informal housing has increased by around 200 million people in the last 20 years. Much of the growth is driven by rural-urban migration.
- 2 The correct answer is D, slum. Although still widely used the term has become problematic because of its negative connotations and stereotyping. Many people in informal housing are resilient and adaptable. Using the term in a historical context ('Victorian London's slums') is acceptable.
- 3 The correct answer is B, lack of ownership/land rights. Because much informal housing is built illegally, residents do not have tenure. This increases the risk of forced eviction. Many upgrading and improvement projects focus on securing land tenure as a first step before physical improvements are made.
- 4 The correct answer is C, on the city edge. This is because there is available land e.g. farmland, forest and wasteland (often occupied illegally). In other parts of the city there is little or no space to construct new informal housing.
- 5 The correct answers are Katchi Abadis in Pakistan, Bustees in India, Favelas in Brazil and Gecekondu bölgesi ('settlement put up overnight') in Turkey.
- 6 The correct answer is C, 50–70%. This indicates the scale of the informal housing challenge in developing and emerging world cities — especially megacities — where there are millions of households living in informal settlements. In Lagos, the number is 4–5 million households.
- 7 Correct answers include:
 - Lack of electricity supply; in some case illegal 'hook-ups' are made to transmission cables which is extremely hazardous.
 - Lack of piped water supply: most people buy water from water vendors/tankers.
 - Lack of sanitation/sewers.
 - Lack of paved streets/roads
 - Limited or no public lighting
 - No formal rubbish/waste/garbage collection.
 - Limited/no access to emergency services.

8 All of the answers, A–D, are correct. Many informal settlements are constructed on dangerous land at risk from hazards such as flooding (swamp, marsh, riverbanks) and landslides (steep, unstable slopes). In addition, poor construction (weak foundations, waste materials) make houses highly vulnerable to natural hazards. High density and the use of wood increase fire risk.

9 The correct answer is 'yes'. In the USA and Europe so-called 'secondary units' are constructed in gardens/backyards and are rented out (usually illegally) to tenants. Often these units are little more than sheds. Homeless encampments are also informal housing, as are abandoned and derelict properties that are nonetheless occupied.

10 The correct answer is D, UN-Habitat <https://unhabitat.org/>

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