

Lecture 1: The Fundamentals of Urbanism

Level: Second-Year License

Module: English for Urban Planning

I. Definition of Urbanism

Urbanism is the study of cities and the way they are designed, built, and managed. It focuses on creating functional, sustainable, and livable environments for people.

Example:

In Algiers, urbanism includes organizing residential areas, developing transportation networks like the metro, and planning green spaces such as the (Jardin d'Essai).

II. The Importance of Urbanism

1. **Population Growth Management:**

Cities grow rapidly, and without proper planning, problems like overcrowding and pollution arise.

2. **Economic Development:**

Well-planned cities attract businesses and create jobs.

3. **Social Integration:**

Urbanism ensures access to public services like schools and hospitals for all citizens.

Example:

In Oran, recent urban planning projects aim to modernize infrastructure and create new housing areas to accommodate a growing population.

III. Components of Urbanism

1. **Urban Design:**

Planning the layout of streets, buildings, and public spaces.

2. **Infrastructure:**

Developing essential facilities like water, electricity, and transportation systems.

3. **Sustainability:**

Ensuring that urban growth does not harm the environment.

Case Study:

The “Smart City” project in Singapore uses technology to monitor energy use, traffic, and public services, promoting sustainability and efficiency.

Lecture 2: City Planning and Urban Challenges

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I. What is City Planning?

City planning is the process of organizing and designing urban areas to meet the needs of people. It involves deciding where to build homes, roads, schools, parks, and businesses.

II. Key Elements of City Planning

1. **Zoning:**
Dividing land into areas for specific uses (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial).
Example: In most cities, factories are located far from residential areas to reduce pollution.
 2. **Infrastructure Development:**
Ensuring cities have roads, clean water, electricity, and public transport.
Example: The tramway system in Constantine helps reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.
 3. **Public Spaces:**
Creating parks and squares where people can gather and relax.
Example: Tlemcen's city center features public spaces for cultural events and recreation.
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III. Challenges in City Planning

1. **Overpopulation:**
Rapid urbanization often leads to overcrowded cities.
Example: In Lagos, Nigeria, slums have developed due to a lack of affordable housing.
 2. **Traffic and Pollution:**
Poorly planned transportation systems lead to traffic jams and air pollution.
Example: Many major cities in the world struggle with car congestion during peak hours.
 3. **Environmental Impact:**
Urban growth can destroy natural habitats.
Example: Uncontrolled expansion in Amazonian regions has led to deforestation.
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IV. Solutions to Urban Challenges

1. Promote public transportation to reduce traffic.
2. Build affordable housing to prevent slums.
3. Protect green spaces to ensure environmental balance.

Case Study:

Curitiba, Brazil, is known for its innovative urban planning, including a successful bus rapid transit system and sustainable housing projects.

V. Practical Activity

Task:

Propose a solution to a common urban challenge in your city (e.g., traffic, housing, or pollution). Share your ideas with the class.