**Приложение 1**

**Views of the city**

Lead-in

Brainstorming

What words come to your mind when you think about the life in the city.

- Life in the city -

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Reading

Read three parts of the text and answer the questions:

One hundred and fifty years ago, the founder of evolutionary theory, Charles Darwin, predicted that the unpleasantness of life in crowded cities would not change, but humans would learn to love it. As far as the British are concerned, he was almost right. Many city dwellers today have cut all ties with the land and live in happy ignorance of what goes on in the country. The circuit of schools or office, supermarket and nightlife has become a natural habitat.

This state of affairs is, however, comparatively new. There is a much longer tradition of hostility to the city. English literature is full of anti-urban sentiment – the idea that God made the country and man made the town. Britain’s favourite poets are the Romantics, who came from the country and loved it. The most quoted poem in the English language is Wordsworth’s Daffodils, which evokes an idyllic rural scene. Shelley wrote: “Hell is a city much like London – a populous and smoky city”. Novelist Jane Austen wrote: “Nobody is healthy in London, nobody can be”.

Charles Dickens, in a sense, broke the spell of the rural myth. His novels are generally celebrations of city life, and the background of London streets is an important as the characters themselves. But his London is also often foggy, muddy, cold, wet and unfriendly.

The most famous exception to this negative consensus is the great wit, literary critic and dictionary writer Dr Johnson. He loved life in London in the 18th century, hated going out of the city, and said: “When a man is tired of London he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford”.

1. Why have city dwellers cut all ties with the land?

1. What were famous English poets’ opinions about city life? Why?
2. Who broke the spell of the rural myth? Did he really like people’s life that he could see in English cities?
3. Who really loved the life in London? How do you understand his expression about London?

In recent decades, people have been moving out of city centers into suburbs, new towns, smaller towns and the country. Villages and isolated farms and cottages, which used to be full of agricultural workers, are now the homes of people who drive to their offices in town. Even so, Britain remains one of the most urbanized countries in the world, with nine in ten of population living in towns or cities. There are a number of conurbations: urban areas that started as collections of neighbouring towns, but have grown into massive single units. Birmingham is the main component of what is called the West Midlands, a mega-city about 57 kilometres across and with a population of more than 2,5 million. Manchester is grouped together with a ring of old industrial towns such as Stockport, Oldham and Bolton to make up Greater Manchester, again with just over 2.5 million people. Then there are the conurbations of West Yorkshire, Merseyside, Tyneside and Clydeside in Scotland.

* 1. Where do people prefer to live nowadays?
  2. What does the word combination “mega-cities” mean?
  3. Can you explain the word ‘conurbation’?

The term inner city has come to have a specific meaning: not just the central area, but the older, densely populated parts of big cities with problems of decay and poverty. There has been a tendency for richer people to move away from the center to suburbs where they can have gardens and bigger houses. This ahs left the historic centers to poorer residents who have not had the resources to maintain or improve their homes.

Big cities are by their nature anonymous places, and crime thrives on anonymity. For obvious reasons, crime also goes with unemployment. So inner-city areas in Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester and many other cities found themselves in a vicious circle of deprivation. Services, including education, declined as people tried to move away rather than improve the situation.

Today there is a more positive attitude to the potential of city life. Living close together has great environmental benefits, and with good planning opens up possibilities of rich, convivial life.

1. What meaning does the term “inner-cities” have?
2. What is the reason of existing such inner cities?

Vocabulary practice

1. Give the English equivalents for the following:

Жители города, плотно населенные части города, деревенский вид, анти-городской, пригород, положительное отношение к, процветать, праздничная жизнь, загнивать, по природе.

2. Give the Russian equivalents for the following:

As far as the British are concerned, the circuit of schools or office, a natural habitat, hostility to the city, conurbation, a vicious circle of deprivation, environmental benefits.

3. In pairs look at the underlined words in the texts and try to explain them.

Talking point

1. Work in groups.

Can you explain Keats’s words:

“To one who has been long in cities pent;

‘Tis very sweet to look into the fair

And open face of Heaven.”

2. In your opinion

Discuss the following questions:

1. In your country, is the traditional view of cities positive or negative?
2. From your point of what are the best and worst things about city life?
3. The growth of mega-cities seems to be natural. Is there any reason to limit their size?
4. What are inner cities like in your country? Do they have the same problems as in Britain?

**Useful language:**

I think …

In my opinion …

I don’t think ….

I’m afraid I’m not with you here …

I disagree with you ( on the point) ..

Frankly speaking, …

On the plus side, …

What is more ….

In addition, ….

However ….

On the other hand …