

LEVEL 4 Assessment Answer Key

## UNIT 2

### Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. The idea of urban dwellers helping to play an active role in animal conservation efforts has yet to be proven. For now, it's a \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. hypothesis
  - b. boundary
  - c. counterpart

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

2. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of traffic on this street to see how popular the route is.
- a. track
  - b. minimize
  - c. eradicate

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

3. In a stunning \_\_\_\_\_, the city council decided not to go ahead with the urban renewal project they had announced just a week before.
- a. reliance
  - b. reversal
  - c. counterpart

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

4. To complete the project, the developers will need to overcome both financial and practical \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. habitats
  - b. constraints
  - c. predators

ANSWER: b

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5. It isn't possible to completely \_\_\_\_\_ pests in urban areas.
- stem from
  - perceive
  - eradicate

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

**Complete the sentences with the correct words.**

boundary	consistently	counterpart	minimize	predators
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6. Regular maintenance will help \_\_\_\_\_ the number of times the elevator breaks down.
7. The rats were able to \_\_\_\_\_ evade the traps that were set.
8. Cats are natural \_\_\_\_\_ that can have a negative impact on local wildlife.
9. The railway track acts as an unofficial \_\_\_\_\_ between the two cities.
10. The male mallard duck has a bright green head and a yellow beak, but its female \_\_\_\_\_ is generally brown and gray all over.

ANSWERS: 6. minimize, 7. consistently, 8. predators, 9. boundary, 10. counterpart

POINTS: 5

**Match the words to the sentences.**

- |               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| 11. space     | ● | ● a. The city couldn't pay to keep the animal shelter open because of _____ constraints.      |
| 12. legal     | ● | ● b. She wasn't able to fit the large sofa into her living room because of _____ constraints. |
| 13. financial | ● | ● c. Due to _____ constraints, they were not allowed to hire workers under 18.                |

ANSWERS: 11. b, 12. c, 13. a

POINTS: 3

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- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 14. counterbalance ● | ● a. The town planner worked closely with her _____ in the architect's office.    |
| 15. counterattack ●  | ● b. By failing to consider his vulnerabilities, he left himself open to a _____. |
| 16. counterpart ●    | ● c. You should try meditation or yoga to _____ the stress you feel at work.      |

ANSWERS: 14. c, 15. b, 16. a

POINTS: 3

**Read the passage.**

**Wild Cities (by Christine Dell'Amore)**

- A** At first glance, it's a scene that plays out daily in cities across America. A U.S. Postal Service carrier steps out of his mail truck and strides across the street, letters in hand. That much is unremarkable. But this postman either doesn't notice or doesn't seem to care that a hefty American black bear, likely a young male, is sitting a few yards away, vigorously scratching his shedding winter coat.
- B** Immediately to the left, Interstate 240 roars behind a chain-link fence, apparently just white noise to the bear, which eventually wanders down the sidewalk deeper into this neighborhood barely a half mile from downtown Asheville, North Carolina.
- C** Along the highway, a team of researchers with the North Carolina Urban/ Suburban Bear Study is captivated by another discovery: a deep hollow inside a gnarled silver maple tree. Bear N209, a radio-collared female that's among more than a hundred bears being tracked in a study, hibernated there over the winter, despite the constant rush of vehicles mere feet away.
- D** "These bears still surprise me," Colleen Olfenbuttel, the state's black bear biologist, shouts over the din of traffic. She holds a ladder steady as a colleague scrambles inside the tree and measures the den. It's the biggest tree den Olfenbuttel has seen in her 23 years of studying black bears. "They're so much more adaptable than we give them credit for."
- E** Indeed, it's hard to imagine that black bears would take so well to living in Asheville. In this city of about 95,000, nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, bears shuffle down residential streets in broad daylight and climb onto people's decks and front porches. Some Asheville residents have embraced their furry neighbors, and nearly every person you talk with has a video of their most recent bear encounter.
- F** The advent of the city bear in Asheville and elsewhere stems from a combination of trends, including changes in land use and the tempting buffets available when living near people. These factors have boosted North America's black bear population to nearly 800,000. At the same time, sprawling cities and suburbs have

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swallowed up large areas of bear habitat, leaving the animals little choice but to adapt to living with human neighbors.

- G** It's a phenomenon happening in urban areas around the world, and it's not unique to black bears. Many mammals that eat a wide variety of foods are moving in and changing their behaviors as they learn urban survival skills.
- H** Unfortunately, humans and bears don't always live in harmony—even in open-minded Asheville, where bears have killed pets and injured at least one person in recent years. In 2020, a mother bear defending her cubs attacked Valerie Patenotte's dog, which later died. "We understand everyone has to coexist," says Patenotte as we stand on her back deck overlooking the distant mountains. "We just want more space from bears."
- I** While black bears have reclaimed about half their former range and now live in some 40 states, coyotes have taken the U.S. by storm in recent decades. They now can be found in every state except Hawaii, and in most major cities. The metropolis most synonymous with the urban coyote is Chicago, home to as many as 4,000 of the animals.
- J** Stan Gehrt, a wildlife ecologist with Ohio State University and the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, began studying Chicago's coyotes in 2000, not long after the animals started showing up there. Back then, Gehrt thought his project would last a year. More than two decades later, he's still at it. "We consistently underestimate this animal and its ability to adjust and adapt," Gehrt says. "They push the boundaries of what we perceive to be constraints."
- K** At the beginning of Gehrt's research, he thought coyotes would be restricted to parks and green spaces, but he was wrong. "Now we have coyotes everywhere—every neighborhood, every suburban city, and downtown."

**Choose the correct answers.**

17. What best describes the attitude of the people of Asheville to bears?
- They are all happy to have bears living near them.
  - They don't enjoy people taking videos of themselves with the bears.
  - They view the bears with a mixture of interest and concern.

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

18. What is NOT mentioned in the passage as a place bears have been seen in Asheville?
- Sleeping inside a tree on the outside of town.
  - Shuffling down the interstate highway outside of town.
  - Looking for food in people's gardens.

ANSWER: b

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19. What is one reason given for the increase in bear numbers in urban centers?
- a. The food we throw away is an easy food source.
  - b. The increasing willingness of people to coexist with animals.
  - c. The large numbers of parks and green spaces in our cities.

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

20. What can be said about the range of black bears?
- a. Their range has doubled in the past forty years.
  - b. They can be found in every state except Hawaii.
  - c. Their range had decreased significantly but is now expanding again.

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

21. In paragraph J, the phrase *showing up* in the first sentence is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. embarrassing
  - b. appearing
  - c. attending

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

**Read the passage.****Learning to Live with Leopards (by Richard Conniff)**

- A** We were sitting in the dark, waiting for the leopards beside a trail on the edge of India's Sanjay Gandhi National Park, 40 square miles of green life in the middle of the city of Mumbai. A line of tall apartment buildings stood just opposite, crowding the park border. It was 10 p.m., and through the open windows came the sounds of dishes being cleaned and children being put to bed. Teenage laughter, a motorcycle revving. The hum and clatter of 21 million people, like a great machine. Somewhere around us, the leopards were listening too, waiting for the noise to die down. Watching.
- B** About 35 leopards live in and around this park. That's an average of less than two square miles of habitat apiece, for animals that can easily range ten miles in a day. These leopards also live surrounded by some of the world's most crowded urban neighborhoods, housing 52,000 people or more per square mile. (That's nearly twice the population density of New York City.) And yet the leopards thrive. Part of their diet comes from spotted deer and other wild prey within the park. But many of the leopards also slip through the streets and alleys, where they pick off dogs, cats, pigs, rats, chickens, and goats. They eat people too, though rarely.

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- C** And yet leopards have become our shadows. They have no choice. Human expansion has already cost leopards an estimated 66 percent of their range in Africa and 85 percent in Eurasia, with most of the loss occurring over the past five decades. In many areas, the only place left to survive is side by side with humans.
- D** Unlike most other big cats, leopards can adapt, up to a point. They can prey on anything—dung beetles, porcupines, 2,000-pound elands. They can make a home at 110 degrees Fahrenheit in the Kalahari Desert or at minus 13 degrees in Russia. They can thrive in sea-level mangrove swamps on the coast of India or at 17,000 feet in the Himalaya. That adaptability, combined with a genius for hiding in plain sight, means leopards are entirely capable of living among humans, as they do in Mumbai. The question is whether humans can learn to live with leopards.
- E** We have a long and complicated relationship, and like much else, it began in Africa. Leopards are a young species: They emerged in their modern form as recently as 500,000 years ago. Like us, they spread out to populate a large chunk of the globe, from the southern tip of Africa to the Russian Far East, as well as west into Senegal and southeast to Indonesia. They may have shadowed early humans, to take advantage of our ability to drive off lions and other competitors or, later, to pick off our livestock.
- F** India may be the real test of survival in a crowded world—and perhaps a model for it—because leopards live there in large numbers, outside protected areas, and in astonishing proximity to people. Attacks on humans are relatively rare. It is far easier to die in India from civilization than from wildness: Nationwide, 381 people are killed every day in road accidents, 80 more on rail lines, and 24 by electrocution. But leopard killings get headlines, partly because they are uncommon and also because they touch something primitive in the human psyche.
- G** I left India thinking that what I had learned of leopards there was far removed from the way people live in more developed countries. Then I arrived back in the United States to an unverified report of a mountain lion four miles from my home on the Connecticut coast, followed by news of a black bear in New Haven—a nearby city. Mountain lions now roam through Los Angeles, coyotes can be seen in Chicago, and great white sharks swim off Cape Cod—a popular tourist resort in the summer months. As human populations expand, and we make the Earth more urban, other carnivores also seem to be adapting and learning to live near us. This is not necessarily a bad thing: Studies have repeatedly shown that healthy predator populations are essential to the health of almost everything else.

**Choose *True*, *False* or *Not Given*.**

22. The urban area surrounding India's Sanjay Gandhi National Park is more densely populated than New York City.
- True
  - False
  - Not Given

ANSWER: a

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23. The author believes that the leopard population of Sanjay Gandhi National Park will gradually increase.
- a. True
  - b. False
  - c. Not Given

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

24. Leopards have lost a greater percentage of their range in Africa than in Eurasia.
- a. True
  - b. False
  - c. Not Given

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

25. Leopards' diets include many types of food.
- a. True
  - b. False
  - c. Not Given

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

26. Leopards' fatal attacks on humans are more widely reported than traffic deaths.
- a. True
  - b. False
  - c. Not Given

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

**Choose the correct answers.**

27. In paragraph **A**, which of these phrases is an appositive?
- a. through the open windows came the sounds of dishes being cleaned and children being put to bed
  - b. 40 square miles of green life in the middle of the city of Mumbai

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

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28. In paragraph **D**, which of these phrases is an appositive?
- a. dung beetles, porcupines, 2,000-pound elands
  - b. combined with a genius for hiding in plain sight
  - c. as they do in Mumbai

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

**Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.**

29. The book was written by Charles Darwin, \_\_\_\_\_ naturalists of all time.
- a. the most famous one
  - b. one of the most famous
  - c. he is one of the most famous

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

30. The bear had a badly broken leg, \_\_\_\_\_ an injury from being hit by a vehicle on the nearby highway.
- a. which
  - b. as was
  - c. likely

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

31. Racoons, \_\_\_\_\_ animal famous for eating anything, mustn't eat chocolate as it is toxic to them.
- a. an
  - b. is an
  - c. which, as an

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

32. Chicago, \_\_\_\_\_ city on Lake Michigan, has up to 4,000 coyotes living within its city limits.
- a. a
  - b. is a
  - c. there is a

ANSWER: a

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33. Human food doesn't provide animals with the right nutrients—\_\_\_\_\_ substances found in food that allow animals to survive and grow.
- a. that the
  - b. is the
  - c. the

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

34. Leopards don't kill as many people as traffic collisions, \_\_\_\_\_ cause of accidental deaths.
- a. one of the
  - b. the number one
  - c. a number of the

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

**Read each essay prompt. Choose the best thesis statement.**

35. What are the biggest impacts that human beings have on our planet?
- a. There are three main ways that human civilization is affecting Earth: urbanization, agriculture, and climate change.
  - b. In order to slow down the number one impact humans are having on our planet—climate change—we need to recycle more and reduce the use of fossil fuels.

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

36. Why is it important to protect rainforests?
- a. Rainforests should be protected because they provide habitats for many animal species and provide humans with useful resources.
  - b. Rainforests are being destroyed at an alarming rate all around the world—it is vital that we work hard to protect them.

ANSWER: a

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37. Is it easier to learn in a small class than in a large one?

- a. In my opinion, better learning takes place in smaller classes because it is easier for the teacher to manage the class size and give more attention to individual students.
- b. According to the latest research, class sizes are increasing rapidly due to a lack of funding and higher demand for university places.

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

38. Why have animals such as leopards become endangered?

- a. The habitat of predators, such as leopards, has shrunk dramatically in the last few decades, largely due to urbanization.
- b. Farming, the growth of cities, and the destruction of forests: These have all contributed to the decline of large cats.

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

39. How are high-rise buildings bad for social networks?

- a. Although people who live in high-rise apartments live closer to their neighbors than those who live in houses, the lack of shared open spaces reduces opportunities to mix.
- b. Studies have shown that people living in high-rise buildings have worse mental health and more anxiety than those living in houses.

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

**Read each sentence from a problem-solution essay. Decide if the sentence fits best in the *introduction*, *body*, or *conclusion* of the essay. Choose the correct answer.**

40. The second reason why our forests need to be preserved is that many of its plants possess medicinal properties.

- a. Introduction
- b. Body
- c. Conclusion

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

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41. Finally, our forests need to be protected because their trees and vegetation absorb carbon dioxide and help lower atmospheric temperatures.

- a. Introduction
- b. Body
- c. Conclusion

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

42. Tackling deforestation won't be easy, but by working together, we can secure a greener and more sustainable future for all living beings on Earth.

- a. Introduction
- b. Body
- c. Conclusion

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

43. As we will see, our rainforests need to be protected because they are home to many indigenous people and cultures, contain plants with powerful medicinal properties, and play an important role in regulating our climate.

- a. Introduction
- b. Body
- c. Conclusion

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

44. The first reason we need to protect our rainforests is because they are home to many local tribes and cultures.

- a. Introduction
- b. Body
- c. Conclusion

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

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**You are going to write a problem-solution essay on the following topic.**

45. **Propose one or more solutions to one of the topics.**

**Topic 1:** How can we make cities more pet friendly?

**Topic 2:** How can we improve the health/well-being of people in urban environments?

**A. OUTLINE Plan an outline for your problem-solution essay.**

Choose a problem to discuss. Decide if you have three solutions to the problem, or one solution with three reasons.

Write notes for your introduction. Describe the problem and provide context. Write your thesis statement.

Organize your essay. Decide what information will go in each of the body paragraphs.

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**B. Think of some words and phrases you can use in your problem-solution essay. Write them in the box.**

The words and phrases below can be useful when writing about a problem and proposing solutions.

- *alleviate*
- *cause for concern*
- *implication*
- *inadequate*
- *opt*
- *put into practice*
- *strategy*
- *viable*

**C. Write your problem-solution essay based on your outline. Use the model to help you. Remember to use the vocabulary you wrote down.****Model:**

*Living in big concrete cities can have a negative effect on the physical and mental health of people. Green spaces—such as parks, gardens, and urban forests—provide vital pockets of nature within heavily urbanized areas. In this essay, I will investigate why having green spaces in cities is crucial. I will look at how green spaces promote physical and mental well-being, create more sustainable urban environments, and foster social interaction.*

*Green spaces offer urban residents calm and peaceful spaces away from the rush of city life. These areas provide opportunities for physical activities such as jogging, yoga, and sports—all of which contribute to healthier lifestyles and help reduce stress. Regular exposure to trees and plants has also been linked to improved mental health, reduced anxiety, and even better performance in exams. Natural environments have a calming effect, alleviating the stress often associated with urban living. Green spaces allow city dwellers to spend more time outdoors, engaging in activities that promote overall well-being and improve quality of life.*

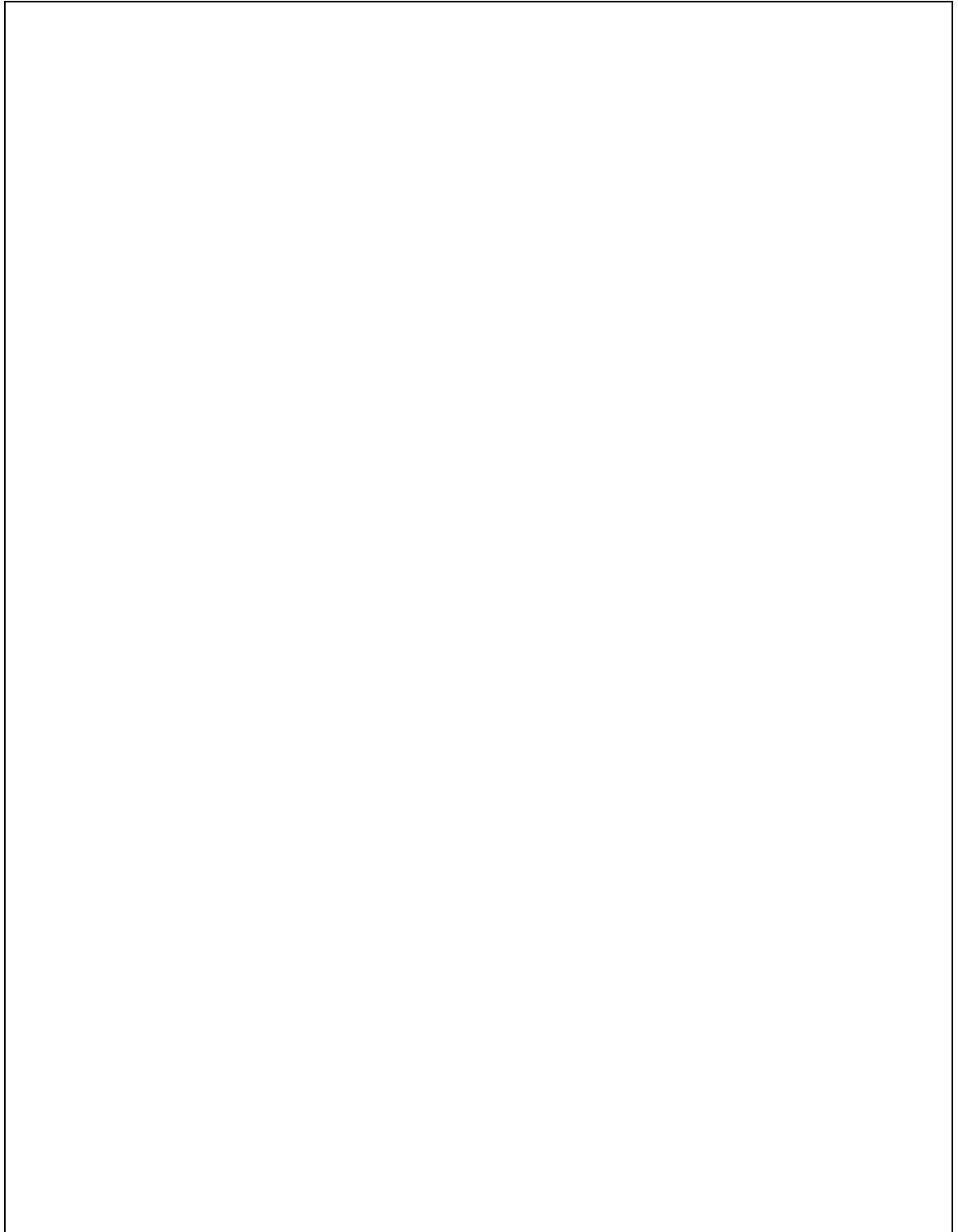
*In the face of pressing environmental challenges, green spaces play a crucial role in making cities greener. For starters, they act as natural filters, improving air quality. They also reduce the urban heat island effect by providing shade and cooling surrounding areas. This cooling effect is particularly important as climate change intensifies. In addition, green spaces aid in water management by reducing the risk of flooding. By creating green spaces, cities can take significant steps towards reducing their ecological footprints.*

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*Another benefit of green spaces is that they serve as meeting points and hubs of social interaction, strengthening the sense of community within cities. Parks and recreational areas provide spaces for people to come together, engage in leisure activities, and build connections with neighbors. These spaces are often used as venues for exhibitions, concerts, and festivals—events that can help foster social as well as intercultural interactions. Furthermore, green spaces promote community engagement. Residents often take pride in these areas, and many even take it upon themselves to care for and maintain these spaces.*

*In conclusion, it is vital for cities to have plenty of green spaces to promote a balanced and sustainable urban lifestyle. These spaces enhance physical and mental well-being, improve the environment, and encourage social interaction. As urban populations continue to grow, prioritizing the creation and preservation of green spaces is essential for creating cities that are not only environmentally responsible but also beneficial to the well-being of their residents. Through careful urban planning, we can create viable city layouts that are not only more natural but enriching too.*

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ANSWER: Answers will vary. See Writing Rubric.

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