**Urban Life**

The human and cultural diversity of a large urban setting creates a unique environment. Urban life features densely populated areas. Cities usually have a lot of industry, which results in employment opportunities. They provide easy access to services such as healthcare, transportation, entertainment, and education. Cities attract intellectual and creative talent, making them the birthplace of most innovations.

**The Benefits of Urban Life**

The anonymity of big cities can be appealing to some, where social status is determined by merit, intelligence, and perseverance. Social mobility can be robust where there are opportunities for advances in occupation or residence. People who live urban areas tend to earn more due to the greater availability of jobs, competition for highly qualified employees, and salaries adjusted for the higher cost of living. Employers benefit by having a more diverse labor pool. Commuting time to and from work is reduced.

In cities, people can live within walking distance of school, their job, and services. Public transportation provides access to urban resources without the need for a car. Public facilities such as libraries, parks, and community centers are easy to reach. Many cities are bicyclist friendly and offer bicycle rentals.

Large population density can help make cities more ecologically sustainable. Ecologists have found that cities decrease human intrusion on natural habitats. More population density means more natural and agricultural lands can be saved. Apartment buildings are more efficient to heat and cool than suburban houses. Urban dwellings emit less carbon dioxide than comparable rural ones. Cities also generally have better infrastructure for public water, sanitation, and waste removal.

Cities are distinguished by diversity. There is vast variety in people’s foods, dress, living conditions, religious beliefs, customs, and traditions. Living amidst diverse cultures and races involves balancing contradictory ideas and facing conflict.

**The Challenges of Urban Life**

Every aspect of urban life has both positive and negative aspects. The benefits of urban life are not evenly distributed by race or class. Not all neighborhoods are equal. Access to fresh foods may be limited. Not every city can depend on clean and safe streets, schools, and parks.

Living in urban areas can be very expensive, which can be hard on younger people and families. It can even lead to homelessness. Cities also have more pollution and higher levels of stress than rural or suburban settings. Urban people walk, but they sit more, too, in office jobs and service professions.

A sense of community may be hard to create and sustain in an urban area. Community relies on social relationships and is the feeling of belonging and a sense that one's needs will be met through a shared commitment. Neighborhood associations, schools, and arts and cultural organizations support community connections, yet social alienation can be a downside of urban life. Daily social exchanges tend to be impersonal. For example, a single resident in an apartment building who lives beside hundreds of people may feel lonely and isolated if he or she does not regularly interact with neighbors.

People need social relationships for emotional warmth and security. Social ties are built wherever people have shared interests, such as at work, in apartment buildings, and through school connections. Other urban communities form through clubs and building or block associations. Yet it can be challenging to build those meaningful connections in a city where indifference is the norm.

Answer the following questions:

* What are the benefit of Urban life?
* What are the challenges of urban life?