



This is my IELTS writing task 2 sample answer essay on the topic of city planning and zoning.

IELTS Essay: City Planning and Zoning

**In many cities, planners tend to arrange shops, schools, offices and homes in specific areas and separate them from each other.**

**Do you think the advantages of this policy outweigh the disadvantages?**

One common approach employed by city planners involves the separation of various establishments such as shops, schools, offices, and homes into distinct areas. While this zoning policy offers certain advantages, the notable drawbacks outweigh the positives.

One significant advantage of zoning is the promotion of efficient land use. By grouping similar establishments together, cities can optimize the allocation of resources and infrastructure. For instance, commercial areas can be designed with adequate parking spaces and easy access to transportation, making it convenient for both shoppers and business owners. Zoning similarly allows for the creation of specialized zones, such as industrial areas, which can enhance productivity and economic growth. This is the case in many newer cities such as Shenzhen in China where urban planners had the opportunity to fashion a more efficient and livable environment for residents due to the lack of previous development in the area.

However, a notable concern is the potential lack of vibrancy and diversity in strictly zoned cities. When different establishments are mixed within neighborhoods, it fosters a sense of community

and generates vibrant social spaces. Mixing residential and commercial areas can lead to the development of lively streets with a variety of shops, cafes, galleries, and parks, creating a more engaging and inclusive urban experience. This is evidenced in contrast to newer cities like Shenzhen with older cities throughout the world that are famed for their cultural vibrancy. The list of such cities is innumerable but includes some of the most well-known and desirable urban areas on the globe such as London, New York, Paris, Kyoto, and Barcelona.

In conclusion, zoning policies that group areas by their purpose can lead to efficient land use though the likelihood of a lack of vibrancy within neighborhoods is a more significant factor. To strike a balance, city planners must carefully consider the specific context and needs of their communities, adopting a flexible approach that combines the benefits of zoning with the promotion of mixed-use areas.

## Analysis

1. One common approach employed by city planners involves the separation of various establishments such as shops, schools, offices, and homes into distinct areas. 2. While this zoning policy offers certain advantages, the notable drawbacks outweigh the positives.

- *Paraphrase the overall essay topic.*
- *Write a clear opinion. Read more about introductions [here](#).*

1. One significant advantage of zoning is the promotion of efficient land use. 2. By grouping similar establishments together, cities can optimize the allocation of resources and infrastructure. 3. For instance, commercial areas can be designed with adequate parking spaces and easy access to transportation, making it convenient for both shoppers and business owners. 4. Zoning similarly allows for the creation of specialized zones, such as industrial areas, which can enhance productivity and economic growth. 5. This is the case in many newer cities such as Shenzhen in China where urban planners had the opportunity to fashion a more efficient and livable environment for residents due to the lack of previous development in the area.

- *Write a [topic sentence](#) with a clear main idea at the end.*
- *Explain your main idea.*
- *Develop it with specific or hypothetical examples.*
- *Keep developing it fully.*
- *Better to have more detail.*

1. However, a notable concern is the potential lack of vibrancy and diversity in strictly zoned

cities. **2.** When different establishments are mixed within neighborhoods, it fosters a sense of community and generates vibrant social spaces. **3.** Mixing residential and commercial areas can lead to the development of lively streets with a variety of shops, cafes, galleries, and parks, creating a more engaging and inclusive urban experience. **4.** This is evidenced in contrast to newer cities like Shenzhen with older cities throughout the world that are famed for their cultural vibrancy. **5.** The list of such cities is innumerable but includes some of the most well-known and desirable urban areas on the globe such as London, New York, Paris, Kyoto, and Barcelona.

- *Write a new topic sentence with a new **main idea** at the end.*
- *Explain your new main idea.*
- *Include specific details and examples.*
- *Add as much information as you can and make sure it links logically.*
- *This essay is a bit long – aim for about 275 words.*

**1.** In conclusion, zoning policies that group areas by their purpose can lead to efficient land use though the likelihood of a lack of vibrancy within neighborhoods is a more significant factor. **2.** To strike a balance, city planners must carefully consider the specific context and needs of their communities, adopting a flexible approach that combines the benefits of zoning with the promotion of mixed-use areas.

- *Summarise your main ideas.*
- *Include a final thought. Read more about conclusions [here](#).*

## Vocabulary

*What do the words in bold below mean? Make some notes on paper to aid memory and then check below.*

One common approach employed by city planners involves the **separation** of various **establishments** such as shops, schools, offices, and homes into **distinct** areas. While this zoning policy offers certain advantages, the notable drawbacks outweigh the positives.

One significant advantage of zoning is the **promotion** of **efficient land use**. By **grouping** similar establishments together, cities can **optimize** the **allocation of resources** and **infrastructure**. For instance, **commercial areas** can be **designed with adequate parking spaces** and **easy access to transportation**, making it **convenient** for both shoppers and **business owners**. Zoning **similarly** allows for the **creation of specialized zones**, such as **industrial areas**, which can **enhance productivity** and **economic growth**. This is the case in many newer cities such as Shenzhen in China where **urban planners** had the opportunity to **fashion** a more efficient and

**livable** environment for **residents** due to the lack of previous development in the area.

However, a **notable concern** is the **potential lack of vibrancy and diversity** in **strictly zoned** cities. When different establishments are mixed within neighborhoods, it **fosters a sense of community** and **generates vibrant social spaces**. Mixing residential and commercial areas can lead to the development of **lively streets** with a **variety of** shops, cafes, galleries, and parks, creating a more **engaging** and **inclusive urban experience**. This is evidenced in contrast to newer cities like Shenzhen with older cities **throughout the world** that are **famed for their cultural vibrancy**. The list of such cities is **innumerable** but includes some of the most **well-known** and **desirable urban areas** **around the globe** such as London, New York, Paris, Kyoto, and Barcelona.

In conclusion, zoning policies that group areas by their **purpose** can lead to efficient land use though the **likelihood** of a lack of vibrancy within neighborhoods is a **more significant factor**. To **strike a balance**, city planners must carefully consider the **specific context** and **needs of their communities**, **adopting a flexible approach** that combines the benefits of zoning with the **promotion of mixed-use areas**.

## Answers

*For extra practice, write an antonym (opposite word) on a piece of paper to help you remember the new vocabulary:*

One common approach: A frequently used method

employed by: utilized by

city planners: urban planning authorities

separation: segregation

establishments: businesses

distinct: separate

zoning policy: zoning regulations

offers certain advantages: provides specific benefits

the notable drawbacks outweigh the positives: the significant disadvantages surpass the advantages

One significant advantage of: One notable benefit of

promotion: promotion

efficient land use: effective land utilization

grouping: clustering

optimize: optimize

allocation of resources: distribution of resources  
infrastructure: physical framework  
commercial areas: business districts  
designed with adequate parking spaces: equipped with sufficient parking facilities  
easy access to transportation: convenient transportation access  
convenient for: suitable for  
business owners: entrepreneurs  
similarly: similarly  
creation of specialized zones: establishment of specialized areas  
industrial areas: manufacturing zones  
enhance productivity: improve productivity  
economic growth: financial growth  
This is the case in: This is evident in  
urban planners: city planners  
fashion: style  
livable: habitable  
residents: inhabitants  
notable concern: significant concern  
potential lack of vibrancy and diversity: possible absence of vibrancy and diversity  
strictly: stringently  
fosters a sense of community: nurtures a sense of community  
generates vibrant social spaces: creates dynamic social spaces  
lively streets: vibrant streets  
a variety of: a range of  
engaging: captivating  
inclusive urban experience: inclusive urban experience  
This is evidenced in contrast to: This is demonstrated in contrast to  
throughout the world: across the globe  
famed for: renowned for  
cultural vibrancy: cultural vibrancy  
innumerable: countless  
well-known: well-established  
desirable urban areas: desirable urban areas  
on the globe: worldwide  
purpose: intention  
likelihood: probability