



**Urban Studies**  
**Geography – Junior Cert**  
**Quick Notes**

# Urban Studies

As you travel towards the city, the value or price of the land increases and the intensity of the land use increases. For this reason, tall buildings are developed in the city and the buildings are used for a variety of purposes. Urban fringe is the edge of the city and rush hour traffic gridlock occurs when people commute between the urban fringe and city center. Solutions to this problem are construction of ring-road, suburban railway, improved bus services and one-way traffic systems. Urban sprawl and inner city decline are the dominant problems in developed world cities. Urban sprawl is the spreading out of a city into the surrounding countryside. The solution to urban problems are urban redevelopment and urban renewal. Urban redevelopment is when decayed residential areas are cleared and their inhabitants are rehoused in the suburbs or new towns so that the inner city sites can then be used for the building of shops, offices or high quality apartments. Urban renewal is when people's houses are repaired and efforts are made to improve community services and job opportunities. Urban problems can also arise in developing world or third world cities and they are much worse than those of developed world cities. For instance, there may be inequalities between rich and poor, unplanned development, lack of basic services or rapid urban growth leading to shanty towns. Shanty towns or bustees are hastily built, unplanned slums in developing world cities.