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# AP Human Geography

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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# AP<sup>®</sup> Human Geography 2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

## Question 1

**7 points (2 + 1 + 2 + 2)**

**Note:** Smart growth may be used in place of, or in conjunction with, New Urbanism.

**A. Identify TWO goals of the New Urbanism movement. 2 points (1+1)**

1. Reduce the amount or area of suburban or urban sprawl	8. Enable healthier lifestyles: outdoor activities, improve access to food or eliminate food deserts
2. Increase walkability or pedestrian-friendly areas	9. Produce architecture and design to reflect local history or culture
3. Increase bikeable areas	10. Construct denser or more compact built space; support denser population
4. Increase transit-oriented development, more energy efficient transport, or more public transportation	11. Develop more open public space
5. Expand the variety of housing types in the same area	12. Increase amount of outdoor dining, performance, market, or festival space
6. Increase diversity: ages, income levels, cultures, ethnicities	13. Decrease commuting time or live close to work
7. Construct green buildings or energy efficient structures	14. Promote sustainability: minimal environmental impact, eco-friendly technology, less use of fuels

**Note:** “Sustainability” and “better life,” alone, are not acceptable unless terms relate to a goal listed above.

**B. Explain the difference between mixed-use development and traditional zoning practices. 1 point (Must address both parts)**

- Mixed-use zoning permits multiple land-uses in the same space or building, **AND**
- Traditional zoning requires separate zones based upon land-use type or economic function (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial)

**C. Explain TWO benefits of mixed use development in promoting urban growth. 2 points (1+1)**

1. Ease of accessibility to services, recreation, jobs
2. Less travel time or cost (e.g., reduced need for car ownership), increased personal time and discretionary income
3. Increased social interaction, or increased sense of community; improved sense of place or neighborhood character
4. Decreased energy or fuel use, decreased carbon-footprint, decreased air pollution
5. Reduced traffic, lower vehicle speeds, increased pedestrian safety
6. Increased retail sales or higher business profitability
7. Increased real estate values, increased property taxes, decreased infrastructure (e.g., shorter or fewer water and sewer lines) or construction costs (e.g., attached buildings; shared walls)
8. Revitalization of urban landscapes and redevelopment of brownfield or grayfield areas

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**Question 1 (continued)**

9. Preservation or conservation of land: parks, greenbelts, buffer zones, farmland preservation
10. Less crime due to more occupied housing, which increases the number of people on the street day and night; more eyes on the street
11. Curbing suburban or urban sprawl through more efficient use of space

**D. Explain TWO criticisms of New Urbanism. 2 points (1+1)**

1. High housing costs still price out lower income residents or favor middle to upper income residents
2. De facto segregation or decreased diversity are perpetuated
3. Increased popularity may place stress on infrastructure or community; draw away residents or revenue from surrounding areas
4. Potential residents still favor yard space and detached single-family homes, quiet and private (e.g., as found in suburbs)
5. New mixed-used developments in suburbs can still perpetuate sprawl in surrounding areas (e.g., greenfields)
6. Many residents will not relinquish their cars, requiring parking spaces
7. Cost of new mixed-use or converted buildings can be very expensive
8. Similar designs may produce placelessness or loss of historical character

**Note:** The word gentrification alone does not receive a point. Students may discuss gentrification in context of the criticisms above.

- A Two main goals of the New Urbanism movement include ~~attracting residents that exist outside of the city and in the suburbs~~ ~~reversing the loss of the city~~ ~~the~~ creating a more interactive urban environment where residents are able to interact with one another through activities that exist in parks, ~~and~~ as well as through improved walkways to make a city more navigable on foot. Another goal of the new urbanism movement is to create a more attractive city by utilizing mixed-use development to make goods and services more accessible on foot, as they are closer. All-in-all, this contributes to creating an urban environment that is safer and more attractive to families and independent Americans.
- B Mixed-use development is the adaption of land ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> many different ~~types~~ <sup>types</sup> of purposes such as that of residential, commercial, and business districts all incorporated into one area. Traditional zoning practices differ in that these are areas where land is developed into <sup>separate</sup> regions ~~that all have a~~ <sup>that all have a</sup> specific purpose, where residential exists <sup>within</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>space</sup> while commercial exists <sup>within</sup> ~~another~~ <sup>another</sup>.

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C Two benefits involved with the use of mixed-use development first includes the fact that in these environments, commercial businesses are able to exist closer to their markets, with the integration of commercial with residential. Because of this, more people have close access to jobs and services, ~~as well as~~ ~~which~~ which is also coupled with a greater amount of consumerism taking place in the community, which finally leads to a greater amount of money going into the local economy. ~~Without~~ Without the necessity to drive as well, emissions produced by cars and transportation is also reduced through the use of mixed-use development. ~~All of this~~ ~~also~~ ~~the~~, as well as the cost of transportation. All of this comes together to strengthen the appeal of urban life, increasing urbanization.

D Along with benefits, there come criticisms of New Urbanization, which firstly includes the concern that with new development, life in ~~the~~ regions of a city where the practice is taking place become very expensive. As new urban dwellers from the suburbs move in as well, this <sup>also</sup> results in this increase in the cost of living, and the former residents of this "Newly Urbanized" portion of the city <sup>often</sup> experience

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The effects of gentrification, where ~~the~~ lower income residents of a neighborhood in a city ~~are~~ can no longer support themselves there as middle-income families move in. Another criticism of New Urbanism is the effect it has on the historical aspects of a city. As new development takes place and buildings with a more modernistic appeal ~~are~~ are built, people argue that the history behind the city can be drained out, even more so when older buildings are demolished for redevelopment.

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One goal of the New Urbanism movement is to attract residents back to the city so that the city gains more profit from their living expenses. Another goal of the new urbanism movement is to clean up parts of the city that are rundown like lower income neighborhoods. They want to do this because like mentioned before it will attract more residents and businesses.

Mixed use developments are areas that are used for more than one service, for example an apartment complex that also has a market and a restaurant. Traditional zoning practices are when different services are divided and grouped w/ their same service. For example a town where residential buildings are in one area, grocery stores in one area, and schools in another.

One benefit of mixed-use developments is that everything a person needs is all in one place which makes transportation costs lower and errands more convenient to run. Another benefit of mixed use developments is that because there are a lot of businesses close together they all benefit from the same

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## ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 1

people. This means that all the businesses have enough money to keep their shops looking nice which in turn attracts more business.

One criticism of new urbanism is that it draws business and attention away from businesses outside of mixed use developments which means those places lose money and start to look as rundown and poor as the newly urbanized area looked before just in a different area.

Another criticism of new urbanism is that it causes gentrification. It attracts more wealthy people than the people that live there which drives the prices of living up which means the original inhabitants can no longer afford to live there.

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By embracing New Urbanism, the movement is looking for more people to move back to or live in the city and to prevent the growing sizes of suburban or metro areas.

In traditional zoning practices the different sectors of jobs are separated into rings or sections. Each zone has its own particular area of work such as the primary jobs, secondary jobs, and so on. With mixed-use development, the zones will be broken up, not one single type of job will be in an area. Primary jobs will be mixed in with secondary jobs. A city would not look chunky and sectioned off, it would be more mixed.

By using mixed-use development there will be many positives. It would promote urban growth by keeping a variety of jobs in the city and close together. People wouldn't have to travel so far and many families could live in the cities because both parent jobs could be held there. Many people would also be attracted from either farms or suburbs because of the job availability. People from all over could come into the city causing urban growth.

Although New Urbanism could promote urban growth, a city could easily become overcrowded. With the many jobs being available, houses would become more expensive and ~~the~~ living space would be very limited. Also, with many new businesses or factories being in town, pollution will spread. And not only from businesses, but also by the cars, trucks, and other transportation for either the products or the workers.

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## 2017 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 1

#### Overview

In unit VII, Cities and Urban Land Use, students “examine current trends in urban development,” including “new urbanism.” More specifically they are expected to “explain the planning and design issues and political organization of urban areas.” As a response to this question, students were expected to demonstrate a grasp of how urban landscapes are designed and spatially configured in the context of traditional land-use zoning practices (in which land uses are segregated and spread out) and mixed land-use zoning practices (in which land uses are mixed together and spatially concentrated). Mixed-use zoning is at the heart of the New Urbanism movement. Specifically students are required to understand that “sustainable design initiatives include walkable mixed-use commercial and residential areas and smart-growth policies.” New Urbanism is singled out as an example of mixed-use development. (VII D) To answer this question, students may also draw from additional urban sustainability problems mentioned in the Course Description, including suburban sprawl, farmland protection, and housing affordability. (VII E)

Skills required of students include (1) application of the spatial perspective to urban land use, (2) thinking critically about current trends and their geographical impacts, and (3) thinking comparatively in order to enumerate the difference between traditional zoning and mixed use development. All of these skills are related to a single meta-skill: “use spatial thinking to analyze the human organization of space.” (I C)

#### Sample: 1A

**Score: 7**

This response earned full credit and demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of New Urbanism, mixed-use development, and traditional zoning practices. The response earned 1 definition point in part A for correctly identifying the development of open, public space such as parks. (A11) The response earned an additional 1 point in part A for correctly identifying developments that are more walkable. (A2) The response earned 1 point in part B for explaining the differences of mixed-use development as multiple purposes, such as residential, commercial, and business, as opposed to traditional zoning as separating land for specific purposes in specific places. The response earned 1 point in part C for explaining a benefit of mixed-use development to promote urban growth as accessibility and integration of residential and commercial land uses. (C1) The response earned an additional 1 point in part C for explaining another benefit of mixed-use development as the promotion of urban growth as reduced automobile use decreases emissions, which contribute to air pollution. (C4) The response earned 1 point in part D for explaining criticisms of New Urbanism as people are attracted to new developments and the existing residents can no longer afford to live there. (D1) The response earned an additional 1 point in part D for explaining a criticism of New Urbanism is that the historic character of a place may be lost due to the demolition of an urban area. (D8)

#### Sample: 1B

**Score: 5**

The response earned no credit in part A, full credit in part B, full credit in part C, and full credit in part D. The response earned 1 point in part B for explaining the differences of mixed-use development as land that can be used for multiple services and uses, as opposed to traditional zoning with different land uses divided as houses, schools, or business services. The response earned 1 point in part C for explaining that mixed-use development concentrates consumer activities and, therefore, lowers transportation costs. (C2) The response earned an additional 1 point in part C for explaining another benefit of mixed-use development as the concentration of businesses, which can result in increased retail sales. (C6) The response earned 1 point in part D for explaining a criticism of New Urbanism as it draws consumers away from businesses outside of the new mixed-use development area. (D3) The response earned an additional

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## Question 1 (continued)

1 point in part D for explaining a criticism of New Urbanism as people with wealth are attracted to new developments and subsequently price-out the existing residents. (D1)

### **Sample: 1C**

#### **Score: 3**

The response earned partial credit in part A, no credit in part B, partial credit in part C, and partial credit in part D. The response earned 1 definition point in part A for correctly identifying the reduction of the growth of suburban areas. (A1) The response earned 1 point in part C for explaining a benefit of mixed-use development is the ease of accessibility between residential space and jobs within the city. (C1) The response earned 1 point in part D for explaining a criticism of New Urbanism is that stress is placed on the community due to the expense of housing and limited living space. (D3)