



# SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY



## URBAN SETTLEMENT ISSUES (ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICES)

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- Environmental justices
  - Air pollution
  - Noise pollution
  - Destruction of ecosystems
- Economic justices
  - Poverty
  - Poor public transport systems
- Social justices
  - Unequal access to services
  - Unequal access to resources



- ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES** • Damage to the natural environment by man
- Harmful substance like fossil fuels being released causing damage to environment.

**Air pollution** the presence in or introduction into the air of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects.

- Carbon emissions/greenhouse gases from vehicle, industries, people etc.





**Noise pollution** defined as regular exposure to elevated sound levels that may lead to adverse effects in humans or other living organisms.

- From vehicle, people, activities etc.





**Destruction of ecosystems** is when natural habitats are destroyed or natural resources are depleted, and the environment is degraded.



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## Causes

- **Pollution.** Pollution is one of the main causes of ecosystem destruction.
- **Climate Change.** Climate change continues to play a significant role in the destruction of the ecosystem.
- **Land Clearing.** As human populations increase, so does the need to develop more land.
- **Resource Exploitation.** .



**ECONOMIC INJUSTICES** is the difference found in various measures of economic well-being among individuals in a group, among groups in a population, or among countries.

**Poverty** is living without the basic necessities of life – food, clothing or housing etc.

Caused by:

- Lack of employment
- Unemployment
- Lack of education •
- Economic decline



ISS Africa



The Globe and Mail



**Poor public transport systems** is insufficient or poor quality transport for public e.g. bus services. Mostly taxis many of which are not road worthy • Poor transport networks • Poor quality buses which are not reliable. • Projects such as Rea-Vaya and Gautrain try to handle problem



The Guardian



Voices360



Brand South Africa

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**SOCIAL INJUSTICES** is a situation when some unfair practices are being carried in the society.


**Unequal access to resources and services** here people don't have the same access to resources e.g. water

- In South Africa we have two different economic worlds in one country.
- A good example is the high income areas and the informal settlements
- They vary with regards access to resources and services



 Wikipedia



 Real Estate Agents in Port Elizabeth



## Managing of urban challenges in South Africa

- Increase employment opportunities thereby promoting economic growth
- Encouraging the decentralisation of functions and people
- Development of green cities, this incorporates the green area and open spaces into the design from the start • Provide housing and basic services to the population
- Make different land uses walking distance from each other
- Having functions in one area, limits movement
- Transport routes with pedestrian and bicycle access in residential areas • Wider streets which integrate with the environment e.g. planting trees on the side of the road.



**DBE PAST PAPER**

**FIGURE 4.4: ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA**

By Nezir Sinani

Through its work at the Medupi site (mega coal-fired power station), Eskom is guilty of an environmental injustice. In South Africa it is the poor who bear the impact of poor air quality caused by coal-fired power stations. These power stations are situated close to poor mining communities who live in poorly built houses that provide little protection against bad air quality.

The location of the Medupi Power Station in the water-scarce region of Lephalale in Limpopo in South Africa, is another problem. The increase in mining and power generation activities, has increased the demand for water, thus there is less water available for communities in the area.

[Source: [www.twitter.com/NezirSinani](https://www.twitter.com/NezirSinani)]



4.4 Refer to FIGURE 4.4, an extract on environmental injustice.

4.4.1 What is an *environmental injustice*? (1 x 1) (1)

4.4.1 Any harmful substance/condition/activity causing damage to people and the environment (1)  
**[CONCEPT]** (1 x 1) (1)



4.4.2 Name the environmental injustice caused by the coal-powered power station. (1 x 1) (1)

4.4.2 Air pollution/poor quality of air (1) (1 x 1) (1)



- 4.4.3 Why are the poor mainly affected by the environmental injustice named in QUESTION 4.4.2? (1 x 1) (1)
- 4.4.3 They live close to the power stations (1) (1 x 1) (1)



4.4.4 Discuss TWO negative effects of the environmental injustice mentioned in QUESTION 4.4.2 on the community. (2 x 2) (4)

- 4.4.4 More respiratory problems (2)
- More skin ailments (2)
- Increase in eye diseases (2)
- Feeling of discomfort and lethargy (2)
- Increased cost for medical care (2)
- Negative impact on small-scale farmers (2)
- Acid rain (2)
- High maintenance costs due to acid rain (2)
- Water will be contaminated/polluted for livestock (2)

**[ANY TWO]**

(2 x 2) (4)



4.4.5 Suggest TWO measures that can be put in place to protect this community from the environmental injustice named in QUESTION 4.4.2. (2 x 2) (4)

- 4.4.5 Tall smoke stacks/chimneys to distribute the pollution at a higher level so that upper winds can disperse the air pollution (2)
  - Filters/scrubbers installed in chimneys to clean the air (2)
  - Legislation to protect people's environmental rights (2)
  - Assistance in legal claims against polluters (2)
  - Frequent testing and monitoring of air quality (2)
  - Policing and implementing the 'polluter pay' principle, imposing fines (2)
  - Compensation to the community for health care (2)
  - Relocate poor communities away from the power stations (2)
  - Improve housing conditions of the poor (2)
  - Create awareness campaigns educating people on their environmental rights (2)
  - Promote clean energy resources (2)
  - Create greenbelts to assist with cleaning of air (2)
- [ANY TWO]** (2 x 2) (4)





4.4.6 Discuss the negative impact of the location of the Medupi Power Station on the surrounding farming community. (2 x 2) (4)

- 4.4.6 Less water for irrigation of crops (2)
- Pollutants from power stations impacts on quality of soil leading to a decrease in farming (2)
- Reduction in production of crops/scale of farming is reduced (2)
- Production costs of farming increases (2)
- Prices of produce will increase (2)
- Profits for farming communities will diminish (2)
- Shortage of water for domestic water usage on farms (2)
- Some farms become abandoned due to lower yield (2)
- Acid rain stunts the growth of crops (2)
- Increase in food insecurity (2)

**[ANY TWO]**

(2 x 2) (4)