**Making the most of a course book text**

**1. Speaking: Cities**

1. Do you live in a big city or a small town or village?
2. Do you prefer living in big or small places?
3. What’s the best thing about your town or city?
4. Can you think of 3 ways your city could be improved?
5. Why do you think lots of people want to live in big cities?
6. What problems can you face in big cities?
7. Did you choose Portsmouth partly because of its size?
8. What’s your favourite city that you’ve ever visited?

**2. Reading: Headings**

Read quickly, and match each paragraph with a suitable heading.

a) Not enough green areas in cities

b) Noise and traffic in cities

c) Crime in cities is increasing

d) It is expensive to buy a house in cities

e) Travelling around in big cities is stressful

f) Polluted air in cities

g) The majority don’t want to live in cities, according to the poll

Para 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Para 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Para 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Para 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Para 5: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Para 6: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Para 7: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False?**

1. The poll interviewed 500 people.

2. The majority of people in big cities want to live in a smaller place.

3. 75% of people are unhappy with public transport.

4. Many young people have to pay a quarter of their earnings for transport.

5. Most young people are able to afford a house in the city.

6. Going out is expensive for people who earn the average wage.

7. The crime rate has fallen in big cities.

8. Most big cities have more parks and gardens than in the past.

9. Air pollution in Amsterdam has increased.

10. Diseases like asthma have risen in recent years.

11. Fewer old people are going to hospital with illnesses caused by pollution.

**4. Speaking:**

1. Does your city suffer from the problems mentioned in the text?

2. Does the capital city of young country suffer from the problems mentioned in the text?

3. In your city, put these problems in order: 1=the worst:

* traffic
* poor public transport
* housing costs
* commuting time
* air pollution
* noise pollution
* lack of green spaces
* crime

4. How could these problems be tackled?

**5. Vocabulary: find a word or phrase in the text with a similar meaning:**

1. Going from one place to another: The stress of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

2. Move from a city to the country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the country (1)

3. Public transport is late, doesn’t work, and the service doesn’t come: There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

4. The cost of buying a house is really expensive: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3)

5. Buying a house is impossible because it’s too expensive: Buying a property is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3)

6. It’s difficult to have enough money to live in a city: It’s difficult to make \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3)

7. The amount of crime has gone up sharply: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4)

8. There are some dangerous areas: There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ areas (4)

9. Three examples of street crime: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. Not enough green spaces and places to play: A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of green spaces and play \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5).

**6. Speaking:**

1. Is it difficult to make ends meet in the capital city of your country on the average salary?

2. Are there any no-go areas, or is it safe?

3. Would you find commuting to work stressful? Have you done it? Would you?

4. Why do you think many people want to relocate from big cities to the country?

5. What is the crime rate like where you live?

6. Are there plenty of parks and green spaces in your city, or is there a lack of them?

**7. Discussion questions:**

**Think about these questions, and make notes. Try to think of some useful vocabulary you could use to talk about them.**

1. What are the main traffic issues in big cities, and how can they be tackled?

2. How can more people be encouraged to use public transport?

3. What can cities do to promote cycling in cities?

4. What can be done to address pollution in cities?

5. How can governments address the gap between rich and poor in big cities?

6. Many cities suffer from extremely high property prices. Is there anything that can be done to tackle this?