BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Take Away English 随身英语
The city of the future 城市的未来

- *请注意：中文文字内容只提供簡體版*

Vocabulary: urbanisation 词汇：城市化

For centuries, people have moved to and lived in cities. These **sprawling urban centres** are places to find work, friends and fun. It's no surprise that they continue to grow as more and more people flood in hoping to make the most of the opportunities they offer but adding to the **congestion** and **pollution** that already exists.

According to a report by the United Nations, 54 per cent of the world's population lives in urban areas and it predicts that by 2050, this figure will have increased to around 70 per cent. But as more and more people **migrate** from the countryside to the city to get better opportunities, they can end up with nowhere to live.

This is true in places such as Rio de Janeiro, where migrants can't rent or buy a home, and they end up building their own communities and houses on unoccupied land. These are called **shanty towns** - poor communities where the houses are built out of cheap materials like corrugated iron and plastic sheeting – and often don't have any electricity or water supply.

These are, of course, not the **megacities** of the future we want to see. Some serious **urban planning** is needed to make our cities of the future good, safe and modern places to live in. This involves improving the **infrastructure**, the housing conditions and also the opportunities for education and employment.

Something urban planners are looking at now is the creation of 'smart cities'. According to John Rossant, founder and chairman of the non-profit organisation New Cities Foundation, technology is the way forward. He thinks that it's generally accepted that "cloud computing, **ubiquitous** internet, robust 5G networks etc, will transform our cities." He says technology is really "**a game changer**", in urbanisation. It would collect large amounts of data about how a city is performing and may improve how a city **functions**.

This may sound like a **utopian** view. For now, some cities and **conurbations** around the world are trying out more low-tech schemes to try and make them **desirable** places to live and work in. Building shared-ownership housing and improving **public transport** are some ways. And encouraging cycling and building bike lanes can keep the population healthy and cut down on smog. What would make your city a better place to live in?

词汇表

sprawling	杂乱无序地扩展
urban centre	城市中心
congestion	拥堵，堵塞
pollution	污染
migrate	移居
shanty town	（大城市中心或近郊的）棚户区
megacity	大城市（由指人口超过一千万的城市）
urban planning	城市规划
infrastructure	基础设施
ubiquitous	似乎无处不在的
a game changer	改变游戏规则的人或物
to function	运行，工作
utopian	乌托邦似的
conurbation	（由多个城市连接组成的）大城市
desirable	令人向往的
public transport	公共交通

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. According to the United Nations, how much of the world's population will be living in a city by 2050?

2. True or false? *Shanty towns have good quality housing built for poor people.*

3. What name is given to a city that uses technology to help it function properly?

4. Name one benefit of encouraging cycling in a city.

5. What two English words is 'smog' a combination of?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Overnight road works were blamed for the serious _____ the motorway last night.

congesting	congestion	congested	congest

2. The new building project led to large numbers of _____ moving to the city looking for jobs.

pollution	infrastructure	migrants	utopians

3. These days coffee shops are _____: you're never more than a few steps away from your next cappuccino!

ubiquitous	utopian	sprawling	conurbations

4. A new train line is being planned to serve major _____ between London and Birmingham.

shanty towns	public transport	conurbations	functions

5. Los Angeles is a _____ city that seems to go on for miles.

sprawled	shanty town	pollution	sprawling

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. According to the United Nations, how much of the world's population will be living in a city by 2050?
   70 percent.

2. True or false? *Shanty towns have good quality housing built for poor people.*
   False. Shanty towns are poor communities where the houses are built out of cheap materials like corrugated iron and plastic sheeting.

3. What name is given to a city that uses technology to help it function properly?
   Smart cities.

4. Name one benefit of encouraging cycling in a city.
   It keeps people healthy and it reduces pollution.

5. What two English words is 'smog' a combination of?
   Smoke and fog.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Overnight road works were blamed for the serious **congestion** on the motorway last night.

2. The new building project led to large numbers of **migrants** moving to the city looking for jobs.

3. These days coffee shops are **ubiquitous**: you're never more than a few steps away from your next cappuccino!

4. A new train line is being planned to serve major **conurbations** between London and Birmingham.

5. Los Angeles is a **sprawling** city that seems to go on for miles.