# WRITTEN COMMENT
## ABITURTHEMA: GLOBALISATION

## FACT FILE – WHAT IS A COMMENT?

**A comment …**

— is used to express/state personal opinion.

— focuses on a (controversial) topic.

— discusses pros and cons (advantages and disadvantages) of a topic/issue.

— has a specific structure (introduction, main part with pros and cons, conclusion)

— uses personal opinion, facts and examples.

## GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A COMMENT

**A written comment usually consists of four parts:**

**Preparation:** Collect information/arguments on the topic, make a list (key words), structure your arguments

**Introduction:** introductory sentence, make your reader curious/interested, give background information on your topic; outline the importance of your topic and why it is controversial to discuss

**Main part:** use topic sentences to introduce every new paragraph, present arguments and facts in favour of and against, give examples/facts/explanations, use paragraphs to structure your text

**Conclusion:** Sum up the major arguments, state opinion, give a final comment

**To write a good comment make sure that you …**

— stick to present tense.

— use one paragraph for each argument mentioned.

— give reasons/arguments to state your opinion.

— give a view on both sides of the topic (pros and cons).

## comment – useful words and phrases

| | |
|---|---|
| **introduction** | *In the following I would like to discuss …*<br>*The article/documentary … by … deals with a controversial topic because …*<br>*I would like to talk about the pros and cons of …*<br>*Recently there was a discussion about …*<br>*To focus on the topic … it is interesting to weigh up the pros and cons …*<br>*Some people/experts say/state that …*<br>*In my opinion … is a highly controversial topic because …* |
| **main part** | *My personal view on … is …*<br>*In my opinion …*<br>*On the one hand…on the other hand …*<br>*The first/next/following argument is/clearly shows …*<br>*In addition, we can say …*<br>*As a matter of fact …* |
| **personal conclusion** | *Finally, …*      *I would recommend …*<br>*In the end I would like to sum up …*      *Therefore I think …*<br>*I a nutshell, …*      *My conclusion …*<br>*A possible consequence might be …*      *To consider all important things …* |

# Task

📖 **Read the following newspaper article and comment on the effects of urban greening as an effective way to reduce global warming.**

# Urban greening can reduce impact of global heating in cities, finds study

**CLIMATE CRISIS** Planting trees, rainwater gardens and de-paving can mitigate effects of climate crisis, according to analysis of 2,000 cities.

By Waseem Mohamed

**1** URBAN GREENING initiatives such as planting street trees, rainwater gardens, and de-paving can help mitigate the impacts of urban heating due to the climate crisis and urban expansion, according to a study that has found cities have been warming by 0.5 °C a decade on average.

**2** Scientists at Nanjing and Yale Universities analysed satellite data from across 2,000 cities and compared surface temperature readings between cities and rural areas from 2002 to 2021.

**3** The study found on average that cities are warming by a rate of 0.56 °C a decade during the day and 0.43 °C a decade at night. In comparison, rural areas are warming by 0.4 °C a decade during the day and 0.37 °C a decade at night, which means urban areas are on average warming 29 % more quickly than rural areas.

**4** The scientists found a link between a city's size and the rate of urban warming, with megacities warming on average by 0.69 °C a decade during the day, compared with 0.41 °C a decade during the day in smaller cities.

**5** There were also disparities in the rates of urban heating between continents, with cities in Asia – the continent with the most megacities – warming most rapidly during the day and night. Cities in Europe were found to be warming the least during the day, while cities in Oceania were warming the least at night.

**6** In about 90 % of the cities surveyed, scientists found the climate crisis is the greatest contributor to urban warming, with about 0.3 °C of heating a decade attributed to human-induced climate change on average. However, scientists noted that urban expansion can also influence urban heating – in parts of China and India, rapid urbanisation is contributing to about 0.23 °C of urban warming a decade.

**7** But urban greening schemes such as tree planting, in which exposed land surfaces are replaced with natural vegetation, can help reduce the rate of urban warming by producing a cooling effect particularly at night, by capturing some of the surrounding surface heat for storage, according to the report.

**8** In Europe, urban greening has been found to offset the rate of urban warming by 0.13 °C a decade on average. Likewise in Chicago, an urban greening scheme to increase tree coverage after a heatwave in 1995 has helped to decrease the rate of urban warming by about 0.084 °C a decade.

**9** The authors of the study published in the journal Communications Earth & Environment have urged policymakers to consider using urban greening schemes to reduce urban warming, calling it an effective strategy that can reduce the impact of the "urban heat island" phenomenon, hence reducing the risk of exposure to future heatwaves that are much more likely to impact cities.

**10** Jon Burke, the climate change manager at Gloucestershire council, suggested a number of greening initiatives such as rainwater gardens that can make a real difference to urban heating. He said vegetation had "a big role to play in moderating all the types of urban heating" and could bring additional social benefits such as "reduced crime and prescriptions for antidepressants".

**12** UK urban leaders should have taken green infrastructure investment more seriously a decade ago, he said, adding that at present "there isn't one urban area within the UK with average canopy street cover above 40 %", which is the minimum amount of cover needed for a cooling effect to take place.

**13** Burke said leaders needed to "initiate an urgent race" to prevent further damage from heatwaves and floods in cities, adding that there were few better investments a city could make in the health and security of its residents than urban greening.

**14** Grahame Madge, a Met Office spokesperson, said the organisation's "high-resolution projections" are helping local authorities to better understand the impact of extreme heat in cities.

**15** He said: "The Met Office has been working with a number of local authorities to help inform their heat resilience strategies and planning. When they combine this information with their own mapping they gain a far clearer picture of where the areas of greatest risk are across the city … this ability to know where to focus effort is extremely important."

*Thu, 29 Sep 2022 © 2022 Guardian News and Media Ltd*

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**de-paving** Entsiegelung — **rural** ländlich — **megacity** Metropole; Millionenstadt —
**Oceania** Ozeanien — **urbanisation** Verstädterung — **prescriptions for antidepressants**
Rezepte für Medikamente gegen Depressionen