

WARM UP

1 Complete the following statements about town planning with a word from the box.

- affordable • efficient • facilities • planning • deprived • re-qualified • involved

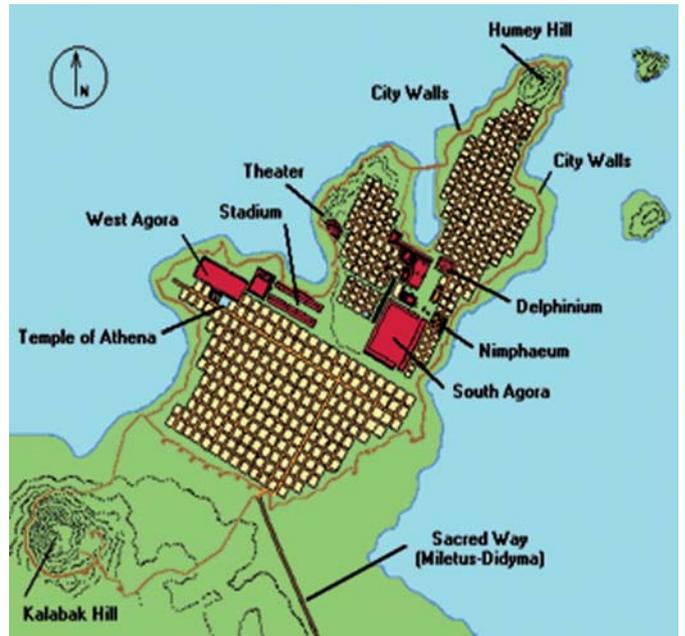
- 1 Good town _____
tries to create sustainable places for people.
- 2 _____ housing is one of the priorities in town planning.
- 3 Communities should be _____ in decisions about improving their quality of life.
- 4 Socially _____ areas should be regenerated.
- 5 Transport _____ should be improved to solve traffic problems.
- 6 Energy- _____ policies should be introduced to reduce energy loss.
- 7 Historical buildings should be _____.

GLOSSARY

- citizens:** *cittadini*
- unpaved:** *sterrato*
- crossed:** *si incrociano*
- at right angles:** *perpendicolarmente*
- straight:** *dritte*
- winding:** *tortuose*
- army:** *esercito*

Greek and Roman towns

In the 5th century BC the city of Athens already existed. It was not actually planned as such, but expanded from its focal point which was the acropolis with its temple, the Parthenon. Religion was very important for the Greeks so they constructed a lot of temples in a classical architectural style. The town also included a central market, agora, and a communal place for the citizens of Athens.



Although the public buildings were splendid, the houses in Athens were modest and the streets were often unpaved. By the 4th century BC however, town-planning was evident in other parts of Greece where they created towns with a new set of laws to protect its inhabitants and a series of streets which crossed at right angles. Hippodamus of Miletus, born around 480 BC, is the Greek architect who introduced the concept of straight wide streets as opposed to the narrow winding muddy ones to be found in Athens. He also created separate areas where houses were grouped together in a harmonious way.

In the Macedonian Age, 330-130 BC, Alexander and his Macedonian army ruled western Asia and created several towns with a 'chess-board' street plan. In these towns there were few open spaces apart from the agora, and none of the houses had gardens.

As far back as the Bronze Age, between 1400 and 800 BC, there are traces of Italian town planning in the 'Terremare' settlements which were situated between Piacenza and Bologna. These settlements were trapezoidal in shape, which then became rectangular in later Italian town planning.

During the Roman Empire, many towns were founded to satisfy the needs of emigrants and retired soldiers who now lived permanently far from Rome, even if they were still under Roman rule. Unlike Rome, which developed gradually, these new towns were founded already fully grown. They were square in shape and divided by two main streets into four parts which were then in turn divided by parallel streets to make house blocks. They had a forum, the equivalent of the Greek agora, whose paved courtyard represented one of the few open spaces in the town.

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **PET** Read the text and decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The streets in Athens were not paved.
- 2 Before Hippodamus, houses were dotted all over the town.
- 3 Macedonian towns did not create many external areas for its inhabitants.
- 4 Town planning existed in Italy in the Bronze Age.
- 5 During the Roman Empire, a new town developed a little at a time.
- 6 These new towns were free from Roman regulations.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EXAM PRACTICE – WRITTEN EXAM

3 **A** Write a short essay (150-200 words) explaining why town planning is important and what effect it can have on its inhabitants. Give examples of good or bad town planning in your own area.

MORE ABOUT...

Athens is considered to be one of the world's oldest cities. The Acropolis is the symbol of Athens and of Ancient Greek civilisation. Among the monuments of the Acropolis is the temple of the Parthenon, dedicated to the Greek goddess Athena and completed in 438 BC.



Pompeii, near Naples in Italy, is a World Heritage Site and one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world. On August 24th, 79 AD, Mount Vesuvius erupted and within hours, the entire city of Pompeii was covered with ashes. The town remained buried for almost 1,700 years until archaeologists uncovered it and discovered the town in almost the same condition as it had been years ago when the Romans lived there.