YEAR 8 LIVEABILITY ASSESSMENT UNIT

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Figure 1: Liveability indicators

Safe from crime, political instability, terrorism threats, human rights abuses

Access to infrastructure - water, sanitation, hospitals, schools, power, transport telecommunications

Housing affordability and different types to cater for different wants

Cultural vitality and tolerance

Sporting facilities, restaurants, theatres and museums

Clean environment

Natural and cultural assets

Access to a variety of goods and services

Hong Kong (Photograph: Susan Bliss)

Concepts: Scale, Environment, Space, Place, Interconnection, Change, Sustainability

Cross Curricula: Asia; Sustainability

Table 1: Measuring liveability using a variety of criteria

The Economist Intelligence Unit				Mercer Quality of Living Survey				Monocle lifestyle magazine			
Criteria: 127 cities covering stability, healthcare, culture, environment, education and infrastructure				Criteria: 221 cities based on 39 criteria such as housing, recreation, schools and natural environment				Criteria: 25 cities covering safety, international links, climate, public transport, environmental issues and urban design			
Rank	City	Country	Score	Rank	City	Country	Score	Rank	City	Country	Score
1	Melbourne	Australia	97.5	1	Vienna	Austria	(01)	1	Zurich	Switzerland	(02)
2	Vienna	Austria	97.4	2	Zurich	Switzerland	(02)	2	Helsinki	Finland	(01)
3	Vancouver	Canada	97.3	3	Auckland	New Zealand	(04)	3	Copenhagen	Denmark	(03)
4	Toronto	Canada	97.2	4	Munich	Germany	(07)	4	Vienna	Austria	(06)
5	Calgary	Canada	96.6	5	Düsseldorf	Germany	(06)	5	Munich	Germany	(04)
6	Adelaide	Australia	96.6	6	Vancouver	Canada	(04)	6	Melbourne	Australia	(05)
7	Sydney	Australia	96.1	7	Frankfurt	Germany	(07)	7	Tokyo	Japan	(09)
8	Helsinki	Finland	96.0	8	Geneva	Switzerland	(03)	8	Sydney	Australia	(07)
9	Perth	Australia	95.9	9	Bern	Switzerland	(09)	9	Auckland	New Zealand	(13)
10	Auckland	New Zealand	95.7	10	Copenhagen	Denmark	(10)	10	Stockholm	Sweden	(11)

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Table 2: Spatially Adjusted Liveability Index

The Economist Intelligence Unit – Spatially Adjusted Liveability Index

Criteria: 70 cities using the spatially-adjusted liveability index including seven extra indicators: green space, lack of sprawl, natural and cultural assets, connectivity, lack of isolation and pollution.

Comments :Hong Kong, a compact city has maintained its natural heritage and enjoys extensive links to the rest of the world

Rank Adjusted Liveability Index	Green space	Sprawl	Natural assets	Cultural Assets	Connectivity	Isolation	Pollution
Best performers							
Hong Kong	London	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Rome	London	Hong Kong	Sydney
Amsterdam	Hong Kong	Madrid	Amsterdam	Berlin	New York/ Chicago	Seoul	Toronto
Osaka	Paris	Seoul	Rome	London	Washington	Osaka	London
Paris	Sydney	Munich	San Francisco	Seoul	Amsterdam	Tokyo	Osaka
Sydney	Berlin/ New York	Tokyo	London	Sydney/ New York	Paris/Tokyo	Los Angeles	Rome
Worst performers							
Seoul	Tokyo	Toronto	Toronto	Tokyo/Boston	Berlin	Munich	Seoul

Table 3: Economist Intelligence Unit Liveability Index Weights

Stability (25%)	Measures the prevalence of crime, terrorism threats, civil unrest and military conflict.
Healthcare (20%)	Considers the availability of health services as well as drugs.
Culture and environment (25%)	Includes climate, availability of sporting and cultural activities, levels of corruption, censorship, social and religious restrictions and availability of consumer goods and services.
Education (10%)	Measures the availability and quality of education.
Infrastructure (20%)	Assesses the availability and quality of housing, power and water supply, road, public transport and telecommunications networks.

Activities

Refer to Tables 1, 2 and 3, lesson notes and information and communications technology and answer the following questions:

1. **What is liveabilty?**

   Liveability makes a place desirable for people to live in such as clean water, schools, hospitals, clear air, no wars, sports fields, shops and no disasters such as a tsunami.

2. **Where would you like to live and why?**

   I like living in the country where there are less people and the environment is cleaner. Also the people are friendly.

   When I get older I would like to live overseas for a short period of time to experience a different lifestyle. I eventually want to return home to the country to bring up my children.

3. **List three liveability measurements:**

   1. *The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)*
   2. *Mercer Quality of Living Survey*
   3. *Monocle lifestyle magazine*

4. What type of city scores high on liveability measurements in Table 1?

Suggest reasons for the high rank

High ranking cities tend to be medium sized cities with relatively low population densities

They are not as crowded and have less traffic congestion

5. Refer to Tables 1 and 2. Read the following statements and answer True or False.

Statement	True or False
High ranking liveable cities are located in developing countries	*False*
Some liveability indicators include the environment	*True*
Inequality of liveability occurs within countries	*True*
Most Chinese cities experience a low rank because of air pollution	*True*
Parks and sports facilities are not important to liveability	*False*

6. Refer to Figure 1: Liveability Indicators.

List the positive and negative aspects of living in Hong Kong.

Positive	Negative
Lots of shops	*Too crowded*
Cultural vitality	*Too noisy*
Different types of homes	*Air polluted*
Clean water to drink	
Sanitation	
Roads and transport	
Schools	
Telecommunications	
Great food	

Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. Source: Wikimedia Commons

7. Refer to Table 2. Answer the following questions:

Question	Answer
What is the top city in EIU?	*Melbourne*
Name the second top city in Mercer ?	*Zurich*
What is the third top city in Monocle ?	*Copenhagen*
List one country ranked high on all indicators	*Vienna*
Which Australian city ranks the highest on the EIU and Monocle?	*Melbourne*
Where does Sydney rank on the indicators?	*7th Mercer, 8th Monocle*
Where are most high ranking cities located?	*Europe, Australia, Canada, New Zealand*
What European countries ranked high on the indicators?	*Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden*
List the Australian cities ranking high on the global indicators	*Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth*
What Asian city ranked high on the liveability indicators?	*Tokyo*
List three famous global cities missing from the list	*London, New York and Paris*

8. Refer to Table 2. The EIU Spatially Adjusted Liveability Index added seven indicators.

List the new indicators:

1. *green space,*
2. *lack of sprawl*
3. *natural assets*
4. *cultural assets*
5. *connectivity*
6. *lack of isolation*
7. *pollution*

9. Refer to Table 3. Answer the following questions on the EIU spatially adjusted liveability index

Question	Answer
What city ranked highest?	*Hong Kong*
What city ranked lowest?	*Seoul*
What city ranked high for little pollution?	*Sydney*
What city appears most globally connected?	*London*
Name the city scoring high on cultural assets	*Rome*

10. **Refer to the Figure 1 photograph and Table 2.**

     Provide three reasons why Hong Kong scored high on the index.

     1. *Little urban sprawl with high density housing*

     2. *Natural assets such as harbour surrounded by rugged hills*

     3. *Not isolated as globally connected to rest of world via aeroplanes, ships and telecommunications*

11. **Discuss how liveability varies between cities within a country.**

     Within India there are variations in liveability between cities. New Delhi was ranked first despite the highest number of homeless people. Kolkata was ranked as the safest city. South Indian cities had higher liveability indicators than North Indian cities based on medical standards and safety

12. **Explain how liveability varies within cities.**

     Discuss this statement:

     Within cities there are rich and poor areas. Some areas suffer from air pollution and some possess large green spaces with trees.

13. **Refer to the following statistics and research why these countries are ranked low on the liveability indexes:**

     * 1,300 people share one communal toilet with six squatting holes in Harare

     * In Baghdad 25% of residents remain disconnected from the city's water

     Harare the capital of Zimbabwe was ranked the least liveable city in the world. The country fails to produce sufficient food to feed the population and people experience human rights abuses and poor infrastructure.

     The city of Baghdad in Iraq, is one of the least liveable cities in the world. The war caused widespread damage to infrastructure such as transport, power and water supply.

14. **What are the links between electricity and liveability?**

     About 1.3 billion people live without electricity needed for mobile phones, computers, lighting, refrigeration and mechanical power. Approximately 80% of people without access

to electricity live in rural areas in developing countries such as Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Electricity is essential for improved liveability.

15. **Liveability is a safe place.**

     Discuss this statement:

     Millions of people live in dangerous countries where kidnapping, murder, disease, terrorism, accidents and theft affect a person's wellbeing and the liveability of a place. The Global Peace Index (GPI) found Somalia the least peaceful country and Iceland ranked the most peaceful country. Travelling to cities such as Mogadishu (Somalia) and Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) are not recommended by most governments. Somali pirates kidnap people travelling in the Indian Ocean. Kidnappers in Iraq target civilians, journalists and foreigners

16. **What is the Spatially Adjusted Liveability Index?**

     Spatially Adjusted Liveability Index includes green space; urban sprawl; access to nature; connectivity to the rest of the world; isolation from nearby large cities; pollution; and availability of world-class cultural assets measured by counting the number of United Nations World Heritage Sites located nearby.

17. **Explain the links between World Heritage sites and liveability**

     Tourism improves the liveability of communities dependent on World Heritage sites by paying entry fees to restore and protect sites and providing jobs to revitalise local economies.

18. **Liveability changes over time when urban areas experience decay and renewal.**
     Provide examples supporting this statement

     Over time buildings age and become run down in a process known as urban decay which reduces the liveability of a city or village. Cities can become more liveable if planners refurbish decaying areas into new precincts such as the Melbourne docklands and Sydney Barangaroo development

     Urban redevelopment in parts of New York City increased liveability when new housing projects were built and areas allocated to parks. Detroit in the USA was a major automotive industrial

centre. The three large car manufacturers, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler were located in Detroit. Competition from cars assembled in Japan and South Korea saw the American car industry decline. Unemployment increased and dilapidated buildings evolved. At present the area is undergoing a multi-million dollar face lift aimed to improve liveability.

London's dockland area had abandoned buildings but was redeveloped into an upmarket commercial and residential area. London's docklands now have a high rise commercial zone containing Britain's tallest building.

19. Describe how many people live in slums.

Over 100 million people are classified as homeless. Currently the Asia-Pacific region accounts for 60% of the slum dwellers in the world.
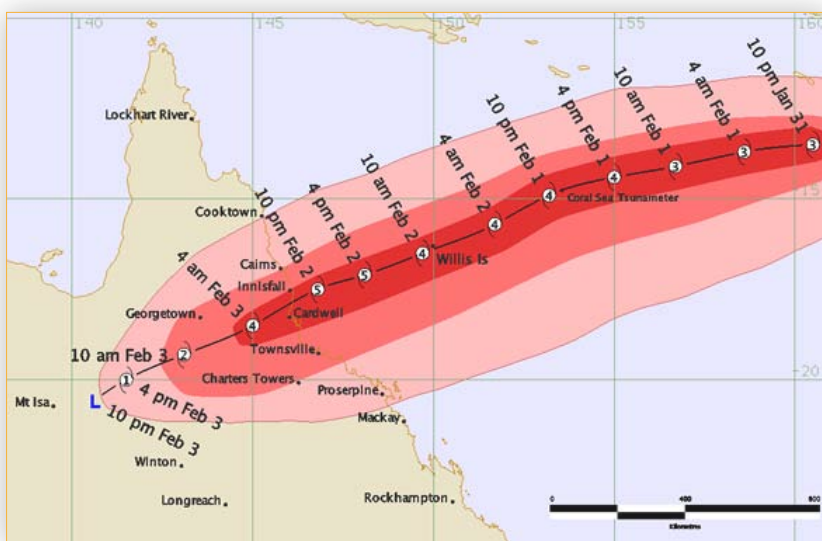
20. Why should people have adequate shelter?

Adequate shelter is a human right and Millennium Development Goal (7) aims to improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020

21. How can organisations make places more liveable?

* *UN-HABITAT with 2,650 projects in 140 countries enabled millions of urban dwellers access to adequate shelter.*

* *Habitat for Humanity Australia (HFHA) assists low income households build and own a home*

* *Australia's aid program (AusAID) improves the liveability of millions of people in developing countries lacking access to clean water and shelter*

Map 1: Path of Tropical Cyclone Yasi

LEGEND

- Very Destructive Winds
- Destructive Winds
- Gale Force Winds

Source: http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/history/yasi.shtml

22. Tracking Tropical Cyclone Yasi

a. What would be the most unliveable place during the cyclone?

Northern Queensland around Cairns

b. What date would be the worst time to be visiting this area?

February 2–3, 2011

c. The cyclone changed categories. What were the categories?

1–5

d. What would happen to low lying areas if there was a storm surge after the cyclone?

Area would be flooded

e. What would you do to prevent damage to property and loss of life?

Move out fast, lock up belongings, cover glass windows

Map 2: Weather map showing Tropical Cyclone Yasi

Source: http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/history/yasi-mslp.shtm

23. Weather map showing Yasi

a. Label the following features:

A. name of line: *isobar*

B. front *cold front*

C. tropical *cyclone*

D. pressure system *high*

E. pressure system *low*

b. Why was it called a Category 5 cyclone

It was Category 5 when it hit North Queensland

c. Explain the movement of a cyclone

Low pressure system sits over the warm ocean and builds up power. When it hits land it becomes unstable with horrendous wind and rain. In the centre is the eye which has calm weather.

d. What type of weather does a cold front bring?

Colder weather

e. Refer to the website and watch the Tropical Cyclone Yasi Radar Loop
http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/history/yasi-radar.shtml

Where did it start?

Near Willis Island

f. What were the impacts on the liveability of communities in the path of Yasi?

Damage to property, floods