

Cambridge International AS & A Level

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & RESEARCH**9239/11**

Paper 1 Written Exam

May/June 2026

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

The following documents consider issues related to urbanisation. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

Document A adapted from: *Why Will People Want to Live in Indonesia's New Capital?* by James Guild, published in 'The Diplomat' in 2023. The author holds a PhD in International Political Economy from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. He specializes in trade, finance, and economic development in Southeast Asia. 'The Diplomat' is a leading international current affairs online magazine for the Asia-Pacific region.

Indonesia's planned new capital city Nusantara has been in the news lately. The government is struggling to attract investors and is offering very generous financial incentives to increase interest. There are reports that wealthy investors, such as Japan's SoftBank, are worried about the lack of a clear vision for the new city.

Nevertheless, Indonesia's President Joko Widodo is pushing ahead. Construction is already underway. Apparently, Nusantara will be the home of a new training centre for Indonesia's national football team. We continue to see plans for the smart, green city that Nusantara will one day be. But how realistic is this vision, and why hasn't it attracted investors?

Elsewhere, Singapore is often held up as an example of a thriving smart city. And it is indeed very convenient taking a bus in Singapore and getting live updates about routes and wait times on your phone. But people don't only want to live in Singapore because it's a smart city. They actually want to live there because it's safe and clean and has great public transport and infrastructure, as well as excellent universities. It sits at an ancient crossroad of trade and commerce that makes it a natural hub for transportation, business, and finance.

Smart cities designed and built simply to display technologies or infrastructure tend to have poor track records. They are often abandoned or under-used, because even though the planning reflects high-minded concepts, and the structures are sleek and futuristic, there is no compelling reason for people to live there. According to Bloomberg News, China's green cities and Abu Dhabi's Masdar City remain empty. Despite efficient layouts and modern buildings, there is little there to pull people in.

Even though Indonesia's current capital Jakarta is sinking, polluted, and congested, it is still a city that millions of people want to live in. It has been a major political and economic centre of Indonesia for centuries and has deep historical roots. It has problems, but it creates jobs, opportunities, and experiences not easily replicated elsewhere. I sympathize with the desire to separate the nation's capital from Jakarta's colonial history, and to start afresh with a city built by Indonesians for Indonesians. However, there is a very important question that this project needs to consider: why will people want to live in Nusantara?

This is the puzzle at the heart of the Nusantara project. Building things cannot and should not be divorced from the wider question of how the things we build serve the interests of society at large. If the project wants to be successful, Nusantara needs to have something that will draw people in and make them want to live there. For example, this could be a world-class university or cutting-edge research and development centres or a green industrial hub. Potentially, it could be many things. But the ability of Nusantara to be a genuine legacy project will depend on whether anyone has a good answer to this question.

Document B adapted from: *Urban Living: Benefits of residing in a city*, written by Cities Forum and published on its website in 2023. Cities Forum is a global organisation with a multidisciplinary international group of experts experienced in the full range of topics related to sustainable urban development. These experts assist local authorities and governments in the challenge of designing and implementing successful sustainable urban development policies and projects.

Between 1975 and 2015, the number of cities worldwide approximately doubled from 5 000 to 10 000.

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No wonder people move from rural areas to the city.

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