

AI generated 'B2 IELTS-Style Reading Task (Classic Format)'

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1–6.

The Rise of Urban Gardening

In many large cities, urban gardening has become increasingly popular over the past decade. Residents are transforming rooftops, balconies and unused land into small green spaces where they grow vegetables and fruit. For some, this activity is a way to reduce food expenses, while for others it represents a desire to reconnect with nature.

Although urban gardening is often associated with environmental activism, not all participants are motivated by ecological concerns. In fact, recent research suggests that many gardeners are primarily interested in improving their mental well-being. Spending time tending plants has been shown to reduce stress levels and increase feelings of satisfaction.

However, critics argue that urban gardening cannot significantly contribute to solving global food shortages. They claim that the scale of production is too small to make a measurable difference. Supporters respond that while urban gardening may not feed entire populations, it encourages local food awareness and community cooperation.

Municipal governments have started to recognise these social benefits. In some cities, authorities now provide training sessions and small grants to encourage residents to create shared gardens. These initiatives are often part of wider urban renewal projects designed to strengthen neighbourhood ties.

Questions 1–6

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

1. What is the writer's main point in the first paragraph?
A Urban gardening is mainly a financial necessity.
B People are using city spaces to grow food for various reasons.
C Environmental activists introduced urban gardening.
D Most cities now require residents to grow their own food.
2. According to research mentioned in the passage, many urban gardeners
A want to become professional farmers.
B are concerned about global warming.
C participate mainly for psychological benefits.
D hope to earn money from selling produce.

3. Critics believe urban gardening
 - A wastes valuable city space.
 - B cannot produce food efficiently enough to solve large-scale problems.
 - C damages local ecosystems.
 - D is too expensive to maintain.

4. Supporters argue that urban gardening
 - A should replace commercial farming.
 - B creates competition between communities.
 - C contributes to social awareness and cooperation.
 - D requires strong government control.

5. Municipal governments have begun to
 - A regulate the size of private gardens.
 - B discourage individual gardening projects.
 - C provide support as part of community development.
 - D tax residents who grow their own food.

6. Overall, the writer's attitude towards urban gardening is
 - A strongly critical.
 - B cautiously negative.
 - C balanced and moderately positive.
 - D indifferent.

Answers:

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. C