

IELTS-Style Reading Practice

Reading Passage: The Rise of Urban Gardens

In many cities around the world, urban gardening has become increasingly popular. Residents are transforming rooftops, balconies, and unused plots of land into productive growing spaces. While urban gardening was once viewed mainly as a hobby, it is now recognized as a valuable tool for improving food security and community well-being.

One reason for the growth of urban gardens is the increasing interest in locally produced food. Vegetables and fruits grown within cities can often reach consumers more quickly than those transported from rural farms. As a result, some people believe urban-grown produce may be fresher and more environmentally friendly.

Urban gardens can also provide social benefits. Community gardens encourage cooperation among neighbors and offer educational opportunities for children. Participants often learn about nutrition, environmental responsibility, and sustainable food production.

However, urban gardening faces challenges. Limited space, soil contamination, and water availability can restrict production. Experts argue that urban gardens are unlikely to replace traditional agriculture, but they can play an important supporting role in modern food systems.

Questions 1–5: Choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

1. Why has urban gardening become more popular?
A. It completely replaces traditional farming.
B. It contributes to food security and community benefits.
C. It requires very little effort.
2. According to the passage, some people prefer urban-grown produce because it may be
A. larger
B. cheaper
C. fresher.
3. Community gardens can help children learn about
A. nutrition and sustainability
B. advanced engineering
C. international trade.
4. Which challenge is mentioned in the passage?
A. Excessive farm machinery
B. Soil contamination
C. Lack of interest.
5. What do experts believe?
A. Urban gardens will eliminate traditional agriculture.
B. Urban gardens have no practical value.
C. Urban gardens can support existing food systems.

Questions 6–10: Complete the sentences using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage.

6. Urban gardening is now recognized as a tool for improving food security and community _____.
7. Many people are interested in _____ produced food.
8. Community gardens encourage cooperation among _____.
9. Limited space and soil contamination can restrict _____.
10. Urban gardens play a supporting role in modern food _____.

Answer Key

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. well-being
7. locally
8. neighbors
9. production
10. systems