

Problems of the City

Cities can face lots of problems. Let's look at two in particular.

Traffic Congestion



As more people move to the edge of towns and cities, traffic congestion may get worse. This means over-crowding on the roads. Many people drive their cars into the city centre to get to work.

Large roads or motorways bring lots of people into the city, but these big roads then link up with smaller, older, narrower roads in the city centre. This causes 'bottlenecks' and congestion.

Traffic can also be dangerous for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. The fumes from vehicle exhausts can cause breathing problems and illnesses.

Task: Write one sentence explaining why traffic congestion is a problem. Try to give at least three reasons.

Inequality

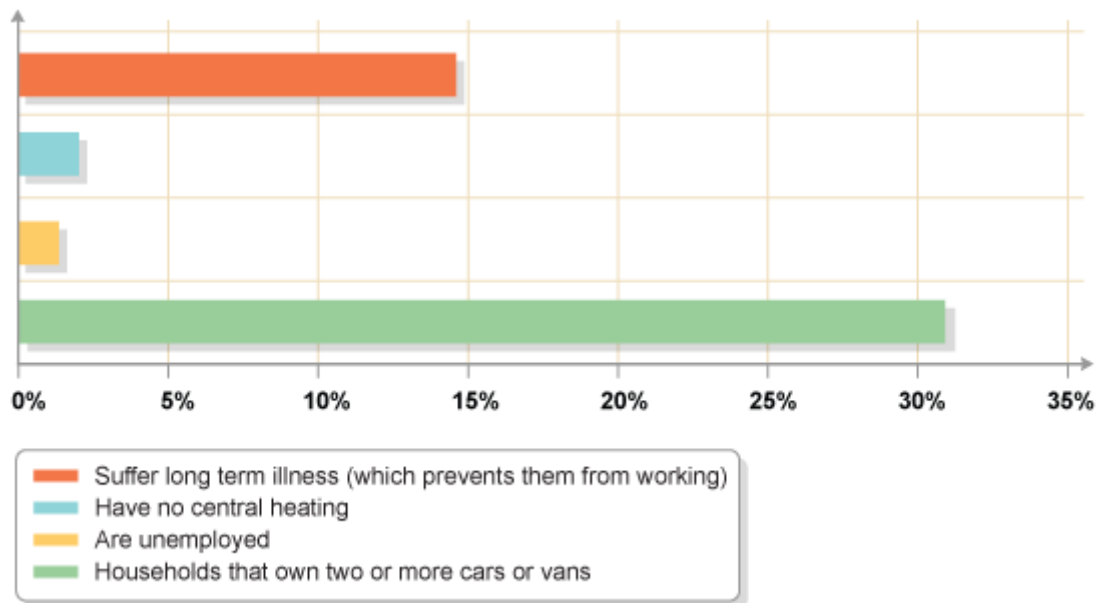
Inequality means extreme differences between poor people and rich people, for things like jobs, housing and education. Inequality exists in all cities, but some are more unequal than others.

Inequalities may occur in:

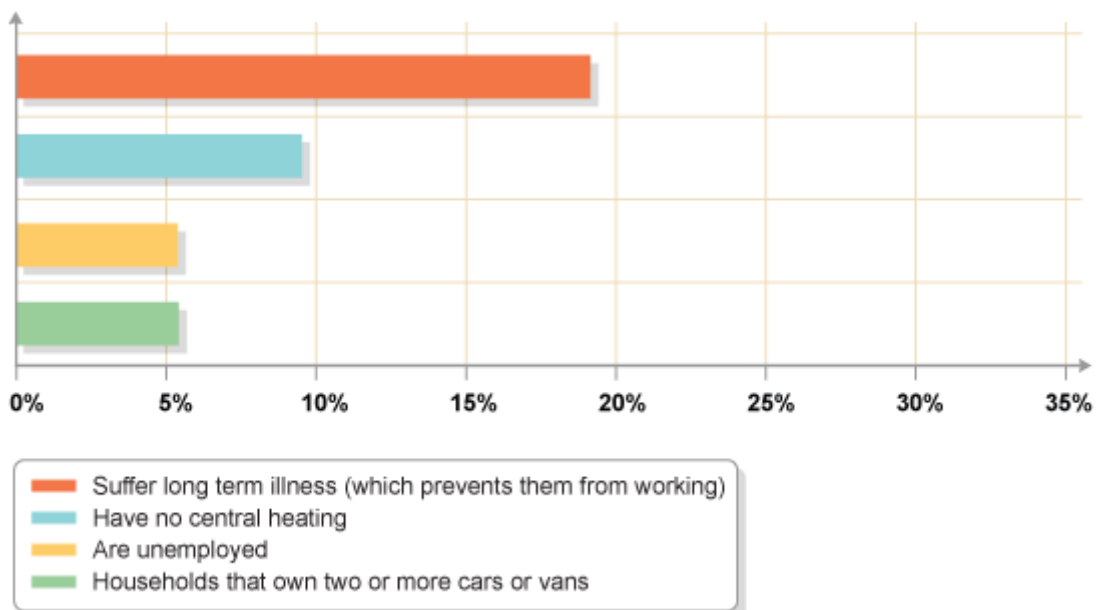
- Housing – Rich people can afford clean, warm houses; poor people might have to live in houses that may be falling down or hard to keep warm.
- Services – In rich areas there tend to be good schools, doctors, shops, etc. In poorer areas the services can be closed or run-down.
- Open land – In rich areas people have gardens and there are often nice open spaces such as parks. In poorer areas, even if there is open space such as parks, they are often not well-looked after.
- Safety – Poor areas tend to have much more crime – graffiti, robberies, etc. People may not feel safe to walk around at night.

Task: Write two sentences that explain what inequality means and how it might affect poor people living in cities.

The two graphs below show what life is like for people in two different parts of London:



1. Graph showing quality of life in rich Outer London



2. Graph showing quality of life in poorer Inner London

Task: Using the graphs above, write four sentences that compare Inner and Outer London. Your first sentence might be, for example:

“In rich Outer London less than 15% of people have a long term illness, but in poorer Inner London, almost% of people have a long term illness that stops them working”.