

## 2.6 The planners

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### Ice Breakers

(i) You have heard the proverb 'Plan your work, work your

(a) Planning of the work is important.

(b) Without planning work cannot be accomplished.

(c) Make planning and work according to that plan.

(d) Planning and work are two sides of same coin.

**Ans.** Make a plan and work according to that plan.

(ii) Choose the proper alternatives from the statements given below which would explain why town planning is essential

(a) To develop the city according to the guidelines.

(b) To get the 'Best City Award'.

(c) To attract the tourists.

(d) To use and develop the land available in the city for the interest of the citizens.

**Ans.** (a) To develop the city according to the guidelines.

(d) To use and develop the land available in the city for the interest of the citizens.

(iii) Given below are various professions in column A and in column B, the nature of work in respective professions. Match the columns. (Answer are given directly)  
**Ans.**

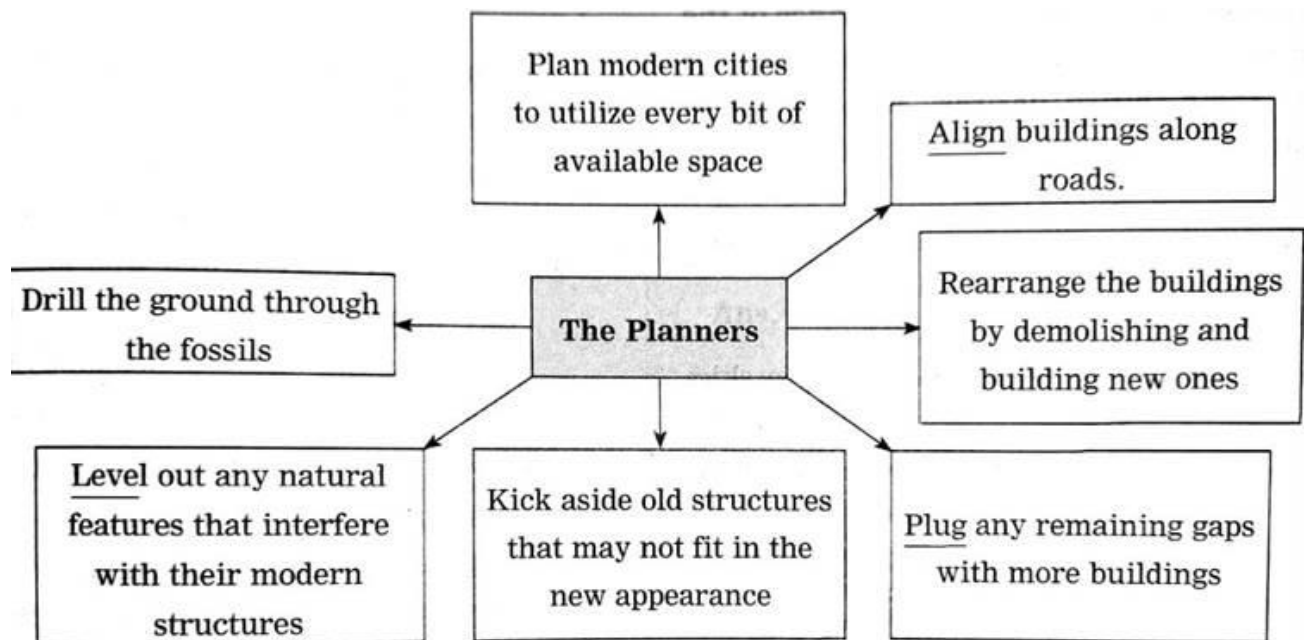
A	B (Answer)
(i) Anaesthetist	A person whose job is to give drugs which make the person not to feel pain especially in preparation for a medical operation.
(ii) Pharmacist	A person who has been trained to prepare medicines and sell them to the public.

(iii) Orthodontist	Specialist in the treatment of problems concerning the position of teeth and jaws.
(iv) Dermatologist	The medical study of the skin and its diseases.
(v) Architect	A person who designs buildings and supervises the process of constructing them.
(vi) Chartered Accountant	A person who is engaged in the profession of accounting and examining the statements and records of accounts.
(vii) Editor	A person who is in charge of a newspaper or of a part of a newspaper.

### Brainstorming

(A1) Read the poem and complete the web about the activities the planners do.

Ans.



(A2) Go through the poem and state whether the following statements are true or false.

(a) Planners plan to construct buildings wherever they find place.

Ans. True

(b) Planners take public consent for the alterations they make in the old structures of the city.

Ans. False

(c) Planners are concerned about the environment of the area.

Ans. False

(d) Planners make their plans mathematically perfect, at the same time they calculate their profit.

Ans. True

(e) Planners deliberately find drawbacks in the old city planning.

Ans. True

(f) The newly planned city looks modern and amazingly beautiful.

Ans. True

(g) Planners paint beautiful pictures of the upcoming changes in the city which charm the citizens.

Ans. True

(h) Planners make tactful changes so that citizens do not recognise the familiar landmarks.

Ans. True

(A3) Read the expression:

'the blueprint of our past's tomorrow'. Consider in a group why the poet has not mentioned the present'. It is because of the planners who have possessed our present' in order to change our past' into the future' they desire. Go through the poem and write the lines which support this thought.

Ans. (1) The buildings are in alignment with the roads which meet at desired points.

(2) Filled with permutations of possibilities.

(3) They erase the flaws.

(4) So history is new again.

(5) The drilling goes right through the fossils of last century.

(6) The blueprint of our past's tomorrow

(A4) The term 'anaesthesia' in the poem means - The planner gives beautiful pictures of the new modern city'. Now find out what amnesia and hypnosis are in the given context.

Ans. The poet uses the words 'Anaesthesia', 'Amnesia' and 'Hypnosis' to convey that the planners have all the means to distract the people from the pain of their history being replaced in order to give way for the planners' vision of modernisation.

The word 'Amnesia', in the given context, means the various incentives offered by the planners, so that the people lose any sentimental attachment to the past.

They brainwash people so that they forget the importance of their country's history and nature's bounty.

The word 'hypnosis', in the given context, refers to the manipulation of the people's thoughts by the planners, so that the people conform to the developments made and the policies laid down by the planners. They hypnotise people into welcoming the new world by making it seem perfect.

**(A5) Pick out the statements which aptly depict the theme of the poem.**

**(a) In the poem the speaker memorises the past.**

**(b) In 'The Planners' the poet describes the unstoppable force of modernisation.**

**(c) The poet talks about the replacement of natural environment by the concrete jungle.**

**(d) The poet proposes to stop modernisation.**

**(e) The poet laments helplessly.**

**Ans. (1)** In 'The Planners' the poet describes the unstoppable force of modernization.

**(2)** The poet talks about the replacement of natural environment by the concrete jungle.

**(3)** The poet laments helplessly.

**(A6)** The tone of the poet is sarcastic. When he writes 'All spaces are gridded filled with permutations of possibilities' he intends to indicate the efforts made by the planner to exploit every available piece of land without any consideration of harming nature or violating attachments of people to places. Make pairs/groups and find out some more sarcastic lines having the same effect.

**Ans.** Some more sarcastic lines from the extract are as follows: ...linked by bridges all hang in the grace of mathematics. Though these lines seem appreciative of the planners, they are actually not intended as praise. The fact, that the poet means the opposite of what he has written, makes these lines sarcastic.

**(A7) (i) Write an appreciation of the poem.**

**Ans.** In his poem "The Planners", Boey Kim Cheng, laments the constant demolition of old structures and building new ones. All this is done in the name of Planning and Development since construction work is profitable. Town planners, builders, politicians are all in collusion to fill up empty spaces with buildings. If there is no space, old structures are ruthlessly demolished on some

excuse. A new 'improved' structure comes up.

The poet uses the general term 'they' to include all those involved in this. He uses irony to describe town-planning, done with geometric precision, the bridges and roads exactly criss-crossing. Irony condemns how they, like skilled dentists, metaphorically knock off monuments of historical value like 'flawed' teeth. The shores and sky are personified, shrinking back helplessly in the face of this 'progress'.

The planners paint a picture of perfect rows of shining teeth, 'gleaming gold' in the gaps, to the people of the town they are tearing down. People are charmed and can only agree. It is like the dentist treats a trusting patient under anesthesia, mouth open. The builders hypnotize everyone with the future appearance. The helpless older generation wants to preserve the ancient heritage structures. But no one can oppose this!

**(ii) Write a summary of the poem.**

**(Both appreciation and the summary can be written with the help of the points given in previous poems.)**

**Ans.** Boey Kim Cheng's lament against urban development is captured with great feeling in "The Planners". The unchecked building activity and expansion of human settlement is the theme. They create amazing pictures of the modernized look to convince the population. No objection is allowed and even the sky and sea step back unresisting. Historical monuments are demolished and history is wiped out for profits. The poet is bitter but cannot stop the powerful politician builder-planner nexus.

**(A8) Read the first and second stanza of the poem. We understand that the poet wants to suggest the powerful dominance of the planners who shape the town according to their selfish desires. Make a list of such expressions. You may begin with -**

**Ans.** (1) All the spaces are gridded, filled with permutations of possibilities.

(2) They build and will not stop.

(3) Even the sea draws back and the skies surrender.

(4) They erase the flaws, the blemishes of the past, knock off useless blocks.

(5) Anaesthesia, amnesia, hypnosis.

(6) They have the means.

(7) They have it all so it will not hurt.

(8) The piling will not stop.

(9) The drilling goes right through the fossils of last century.

(A9) (i) Read the expression 'permutation of possibility. The consonant sound 'P' at beginning of the successive words creates a sonorous effect. This is an example of Alliteration. Find out more examples of Alliteration from the poem.

**Ans. 1. "...knock off useless blocks with dental dexterity."**

Alliteration - The sound of the letter „d" has been repeated for poetic effect.

**2. "All gaps are plugged with gleaming gold."**

Alliteration - The sound of the letter „g" has been repeated for poetic effect.

**3. "But my heart would not bleed poetry."**

Alliteration - The sound of the letter "b" has been repeated for poetic effect.

(ii) Explain the extended metaphor related with dentistry in the poem.

Give suggestions to protect our national heritage monuments.

**Ans.** Our monuments are precious. They belong to the future generations. They are also a symbol of the marvellous and rich heritage of India. There should be every effort, skill and money put in to preserve them from any further damage. Round the clock security should be in place to prevent theft and vandalism. The costs can be recovered from entry charges for visitors. Restoration should be undertaken under experts. The common man should be actively participating in the effort to protect our monuments and the younger generation should be made aware of how beautiful and varied our culture is.

(A10) Complete the following table.

**Ans.**

No.	Figure of speech	Line of the poem
1	Personification	..and the skies surrender.
2	Alliteration	with gleaming gold
	Imagery	with gleaming gold
3	Oxymoron	so history is new again
4	Climax	The country wears the perfect smile. Anaesthesia, Amnesia, Hypnosis
5	Paradox	our past's tomorrow

*(table continue here)*

Explanation
The sky is imagined to act like human being.
Adjacent words begin with the same consonant.
An image of things shining and new comes to mind The old is wiped out or changed to appear new.
The words increase in intensity for creating a strong impact.
Opposite ideas - past and tomorrow - create a dramatic effect for meaning.

**(A11) Compose four lines expressing the grief of having lost nature due to modernisation.**

**Ans.** Where are the trees and sparrows?

Look for the little thatched roof homes! My grandparents are missing  
I see billboards for Mac's and Coke!!

**(A12) Imagine that a person who has returned to his native place after long time is talking to his old friend about the changes that have taken place in the village. Write a dialogue between two friends who have become nostalgic about their old village.**

**Ans. Paras:** Welcome! Welcome! I never thought we'll meet before I depart. You have given me new life! Why did you not write?

**Guru:** I decided to come only two days back. I didn't have time to write. How are you all? How is the family? Where are they? I recognized the house because of the water pump near the door! Everything has changed so much!

**Paras:** That is the sorrow of the entire village. These builders buy up property and do anything for profit.

Hotels and resorts have come up. People come to enjoy the natural beauty. But the devils bring in their trash and bad habits and leave us to clean up!!

Industries are proposed. They will drain the groundwater. Our wells will dry up and crops will suffer. We don't know where all this is going!!

**Guru:** I heard a lot about these development ideas from your neighbour. I met him in the city. That's why I rushed here. I am going to send a petition to the local government to stop any further development. No building without the residents' agreement. You don't worry. My law firm will take care of this. You round up the village council and we will have a meeting soon. We will have rules drawn up

about sale of properties here. I must leave this evening.

**Paras:** Yes. Give my wife half an hour. We will have dinner. Now let us have something hot to drink!

**(A13) (i) Write in short about at least five cities in India that are considered to be the most developed cities.**

**Ans.** Mumbai - commercial capital of the country  
Bengaluru - IT hub of India  
New Delhi - political capital  
Chennai - Detroit of India - 1/3rd automobile industry based here.  
Hyderabad - IT hub

**(ii) Your examinations are only two months ahead. Plan your schedule studies and write in your notebook.**

**Ans. Guidance:**

**Week 1.** Assess weak topics in all the subjects.

**Week 2.** Begin work to clear doubts on those.

**Week 3.** Practise work book exercises. Repeat 2 and 3 over the next weeks on all subjects, three to four days per subject. Begin solving past papers.  
Build up speed and accuracy.  
Collect hall-ticket and verify location of exam centre. Estimate travel time and fix transport with friends going to same centre.

**(iii) Read The City Planners' by Margaret Atwood.**

**Ans. Just for Reading**