

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

University of London

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

For The Following Qualification:–

*M.Sc.*

**Principles of Spatial Morphology**

**COURSE CODE : BENVAS09**

**DATE : 12–MAY–06**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**

## **BENVAS09 Principles of Spatial Morphology**

### **Examination Questions**

**ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS: 3 hours**

*All questions carry equal marks. Candidates should refer to the work of authors they have studied wherever relevant and illustrate their answers with examples wherever possible. Candidates should also feel free to use graphical means of expression in their answers wherever they feel it is appropriate. You should take care not to use the same material or ideas in different answers, although cross referencing is acceptable.*

1. If you were designing a research project to study the relationship between building layout, and patterns of usage in a hospital, what aspects of space syntax methodology would you include? What other methods would it be important to use and why?
2. Space Syntax analysis is sometimes used to support the design decision process. Describe the principal types of design decision for which space syntax might be helpful and those for which it might not. Please refer to a specific example from the literature or from your experience to explore how space syntax analysis is useful for making design decisions.
3. The 'Neighbourhood Unit' has been central to the design of residential areas over the past century. What are the key spatial principles underlying this approach? How would you go about refuting the theory that communities are directly reflected in the space they occupy?
4. Poverty areas are a common phenomenon in cities. Can you describe the relationship between the spatial distribution of poverty and urban form? How would you test empirically the theory that poverty is purely related to people's individual social and economic circumstances?
5. Imagine you were studying vernacular housing in your home town/country. Can you describe the main morphological attributes of a typical house in your home town/country? How would you go about measuring those attributes? How would you adapt those attributes if you had to design an apartment block for the same people?
6. In the study you made this year of Bath, you found that the way the city's squares were populated differed from one location to another. Think about where you live at present. What aspects of the area's morphology are likely to have effects on the way local public space is used? Is this likely to differ across different categories of people? What theories would you use as a starting point for your study?
7. *The Social Logic of Space* introduces a term of 'constituted' space. Can you describe two aspects of constitutedness? How does the degree of constitutedness in a street influence people's perception of safety in public space?
8. Ethnographic studies make a distinction between objective types of data-collecting in the field and subjective aspects of "experiencing the field". Can you describe how each of these types are time, place & person dependent? What would be the advantages/disadvantages of using each approach in a study of space-use in Trafalgar Square?
9. In 'The Art of Place and the Science of Space', Bill Hillier writes that "space can be used both in a conservative mode to structure and reproduce existing social relations and statuses, usually by using space to segregate, and in a generative mode to create the potential for new relations by using space to create co-presence through integration." Describe how results from an axial analysis would be used to study those differences in the case of London.

**End of exam**