

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A. B.Sc.

ES358: Sociology and Planning

COURSE CODE : **ENVS3580**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **03-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

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TURN OVER

ENVS 3580 Sociology and Planning

Answer three questions.

1. Describe and analyse the restructuring of employment since the 1970s and evaluate the effect of this restructuring on British cities.
2. Critically discuss whether it is desirable and possible for public policy to influence re-urbanisation.
3. Critically discuss the argument that the switch to a post-industrial city is characterised by an increasing degree of social polarisation.
4. Discuss why there now is a closer association between poverty and disadvantage and areas of social rented housing in British cities.
5. Critically assess the claim that spatial concentrations of poverty and disadvantage in particular areas have 'neighbourhood effects' that further reinforce disadvantage.
6. Critically assess the claim that there is an underclass in contemporary British cities.
7. This quote illustrates criticisms frequently addressed to property-led urban regeneration as practiced by the Urban Development Corporations in the 1980s. *"Global over-investment in prestige projects and events provides a highly inefficient subsidy to the private sector and (...) results in the neglect of the basic social infrastructure on which the long-term future of cities depends. Any benefits which are created are distributed unevenly, increasing social inequalities and inhibiting social justice"* (Loftman et al, 1994: 3)¹. Discuss.
8. To what extent have New Labour policy initiatives since 1997 signalled a significant shift of emphasis in British urban policy?
9. Discuss whether policies for the inner city initiated since the 1980s have addressed the situation and needs of ethnic minorities in the UK.
10. Critically discuss whether planners, as 'urban managers' or 'urban gatekeepers', have a significant power over the allocation of urban resources.

END OF PAPER

¹ Loftman, P. et al (1994), *Inter-city competition, place promotion and social justice*, University of Central England, Birmingham, Faculty of the Built Environment, Research Paper No. 8