

5. Provision of Local Amenities and Services

Amenities are facilities that are available in an area. They are provided for 'Leisure and Recreational' purposes and contribute to the quality of life of an area.

1. Schools

- Local primary and secondary schools are provided by the department of education and skills (DES)
- Provide for the educational needs of children and teenagers – Help students achieve academic, social and personal development.
- Preschools and Montessori's help develop social skills in a fun, stimulating environment.
- The size and number of schools available depends on the size of the catchment area (number of children in the community surrounding the school).
- High birth rates and increasing population in urban areas has led to increased demand on schools and a shortage of schools.



2. Playgrounds and Green Areas

- Provide a safe outdoor space for children to play and socialise with other children.
- Green areas add visual appeal and give housing developments a sense of space.
- Larger parks and green areas allow for recreational activities e.g. walking, cycling.

3. Community centres

- Provide for the sporting and social needs of communities. A place where people can meet and socialise.
- Hold classes, events and activities for people of all ages.
- Indoor sports, fitness classes, art classes, parent-toddler groups etc.
- Community centres provide a sense of community spirit, as people get to know each other.

4. Transport

- Proximity to public transport is important in housing developments. Often a selling point for a house.
- Provides mobility for elderly, youth, people traveling to and from work, people with disability.
- Planning will only be granted for housing developments when the local authority approves the layout of road infrastructure (e.g. roundabout entering housing estate, public transport links extended etc.).



5. Refuse Collection

- Keeps homes and housing developments clean and hygienic. Prevents littering.
- Provided by local authorities or private waste companies.
- Recyclable, compost and landfill services available.

6. Shops

- Enables easy access to essential items without having to travel.
- Important in rural areas and the outskirts of towns and cities.
- The type and number of shops will depend on population and demand. E.g. City suburbs may have large shopping centres. Rural areas may only have a local grocery shop/ pharmacy.

7. Street Lighting

- Safety when walking and driving through build up areas and public areas at night.

8. Broadband, Crèches, churches, Water and Sewage services, health centres.

Exam Questions:

1. Discuss the provision of amenities in new housing developments (12) (OL)
2. Evaluate the importance of local amenities and services in housing developments (16) (HL)
3. Discuss four local amenities/ services which you consider essential for a family (2 adults, 2 children aged 8, 10). State one reason why you think each amenity/ service is important.