

Name _____



Athens Urban Pressures

Directions: Read the passage about urban challenges in Athens. Then answer the critical thinking questions.

Athens Urban Challenges

Athens is one of the busiest cities in southern Europe and is home to millions of people living within a relatively small area. This creates high **population density**, which means many people share limited living space, roads, and public services. As more cars and buses crowd the streets, Athens struggles with **air pollution**, especially during the warm summer months when heat traps polluted air close to the ground. Transportation is another major challenge. While the city has buses, trams, and a metro system, traffic congestion still slows daily travel. Leaders in Athens continue looking for ways to improve public transportation, reduce pollution, and make life easier for residents living in such a historic and crowded city.

1. What does population density mean in the context of Athens?
2. How does warm weather affect pollution levels in the city?
3. Why might improving public transportation help reduce some of Athens's challenges?
4. Which problem described in the passage do you think is most difficult to solve and why?
5. What evidence from the passage explains why traffic congestion remains a problem?