

## QUESTION

Historically, cities have been thought of as spaces separate from or replacing nature. Urban political ecology scholarship challenges this thinking, suggesting that nature and cities are not separate entities but that diverse non-human natures and agencies including animals, plants, elements (eg. air, water, fire) and regimes (eg. energy) cohabit in and shape cities. Both cities themselves and the contemporary environmental challenges often associated with them are understood as the result of socio-ecological metabolic flows, in which various non-humans are enrolled in multiple ways. In this essay you are asked to pick a key socio-ecological challenge (eg. waste production and pollution like plastic, effluent, food waste; habitat loss; introduced species; climate change; etc.) and discuss this challenge and responses to it in relation to a particular city. In your response you should consider how socio-ecological metabolic flows and relations with non-humans in cities are implicated in your chosen issue.

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