

Virtual City Benchmark Form (up to 10 points)

- Students must use SimCity™ 4 Deluxe software to create their future city.
- The Virtual City Design (SimCity file) and this completed Benchmark Form must be submitted to your Regional Coordinator.
- Use the 10 items to help you benchmark your virtual city.
- Instructions on next page can help you find the necessary information.

Future City Name: _____

Educator Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Organization Address: _____

Educator Email: _____

Engineer-Mentor Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

The undersigned has verified the data submitted for accuracy and attests that no “cheat codes” were used in the development of the Virtual City.

Signed by either educator or engineer-mentor _____

Date _____

Virtual City Benchmarks

Each item is worth 1 point – Maximum number is 10 points	Values	Yes
1. Is the city at least 150 years old?		
2. Is the population at least 50,000?		
3. Can the city sustain a balanced budget (income > expenses)?	Inc:	
	Exp:	
4. Is wealth increasing: high land values? High-wealth Sims (R\$\$\$)? High-tech industry?	Land:	
	R\$\$\$:	
	I-HT:	
5. Do all of the buildings have power and water?	Power:	
	Water:	
6. Is the life-expectancy of the citizens > 70 years? (Average over 10 years)		
7. Is the Education Quotient > 120? (Average over 10 years)		
8. Are there any traffic complaints?		
9. Are crime and fire under control?	Crime:	
	Fire:	
10. Is pollution (air, water, garbage) under control?	Air:	
	Water:	
	Garbage:	
Count the number of “yes” answers. Each yes = 1 point	Total Points (0–10)	

Virtual City Benchmark Instructions

The ten benchmark items provide you with a basic evaluation tool for your virtual city. Use them to monitor your progress as you play the SimCity game. Be honest in your answers. Many of the items (see below) should be evaluated over time and not just as a one time “snapshot.”

Listed below are instructions on how to locate the information for each of the items listed on the Virtual City Design Benchmark sheet. Remember to list your “values” (where applicable).

Question 1:

Year—Look in the bottom left corner for the city date. If your city is 150 years or later, put a check (or X) in the “Yes” column. Write the year in the values column.

Question 2:

Population—Enter “Mayor Mode” by clicking on the Top Hat icon in the lower left corner. On the Mayor toolbar, population is the bottom number under “Mayor Rating” (to the right of the tiny male figure). Enter this number on the form.

Question 3:

Budget—To get a snapshot view: (in Mayor Mode) click on the Simoleons (§) icon (bottom left – next to RCI meter) to open the budget panel. Enter monthly income and expenses on the form. To get a longer-term view, click on the Graphs icon (mid-right icon next to “City Opinion Polls”). Select the City Income/Expenses view and slide the time frame out to get data over the life of your city. Income (green line) should be greater than expenses (red line) for the majority of the time period.

Question 4:

Increasing Wealth—(in Mayor Mode) click on the Data View icon (top right) and select Land Value. The populated areas of the city should be green. High Wealth Sims (R\$\$\$) – click on the Graphs icon (middle right, below the Data View icon). Select Jobs & Population and look for R\$\$\$\$. If necessary, turn off graphs (lines) for other options and look for an increasing population of high-wealth Sims over the life of the city. High-Tech Industry – using the same Jobs & Population graph, look for I-HT increasing population over time.

Question 5:

Power—click on the Data View icon (top right). Select Power and verify that all buildings are green.

Water – in Data View, select Water and verify that all of the buildings are blue. You can also do a building by building check in the main view of your virtual and making sure there are no “zots” above buildings with “no power” (lightning bolt) or “no water” (drip).

Question 6:

Life Expectancy—In the Graphs panel, select “Life Expectancy” and make sure the Time Scale is 10 years. Estimate the average value of the graph and enter it on the form.

Question 7:

Education Quotient—in the Graphs panel select “Education” and slide the Time Scale out to 10 years. Estimate the average value of graph and enter it on the form.

Question 8:

Traffic Complaints—click on the Advisors icon (middle left) and select the Transportation Advisor (second from right). The background of his picture should be blue or green and there should be no complaints listed.

Question 9:

Crime—click on the Data Views icon (top right) and select Crime. You should have coverage over the entire city and any crimes showing should be yellow or orange, not red.

Fire – in Data View, select Fire Hazard. You should have coverage over the entire city and it should be yellow or orange, not red.

Question 10:

Air Pollution—in Data View, select Air Pollution. The majority of the city should be clear and any pollution showing should be yellow or orange.

Water Pollution – in Data View, select Water Pollution. The majority of the city should be clear and any pollution showing should be yellow or orange.

Garbage Pollution – in Data View, select Garbage. The city should be clear of garbage.