



The state of the urban environment

Air pollution in big cities or near construction sites is often very hard to live with. Carry out a field study in your area in a variety of locations – a city park, a street with heavy traffic, a housing estate, and a public or residential building – following the methodology described below:

- Prepare samples for testing the amount of dust in the air by cutting equal lengths of clear adhesive tape and fixing them horizontally to sticks or pins with the adhesive side outwards. Place them at various points in the selected area. Each sample should be labelled.
- Leave the sample strips exposed for one or two hours, then seal the samples by attaching clean strips of tape of the same type and length over the samples to prevent them from being damaged during transport.
- Place the strips on glass microscope slides and count the number of dust particles seen through the microscope. Move the slide so that a different portion of the strip is showing and repeat the process. Enter the results in the table below.

Studied site	Number of dust particles		
	Sample I	Sample II	Average value
City park			
Street with heavy traffic			
Housing estate (outdoor or common space)			
Public or residential building (classroom or living room)			

Compare the results obtained and explain any variances in the results.