Perth is situated on the banks of the Swan River, 18 kilometres from the port of Fremantle at the river’s mouth. Perth’s rapid growth (from a population of 500,000 in 1966 to 1.2 million in 1996) is largely due to the discovery of extensive mineral deposits, especially iron ore in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

In the late 1960s, this growing population led to increased business activity and the city centre experienced much change and growth. Many of Perth’s older buildings were replaced by tall office blocks and hotel towers, transforming the skyline. The CBD is restricted to a small area because of the river to the south, the Mitchell Freeway to the west and the suburban railway network to the east. Today, although a small city by world population standards, the CBD displays the high-rise development normally associated with much larger cities.

In the late 1960s, this growing activity and the city centre experienced much change and growth. Many of Perth’s older buildings were replaced by tall office blocks and hotel towers, transforming the skyline. The CBD is restricted to a small area because of the river to the south, the Mitchell Freeway to the west and the suburban railway network to the east. Today, although a small city by world population standards, the CBD displays the high-rise development normally associated with much larger cities.

This satellite image of Perth was taken in February 2003. The suburbs appear as light green and purple. The city centre is shown on the Swan River, about 18 kilometres from its mouth. The city of Fremantle can be clearly seen at the mouth of the Swan River. Cream and pink coloured land to the south and north-east of the city represents farmland. Major airports occupy large areas of land and are usually visible in satellite images. The distinctive straight lines of the tarmac at Perth Airport (see blown-up image to the right) can be clearly seen. Perth’s airport is also visible on the main image, about eight kilometres east of the city centre.

**ONE-POINT QUESTIONS**

1. On which river is Perth located?
2. What are P? I am pictured below. I was established in 1829 and was Western Australia’s major town. I am located to the south of the mouth of the Swan River.
3. What are P? I am a satellite suburb of Perth. I am located about 40 kilometres south-south-west of the city centre. I am found on Cape Peron.
4. Compare the 1838 map and modern view of Perth.
   a. Which feature now joins Point Lewis to Point Belches?
   b. What has happened to the Hecataion Islands? (Note the official spelling has changed.)
5. Compare the 1838 view of Perth with the 1888 view of Brisbane.
   a. How was the city of Perth similar to Brisbane?
   b. On which river is the city of Brisbane located?

**TWO-POINT QUESTIONS**

6. Compare the satellite image and map of Perth.
   a. Find and name the lakes shown in the image to the right.
   b. Water normally shown as black on satellite images. Why do you think these lakes look different?
    c. Find two other lakes with the same appearance about 20 kilometres south of the city centre.

**THREE-POINT QUESTIONS**

7. What are P? I am a satellite suburb of Perth. I am located about 40 kilometres south-south-west of the city centre. I am found on Cape Peron.