Describe the similarities and differences in the spatial organization of cities in Western Europe and North America in terms of the following aspects. (2 points for each aspect. Discussion MUST include similarities and differences in BOTH Western Europe and North America. 1 point is awarded for EACH area in the discussion.)

Geographic size

Height and design of buildings in central business district

Public space

Patterns of economic class

Ethnic neighborhoods

Geographic size: Cities of North America generally tend to be larger, more sprawling than are cities of Western Europe, especially the younger, postautomobile cities of the American South and West; preautomobile cities tend to be more compact and therefore more similar to cities of Western Europe.

Height and design of buildings in the central business district (CBD): Cities of North America generally have distinctive, high-profile buildings of modern or postmodern design in the CBD; cities of Western Europe tend to have a flat profile with most buildings rarely rising above five stories and reflecting historic rather than modern styles; in both cases the CBD is the center of business activity.

Public space: Cities of Western Europe are more pedestrian-oriented and tend to preserve park area, plaza, historic sites, and other public spaces; cities of North America are more automobile-oriented and more people live in suburban neighborhoods where the mall has taken the place of traditional public spaces, rather than in the city. Cities of both Western Europe and North America are cognizant of the need for parks and other public spaces.

Patterns of economic class: Cities of both Western Europe and North America have varying economic classes, but their spatial arrangement is not always the same; in European cities middle-class workers are likely to be found in historic areas or near the city center; in North American cities, the middle class is more likely to occupy housing in the suburbs, and inner city neighborhoods are more likely to be occupied by low-income workers or to be experiencing gentrification and the return of young professionals.

Ethnic neighborhoods: Many cities of Western Europe have less distinct ethnic neighborhoods compared to cities of North America; ethnic neighborhoods of Western European cities are more likely to be found in suburban margins rather than in inner city neighborhoods (zones in transition), as in North American cities; ethnic neighborhoods in North American cities tend to be dynamic, shifting location as the economic circumstances of the immigrants change; neighborhoods of Western European cities tend to be more static.