Settlement & Urbanization
Settlement

- **A settlement is a place where people live.** It can be:
  - Large or small
  - Permanent or temporary
  - Unique but likely to share similar characteristics as other settlements

- Settlements can be grouped together/ classified:
  - **Location (site and situation)**
  - **Shape (patterns)**
  - **Major use (function)**
**Site & Situation**

**Site:** the point at which the town (hamlet/ village/ city) is located.

Choosing a site for settlement used to depend on several factors such as:
- Relief
- Soil
- Water supply
- Natural resources

**Situation:** the location of the settlement in relation to its surroundings.

These include:
- Other settlements
- Mountains
- Rivers
- Communications
• A situation of a settlement determines whether or not the settlement will continue to grow to become a large town or city or whether it remains as a small hamlet/village.

• **Example: Paris**
  • Site advantage – located on river Seine (could easily be defended and made bridging easier)
  • Situation advantage – centre of a major farming area (this led Paris to grow into Europe’s largest city).
Types of settlement

- Settlement
  - Rural (Pertaining to the countryside)
    - Isolated
    - Hamlet
    - Village
    - Small market town
  - Urban (Pertaining to the town)
    - Larger town
    - City
    - Conurbation (Megalopolis)

Majority of inhabitants in developing countries live in rural areas (although the percentage is declining).

Majority of inhabitants in developed countries live in urban areas.
**Patterns**

- **Dispersed**
  - Isolated/ individual building/ group of 2 or 3 buildings separated from the next group by 2 or 3 km.
  - In areas where natural resources are limited, so not a lot of people can be supported.

- **Nucleated**
  - Several buildings grouped together (initially for defense purposes and later for social and economic reasons). Ex: most Maltese villages (church as the focal point – surrounded by buildings).

- **Linear**
  - Buildings built along a line of communication such as main roads, river valleys, canals or dykes. Ex: Hamrun, Birkirkara, Xemxija.
The function of a settlement relates to its economic & social development and on its main activities.

Examples:

- London – capital city
- Cambridge – university town
- Dover – port

Functions may change over time.

Ex: Rio de Janeiro – the site used to be used as a harbor for fishing ships to shelter. Now it is mainly used for tourism.
Settlement Hierarchies

There are 3 ways to determine the ‘order of importance’ in the hierarchy:

1. **Population size** of a settlement
2. **Range and no. of services** provided by a settlement
3. **Sphere of influence / market area** of a settlement
Settlement Hierarchies – based on population size

Increasing Population size and surface area

Metropolis also known as Conurbations
- Metropolis - 1 million+10 million
- Large city: 300,000-1 million
- City: 100,000-300,000
- Large town: 20,000-100,000
- Small town: 1000-20,000
- Village - 100-1000
- Hamlet – 100 or less

Decreasing population and surface area

A settlement hierarchy shows the different settlements in order of population size and surface area.

Isolated Dwellings come below a hamlet, with about 1 or 2 people living here.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement type</th>
<th>Number of services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Cathedrals, government buildings, banking HQ, railway terminals, large theatre, museums, shopping centers, several universities, international airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Large railway station, large shopping complex, cathedral, large hospital, large football team, university, airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large town</td>
<td>Several shopping areas, railway station, bus station, hotels, banks, small hospital, small football team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small town</td>
<td>Town hall, doctor, several chapels, cafes/ restaurants, small secondary school, railway station, several shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Church, post office, public houses, grocery, small junior school, village hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamlet</td>
<td>Perhaps none of the above, maybe a public telephone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘*Sphere of Influence*’ is the area served by a particular settlement.
Factors affecting settlement location

- **Economy**
  - Commercial Routeways (e.g., St. Albans)
  - Nodal Points (e.g., Khartoum)
  - Markets (e.g., St. Albans)
  - Ports (e.g., Dover; London)

- ** Tradition**
  - Hills (e.g., Edinburgh)
  - River Meanders (e.g., Durham)

- **Physical**
  - Local Relief
  - Soils (e.g., E. Anglia)
  - Water Supply (wet Point Site)

- **Climate**
  - Shelter
  - Drainage
  - Wet Point Site (e.g., Welsh Valleys)

- **Factors**
  - Defence (e.g., Edinburgh)
  - Resources (e.g., Carjas; Alaska)
  - Dry Point Site (e.g., Ely)
  - Ports (e.g., Sydney)
Urbanisation is an increase in the number of people living in towns and cities.

The rapid growth of industry in the 19th century led to large-scale urbanization in Western Europe and North-Eastern USA. During the 20th century, people continued to move to urban areas mainly for:

- More and better-paid jobs
- Being closer to work and places of entertainment
- Better housing/ services (schools & hospitals)/ shopping facilities
A model is a theoretical framework which may not actually exist but which helps to explain the reality.

- Both models were based on assumptions which simplified reality.
- They have a number of limitations – open to criticism.
- Nowadays, they are outdated, but still important the early structure, both physical and social of urban areas.
Burgess Model 1924

1. **CBD: Central Business District**
   - Contains the major shops and offices
   - Centre for commerce and entertainment
   - Focus for transport routes

2. **Transition Zone**
   - Oldest houses being deteriorated into slums
   - Very poor people
   - Presence of light industry

3. **Areas of Low-Class houses**
   - Inhabited by those people who afford to go out of the Transition Zone
   - People live in this area to be close to their place of work (low transport cost)

4. **Medium-Class houses**
   - Higher quality houses

5. **High-Class houses**
   - Wealthy people who afford transport costs
   - Expensive large houses
Burgess Model Assumptions

1. City built on flat land (no rivers/valleys).
   • This gives equal advantages in all directions
2. Cheap transport, easy and rapid in all directions.
3. Land values:
   • High values at center
   • Values decline rapidly away from CBD
4. Oldest buildings found close to city center/new buildings in outskirts.
5. The city contains a variety of socio-economic and ethnic areas.
6. No concentrations of heavy industry.
Important points to understand the model:

- Factories concentrated along lines of communication
  - Ex: rivers, roads, railway tracks
  - Important site for factories because it facilitated transport of products

- Low-Class houses are found close to the industries to save transport cost

- Industries and Low-Class houses repel High-Class residential land-use
  - Sector 5 is distant from sector 2
  - The part of Sector 5 near to low class houses (Sector 3) is narrow. (The sector gets wider towards the outskirts).
Hoyt Model
Assumptions

Hoyt made the same assumptions as Burgess but he also made the following assumptions:

1. Wealthy people could afford the highest rents and land prices, so they chose the best sites.
2. Wealthy people could afford private cars and public transport, so they could afford to live away from the CBD and the main lines of communication.
3. Similar land-uses/functions attracted similar land-uses/functions in the same area → this contributed to sectoral development.
Changing cities – Inner cities

• In the 19th century, inner city areas developed along with industry. As the industry grew, so did the demand for workers.

• These people wanted to live as close as possible to their work so the inner cities started seeing a lot of rural-urban migration.

• Due to lack of town planning in the past, inner cities have now been undergoing changes in order to improve the quality of life:
  • Slum clearance
  • Urban re-development
  • Urban renewal
Rural-Urban Fringe

• After the 1960’s, urbanization continued.
• Land on the rural-urban fringe was being used for:
  • Private modern estates or new industrial/trading estates

• At the end of 20th century, a lot of people start to view the rural-urban fringe as an ideal place to live:
  • Less congestion, easier access, more attractive and less polluted
Different housing locations

- Inner city
- Residential suburbs
- Central Business District
## Problems in developed cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problems</th>
<th>Reasons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High population density</td>
<td>• Congested mostly during the day (shoppers, businesses, workers)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• At night, congested with people looking for entertainment + residences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport problems</td>
<td>• Lots of cars during rush hour</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Lack of parking</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Road maintenance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Increase in accidents</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Air/ noise/ visual pollution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>• Common due to presence of poor people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health problems</td>
<td>• Respiratory problems ex: asthma (a lot of air pollution)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In low lying cities, pollution isn’t dissipated easily (ex: Los Angeles, Marsa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic problems</td>
<td>• Increase in ethnic groups = increase in risk of racial tension</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Group work

Make a Powerpoint presentation on the following topics:

1. Changes in the CBD
   • (Book pgs 58-59)

2. Changes in old inner city areas
   • (Book pgs 60-61)

3. Changes at the rural-urban fringe
   • (Book pgs 62-63)

4. Transport in urban areas
   • (Book pgs 66-67)
Urbanisation

A little history...

Since the 1800s, only 3% of the world’s population lived in urban areas.

In developed countries, urbanization started during the 1800s, however, developing countries started to experience urbanization since the 1950s.
There are 2 factors to consider:

1. Very large cities with populations more than 1 million.
   • In 1850, there were 2 of these cities (London & Paris).
   • In 1950, there were 70, and in 2003 there were 408.
   • Megacities = places with populations of more than 10 million.

2. The change in the distribution and location of large cities.
   • Before 1950 most of the ‘million’ cities were in developed countries.
   • Since 1950, there was a dramatic increase of these cities in developing countries.
Rural ‘push’ factors
(why people leave the countryside)

1. Lack of employment opportunities
2. Pressure on the land
3. Many families do not own land
4. Overpopulation from high birth rates
5. Starvation (too little output/crop failure/change in agriculture – cash crops for developed countries)
6. Extreme physical conditions *ex* aridity, rugged mountains, heat and dense vegetation.
7. Farming is hard work (long hours/little pay)
8. Lack of services & investment
Urban ‘pull’ factors
(why people move to the city)

1. Better paid jobs
2. Comfortable housing
3. Higher quality of life
4. Better chance of services & entertainment
5. More reliable sources of food
6. Safer religious and political activities
Differences in urbanization between LEDCs and MEDCs

Both LEDCs and MEDCs have a CBD usually near the center of the city.

In MEDCs, the poorer part is in the inner city and in the zone of transition (close to the CBD).

In LEDCs, the poorest people live in shanty towns (favelas) which are on the outskirts of the city or near transport routes or on unfavorable physical sites ex: on steep slopes.
CASE STUDIES
São Paulo

• Largest, richest, most industrialised city in Brazil.

• It grew due to a massive influx of immigrants from Europe (after 1850) + high birth rates.


• Rapid urbanization has led to social and economic division – the poor located in the city’s periphery in shanty settlements (favelas) and tenement slums (corticos).
Housing for the poor

- **Favelas/ corticos/ squatter settlements**

- Over 100 million people living in developing cities are homeless.

- A third of these people live in squatter settlements (areas vacant only because of high pollution/ flooding/ landslips).

- Most authorities prefer if these shanty settlements are removed however there isn’t so much anyone can do to provide alternative accommodation for all those people.

- As a result, shanty settlements become permanent.

What do you think is next to these settlements?
Housing improvements in São Paulo

Two local government assisted schemes to improve the quality of life in the favelas – community housing projects:

1. Low-cost improvements
2. Self-help schemes
Rio de Janeiro

One of the world’s largest and most populated cities.

*Rio has 2 sides:*

- The beaches (Copacabana and Ipanema) with luxury housing
- The problems of rapid urban growth ex: housing, traffic, pollution and crime.
Problems in Rio

1. **Housing**
   - Large amount of homeless people
   - Favelas and periferia

2. **Crime**
   - Organized crime
   - Violence
   - Drug trafficking

3. **Pollution**
   - Polluted sea and beaches
   - Traffic fumes
   - Huge amounts of waste

**Side note:**

**Favelas** – accommodation that lacks basic services (water, sewerage, electricity) and people have no legal right to the land.

**Periferia** – poor quality local authority housing
Use Cairo in Egypt as a case study and write about the problems which Cairo faces with regards to:

- Housing
- Population
- Etc.