



# Town vs Country

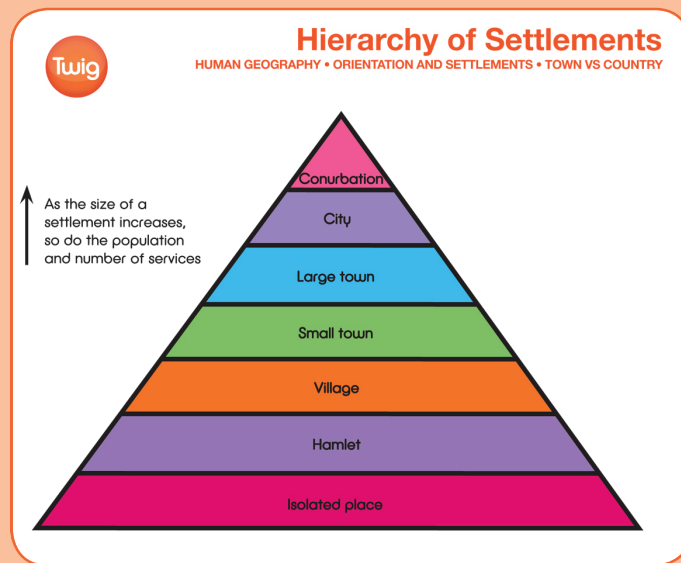
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY • ORIENTATION AND SETTLEMENTS • TOWN VS COUNTRY

## Section 1: Introduction to Settlements

### • What is a settlement?

Settlements are places where people live; they provide services for the people who live there and those in other settlements. There is a hierarchy of settlements, ranging from individual properties in rural areas to the multi-million strong populations of sprawling megacities. Some settlement locations encourage growth, such as those supported by the presence of key resources or the merging of key transport routes. Cities tend to continue growing, drawing people from the surrounding area to provide the services that keep the city running: around 180,000 people move into the world's cities every day. If a city loses its key resource, it may experience a decline in population for a while. There are also many rural settlements, which have smaller concentrations of housing, and may be called villages or hamlets. The latter may have very few, or no, services and a population of fewer than 100.

### DIAGRAM 01:



### • Suggested Films

- Settlement Resources
- Urban Settlements
- Rural Settlements

### Extension Questions

#### Q1. When does a village become a town?

There is no particular point at which a village becomes a town. It is not linked to a particular population figure or a particular number of services, but tends to happen once a settlement becomes a central place for a region. Historically, this might have meant that a market was held there, as they would have generated more wealth, and would have encouraged further services to locate there.

#### Q2. What is the world's largest city?

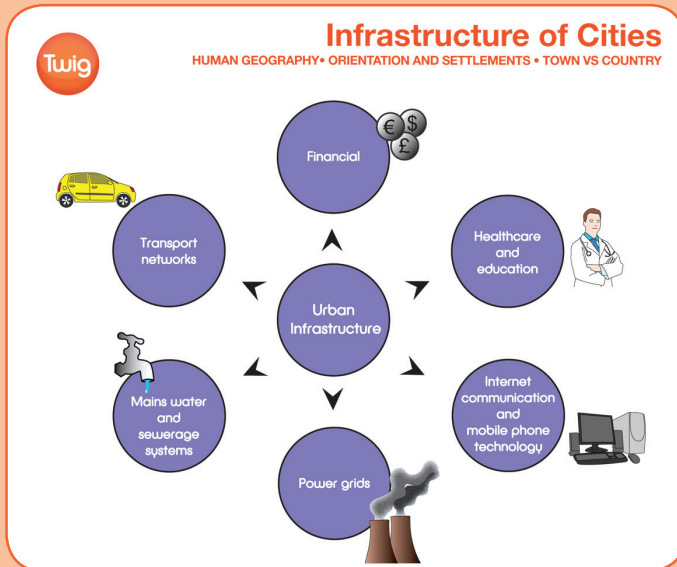
One of the difficulties in identifying the population of a city is the challenge of counting the population accurately. Some cities may have people who are avoiding contact with officials, so there may be an under-estimation of the total population. Cities are also in a constant state of change, with people leaving and arriving every day. Another problem is deciding where the city 'ends' or 'begins', as some cities have official boundaries which are well outside the edge of the built-up area. Tokyo, Mexico City and Shanghai have all been named as having the largest population.

#### Q3. Can a settlement disappear?

Although cities are unlikely to disappear, smaller settlements have occasionally been abandoned for different reasons. Sometimes it is due to man-made reasons, such as the clearance of parts of rural Scotland during the late 18th century. Sometimes it is to make way for military use, or as a result of natural hazards, such as earthquake damage. Archaeologists study the remains of cities that were abandoned long ago.

• How do settlements develop over time?

DIAGRAM 02:



All of us live in a settlement of some kind. It may be part of an isolated hamlet comprising just a few houses, or we might live in a bustling city surrounded by hundreds of thousands of other people. We tend to have the same wants and needs, but these are not always met equally, so our cities are complex, dynamic and challenging environments. Most cities have evolved over hundreds, sometimes thousands of years. Although there are patterns to the way that cities develop over time, there have also been some cities that are more recent additions to the landscape, which have been planned for a specific purpose and have much more regular patterns within them. Examples of planned cities include Canberra (Australia), Brasilia (Brazil), Washington DC (USA) and Milton Keynes (UK).

In order for city centres to develop, older buildings are sometimes demolished and replaced by modern housing, office complexes or shopping centres. There are distinct differences between inner city areas, where housing is often older, and the suburbs, where there are higher house prices and more open space. Houses nearer the city centre were often used to house new arrivals to the city, but as some of the most expensive real estate today is now found in inner city locations, new arrivals are more often being placed in peripheral estates.

The majority of cities have a historic centre which reflects its past and original function. This function could have been as a market town, holiday resort, port, an important route centre, or as a home to industry (because of access to natural resources or strong transportation links). Some settlements never grow beyond the size of a village, but all major cities have neighbourhoods which would have started out as separate settlements before urban sprawl engulfed them. The reason for settlement development often disappears over time, particularly if a settlement was a defensive site.

Extension Questions

Q4. What makes a city a 'world city'?

A world city will have buildings that are recognised all over the world, will have a population of millions who live or work there, and attract millions of tourist visitors each year. The city may be an international financial centre, house the headquarters of many major companies, or be seen as a global transport hub.

Q5. What is meant by the term 'infrastructure'?

All cities have a set of networks which hold together and transfer all the resources that the population needs on a daily basis. Infrastructure refers to the basic physical and organisational structures needed to keep the city operating. They include underlying networks of power, sewage, information and emergency services. It is the connections between a settlement's population and infrastructure that make settlements 'work' or not.

• Suggested Activity

- Ask the students to produce a guide for new arrivals to their hometown. Identify the changes that have taken place in the time they have lived there, to demonstrate that settlements are constantly changing. Ask them to also suggest future changes that they think might happen there.

• Suggested Films

- Settlement Resources
- Urban Settlements
- Urban Land Use Model

• What is the 'footprint' of a city?

All settlements make a 'mark' on the land. The physical footprint of a city is the actual area that the 'built-up region' covers. Other footprints include an ecological footprint, which is a measure of our demands on nature and resources, and which extends far beyond these physical boundaries. Cities are places where energy, water, food and other resources are consumed in large quantities. People are also drawn into the city from rural areas (into which urban sprawl constantly intrudes) so the footprint changes over time. The footprint of a city is an estimation based on various calculations, rather than being a 'known' area.



Tokyo, Japan, is a megacity with 35 million inhabitants

• Suggested Films

- Settlement Resources
- Urban Settlements

Extension Question

Q6. How is a city's ecological footprint calculated?

An ecological footprint is a measure of the greenhouse gas emissions (including carbon dioxide) produced to support the human activity of a city, and the impact they have on the environment. A city's ecological footprint takes into account the energy that is consumed, and the carbon that is generated when this is originally made. Although a city might be 10km wide, the area of land that is used to produce the goods and services it needs is larger.

Section 2: Changing Settlements

• Why do people want to live in cities?



Urban environments are complex, interacting systems

Settlements of any size will attract people to them on a temporary, short-term basis, whether for work, to a place of worship, or to fill up a car with fuel. As settlements grow, their population enables them to support a larger range of services, and these services will also be of a higher order, which need more people to sustain them. Cities will provide high-order services including leisure centres, department stores, cinemas and music arenas, whereas villages will provide low-order services such as post offices and small grocery stores.

Although rural areas have their attractions (they are less densely populated and are cleaner and quieter), for some people they will not offer the excitement and lifestyle that they desire. A large number of services, access to transport links, and higher employment rates mean that cities are attractive locations for some age groups to move to. In many parts of the world, fast-developing cities face multiple challenges: poor quality housing, overcrowding, and increased pressure on basic services such as sanitation and food supply. Homelessness and its associated problems can develop as a result. These are the same problems that afflicted many cities in the UK and the USA at the end of the 19th century, and still do.

• Suggested Films

- Urban Land Use Model
- Brazil: Life in a Favela

### Extension Questions

#### Q7. What are shanty towns?

These are areas of spontaneous development which can be found, in different forms, in most of the world's cities. The migrants that move to cities in search of a better quality of life often live in poor-quality housing when they first arrive. Homes are built from materials that have been scavenged, or are cheap and available in the area. Newly developed shanty towns will have no services. Over time, the communities living in these areas can bring about improvement, but they often have a reputation for crime and violence. Paradoxically, there is some research that suggests that people who live in such settlements are far happier and content than those who don't.



Shanty towns often develop where social infrastructures or services are lacking

#### Q8. Why aren't shanty towns removed before they become established?

There are certain rules that protect people moving into cities, which means that these neighbourhoods are tolerated. As they grow and begin to require more complicated services, they begin to gain semi-official status. Very strong communities often develop in shanty towns that can successfully resist attempted removal. There are also connections between them and the neighbouring rich areas, as they supply cheap labour.

### • Suggested Activities

- Favela is the term used for spontaneous settlements in Brazil. Ask the students to find out the term that is used for similar informal settlements in at least four other countries. What are the distinctive characteristics of these informal settlements?
- Ask the students to research the idea of favela tourism which has been introduced in some areas, where people pay to have a guided tour of the informal settlement area. Ask the students to discuss the positives and negatives of this.

### • How do cities 'work'?

Cities have developed as people have moved in to them over the last few hundred years. Changes in cities need management, which can range from protecting the heritage that might otherwise be lost during regeneration, to ensuring a smooth flow of traffic. Congestion is a common problem experienced by cities due to an increase in the number of cars and the construction of large roads and motorways which link them to the surrounding areas. Traffic planning is important to mitigate these problems, and management solutions include congestion charge schemes, park and ride schemes and pedestrianised areas. Efforts also need to be made to ensure that as many people as possible have equitable access to public services. Residents and visitors both appreciate physical connections to a city's history, but they also want to see improvements made to particular areas. Sometimes, construction work can unearth signs of previous developments, and be of historical and archaeological value. Rome still has many ancient architectural features today, such as the Coliseum, the Pantheon and the Catacombs.

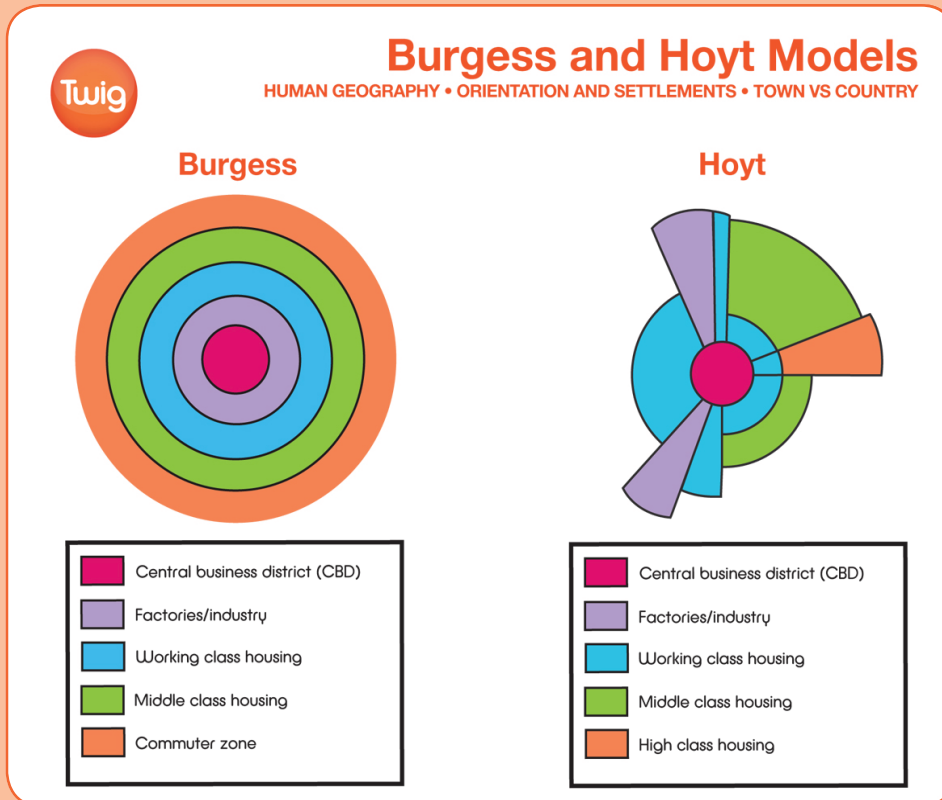
As cities develop, certain patterns in their formation can be seen, whether on a map or aerial image. Even small settlements have a pattern to them. Human geographers have looked at these patterns and given some of them names. These include nucleated (tightly packed around a central feature such as a green), dispersed (spread out with no obvious village centre) and linear (built along the line of a road or other transport feature) settlements.

In the 1930s, Burgess created a model with the Central Business District (CBD) at the centre of the city. There are difficulties in 'modelling' cities as each is different and has its own complexities. Many cities have changed considerably in their form since that time, and modern models of land use are starting to reflect these complexities.

### • Suggested Films

- Settlement Resources
- Urban Settlements
- Rural Settlements
- Protecting St Paul's

DIAGRAM 03:



Extension Question

Q9. What is a land use model?

Geographers create land use models, such as the Burgess model, to simplify and reveal basic patterns of an 'average' city. This is so that the relationships between different areas can be identified and discussed. Models suggest that areas will develop, based on a particular land use. There will be residential areas, commercial areas and industrial areas. The location of these areas will tend to be the same for most cities.

Q10. How have land use models changed?

Newer land-use models in the middle part of the 20th century began to include the impact of transport links and landscape features. Most cities are built on rivers, which can act as barriers to development, as well as providing transportation, and this began to be incorporated into the models. Homer Hoyt's model added sectors to the circles along main roads and railway lines, and Harris and Ullman suggested that there could be more than one main 'centre' to a city in their 'multiple nuclei' model. Contemporary modelling using a Geographic Information System (GIS) enables geographers to capture the complexity and differences of cities rather than the similarities. A GIS analyses and displays geographical data as maps, models and charts, and allows us to understand trends and patterns.

Q11. Do MEDC and LEDC cities share the same model?

Land-use zones develop in all cities, although in places like São Paulo in Brazil there would be the addition of the favelas, which would not feature in cities such as Paris or Berlin. Newer theories on urban structure and urbanism focus on the complicated nature of modern cities. One classic model of cities in LEDCs was produced by the geographers Griffin and Ford, who developed ideas from the earlier models.

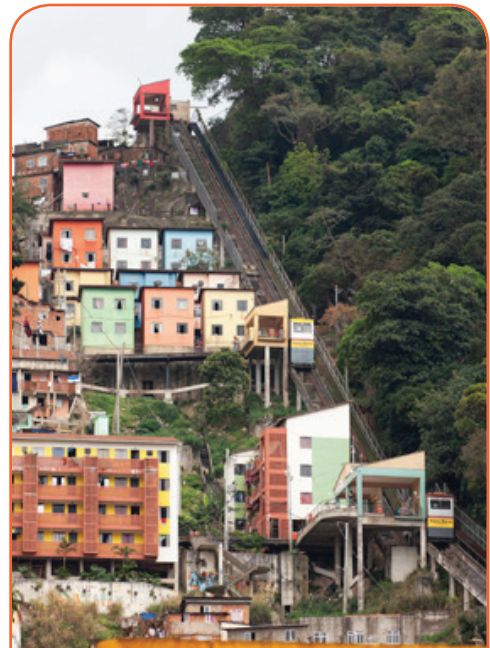
• **Suggested Activities**

- Ask students to research different urban land use models and produce a critique of them. What do they lose by simplifying something as complicated as a city?
- Ask the students what they would do to reduce the traffic congestion problems in their own town or city.

• **How do cities vary in different parts of the world?**

Cities around the world, whether they are in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) or Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) have similar patterns. Both have a CBD, characterised by high land value, high-rise buildings, global brands, department stores, hotels and offices. However, the provision of services and infrastructures, including access to transport routes, as well as the quality of the environment, particularly air quality, will vary greatly between cities.

In MEDCs, the edge of the city will be less densely populated with high quality housing, whereas in LEDCs, informal settlements and shanty towns are located on the edge of cities.



**Shanty towns are found on the outskirts of some cities**

• **Suggested Films**

- Urban Settlements
- Rural Settlements

**Extension Question**

**Q12. What problems are associated with city growth?**

There are a number of problems associated with the growth of cities. This includes access to education, healthcare, services and transport. Traffic congestion may increase as a city grows, and the competition for employment will be greater. The problems associated with city growth will be greater in LEDCs, where infrastructure and services are already limited.

**Section 3: Challenges Facing Settlements**

• **What impact do cities have on their surrounding areas?**



**Hundreds of thousands of people move from rural environments into towns and cities every day**

As people move into cities, there is an increasing demand for key services. With a finite amount of space, land prices increase dramatically towards the centre of the city, which drives a rapid growth. The cities of New York, Hong Kong and São Paulo are examples of this pattern happening; they are home to the tallest buildings in the world.

Until fairly recently, many cities were surrounded by farmland, which provided much of the fresh produce that fed its residents. Globalisation has changed the sourcing of raw materials and manufactured goods. The world is becoming an ever more interconnected place, reducing the barriers to international trade and communication, thus enabling a greater exchange of goods and services, and a larger number of multinational corporations. Globalisation also allows increased integration of global economies and cultures.

• **Suggested Films**

- Brownfield Sites
- Rural Settlements
- Rural-Urban Fringe
- Rural Deprivation

Young people living in rural areas often desire to live in the city, as they sometimes find that rural life is too quiet and lacks employment opportunities. When they leave full-time education and begin looking for employment, they may find themselves having to commute to work in a nearby town, and from there they may follow a 'step migration' journey, which results in them finding their way into a city. Urbanisation is the process whereby people move from rural settlements into towns and cities. This can have a number of negative impacts on the surrounding rural areas, including an ageing population and fewer job prospects.

Counter urbanisation is the movement of people from urban areas to rural areas. The causes of counter urbanisation can be divided into push (reasons for moving away from an urban area) and pull (reasons for moving to a rural area) factors. Push factors could include increased pollution, crime and congestion, and pull factors might consist of more open spaces and a seemingly improved quality of life. An increase in the number of business parks on the edge of cities, increased car ownership, and better transport links are also causes of counter urbanisation.

### Extension Question

#### Q13. What developments are found on the edge of cities?

Airports, shopping centres, golf courses, sewage works, power stations and large-scale manufacturing are often found on the edges of cities, where land is cheaper and there is more space available. Land is the limiting factor in many developments due to the cost of purchase and the need to obtain enough space for possible further expansion. The steel industry in Sheffield, UK, tended to locate on the flat land along the river floodplains, which meant that the mills could spread out.

#### Q14. What is a brownfield location?

A brownfield location is one that has previously been built on. There are many such areas in most cities, for example, where a factory may have closed down or a housing development has been cleared. One benefit of these locations is that they are often already connected to the road network and other utilities. One disadvantage, if the site was previously used for industry, is that the chemicals associated with many industrial processes can cause problems if housing is built on land that has not been decontaminated.



**For developers, the rural land on the fringe of the city is an ideal place to build on**

### • Why are some cities growing so rapidly?

Cities in some parts of the world are growing faster than others, as people move in looking for work. Large cities such as Los Angeles can stretch over 64km (40 miles) across, and are similarly destinations for new arrivals. Some cities are growing as a result of foreign investment, or a change in their tax status, in order to attract overseas investment. Others, generally in LEDCs, have a young population, which naturally grows at a faster rate than an ageing one, and has the attraction of better healthcare and education opportunities.

Some settlements grow rapidly for less positive reasons. The small settlement of Dabaab, on the border between Somalia and Kenya, has been growing at a dramatic rate due to the famine that hit the Horn of Africa during the summer of 2011.

### • Suggested Film

- Rural Settlements

### • Are sustainable settlements really possible?

The term 'sustainability' is reasonably easy to define, but harder to actually achieve. Sustainability involves three elements: social, economic and environmental sustainability. The 'sustainability stool' is a common analogy as there are three 'legs' to the stool: if one is missing the stool falls over. So developments that might make sense economically, but result in environmental damage, could not be considered to be sustainable. The standard definition, coined by the Brundtland Commission in 1987, states that sustainable development is:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

There are different elements to sustainable settlements, but the idea is to create a community where people are able to live in such a way that they can carry on living like that indefinitely. This generally means that housing is built to high standards of energy efficiency, transport options usually include high use of public transport or bicycles, and many people live close to where they work. Terms such as 'carbon neutral' are sometimes used to describe cities that are planned or built in this way.



There are few cities that are truly sustainable, because of the inevitable resource demand that a large city has. The city of Curitiba, in Brazil is often mentioned as a sustainable city. Public transport is prioritised, and a system of radial bus routes connects all districts. There is a well-developed recycling scheme, which rewards residents who recycle. The favelas of Brazil are out of reach of the normal collections, but residents can exchange bags of rubbish for bus tickets and food, meaning around 70% of the city's waste is recycled.

#### Extension Question

##### Q15. How will future cities be developed?

The city of Masdar, in the Abu Dhabi desert, is being planned at the moment with features that will apparently make it one of the most sustainable cities in the world. However, its desert location might add challenges to the design. A large solar power plant and some geothermal energy will be used to power the city, and sustainable timber from old plantation coconut palms will be used as one of the building materials.

#### • Suggested Activities

- Ask the students to design a sustainable city. They should think about some of the ways their hometown works, and try to design a better way of doing the same thing. Research into the cities of Curitiba or Masdar could provide some useful suggestions.
- Ask the students to calculate their own carbon footprint and see what in their own lives is potentially unsustainable. Ask them then to come up with an alternative to this, which would not affect their quality of life, but would be better for future generations.

#### • Suggested Film

- Settlement Resources



• Quizzes

Settlement Resources

Basic

• Infrastructures include...

- A – transport systems, internet access, mobile phone technology
- B – power grids, law enforcement, sewerage systems
- C – mains electricity, mains water, healthcare
- D – all the above

• Shanty towns are most likely to develop...

- A – where there is access to natural resources
- B – where there are good transport networks
- C – where social infrastructures or services are lacking
- D – where there are lots of services

• A sustainable settlement is one which...

- A – provides enough resources for everyone without exhausting natural resources
- B – provides enough resources for everyone by using up natural resources
- C – provides enough resources for half the population without exhausting natural resources
- D – provides enough resources for half the population by using up natural resources

Advanced

• Infrastructures are...

- A – the basic physical and organisational structures of a settlement
- B – needed for the operation of a society
- C – needed for safe, successful and happy communities
- D – all the above

• How many children die each year as a result of diseases caused by inadequate waste management infrastructures?

- A – 1.5 million
- B – 250,000
- C – 3 million
- D – 600,000

• Which of the following is NOT true of shanty towns?

- A – they develop where social infrastructures or services are lacking
- B – they have high crime rates and unemployment
- C – they lack mains electricity and water
- D – they develop where there are services and good infrastructure

## Settlement Resources

## Basic

• Urban settlements are causing the depletion of...

- A – soil nutrients
- B – fuel supplies
- C – fish stocks
- D – all the above

## Advanced

• Which statement BEST describes the need for new infrastructures?

- A – new infrastructures are needed to deal with our changing way of life
- B – new infrastructures are needed to protect the environment
- C – new infrastructures are needed because more people have cars
- D – new infrastructures are needed to manage new internet and mobile phone technologies

### Urban Settlements

#### Basic

• The majority of the world's population live in...

- A – rural settlements
- B – the suburbs of large cities
- C – urban settlements
- D – villages close to large cities

• Which area of urban settlements usually has the cheapest housing?

- A – the suburbs
- B – the central business district
- C – the inner city
- D – the rural-urban fringe

• Which statement BEST describes the Central Business District (CBD)?

- A – an urban area with shops and restaurants
- B – a trading district which is always situated where several main roads meet
- C – the area of a city that has good transport networks
- D – an area for trade and home to large offices

• Which of the following features are MOST common in the rural-urban fringe?

- A – houses and schools
- B – small shops and offices
- C – music venues and restaurants
- D – business parks and shopping centres

#### Advanced

• How many people move into cities each day?

- A – 1 million
- B – 180,000
- C – 80,000
- D – 8000

• Which of the following statements is NOT true of the Central Business District?

- A – every urban settlement has a central business district in its historic core
- B – the central business district has a low land value
- C – few people live in the central district
- D – the central business district is the primary location for shops, offices and restaurants

• Which of the following is NOT usually associated with inner city areas?

- A – urban decay
- B – unemployment
- C – crime
- D – expensive housing

• The suburbs are areas...

- A – of urban decay
- B – of low value housing
- C – found on the outskirts of the city
- D – which have lots of shops and offices

### Urban Land Use Models

#### Basic

• What do geographers create to explain the structure of urban environments?

- A – urban environment models
- B – urban land site models
- C – urban land use models
- D – urban landscape models

• What is the name of the model which uses 'rings' to explain the structure of urban areas?

- A – The Baker Model
- B – The Burgess Model
- C – The Brown Model
- D – The Burton Model

• Hoyt proposed that urban areas develop in...

- A – rings
- B – sectors
- C – columns
- D – rows

• Shanty towns are found in...

- A – the centre of cities on high quality land
- B – the outskirts of cities on poor quality land
- C – the centre of cities on poor quality land
- D – the outskirts of cities on high quality land

#### Advanced

• The Burgess model shows that a city grows...

- A – outwards from multiple points in sectors
- B – outwards from a central point in sectors
- C – outwards from multiple points in rings
- D – outwards from a central point in rings

• Cities in MEDCs and LEDCs both have...

- A – shanty towns
- B – a central business district
- C – suburbs at the edge of the city
- D – a suburban business district

• The Hoyt and Burgess models are relevant in...

- A – developing countries
- B – developing and developed countries
- C – developed countries
- D – half of the developed countries

• The Hoyt model shows how industries develop alongside...

- A – motorways
- B – waterways
- C – areas of high cost housing
- D – lines of communication

**Rural Settlements**

**Basic**

• The process of urbanisation is the...

- A – rapid decrease in urban population
- B – rapid increase in urban population
- C – slow decrease in urban population
- D – slow increase in urban population

• Settlements that are found along main roads are called...

- A – nucleated settlements
- B – urban settlements
- C – dispersed settlements
- D – linear settlements

• Which of the following best describes urban sprawl?

- A – the increase of a city's population
- B – the expansion of cities into the countryside
- C – the growth of high-rise buildings
- D – the expansion of cities into brownfield sites

• The rural land found on the fringe of the city is called...

- A – the urban-suburb fringe
- B – the rural fringe
- C – the suburbia fringe
- D – the rural-urban fringe

**Advanced**

• Rural settlements often have...

- A – young populations and high birth rates
- B – ageing populations and declining birth rates
- C – young populations and declining birth rates
- D – ageing populations and high birth rates

• The rural-urban fringe is characterised by...

- A – high-rise buildings and restaurants
- B – factories and offices
- C – shopping centres and industrial parks
- D – low-cost housing

• Nucleated settlements...

- A – are found along main roads
- B – are spread out with no obvious centre
- C – encompass crossroads
- D – have a farm at their centre

• What impact does urbanisation have on rural employment?

- A – there will be more people employed by small businesses
- B – there will be fewer jobs available
- C – there will be more people employed by farming, forestry and fishing industries
- D – there will be more people employed by large-scale industry

• Answers

Settlement Resources

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- A – the centre of cities on high quality land
- B – the outskirts of cities on poor quality land**
- C – the centre of cities on poor quality land
- D – the outskirts of cities on high quality land

Advanced

• The Burgess model shows that a city grows...

- A – outwards from multiple points in sectors
- B – outwards from a central point in sectors
- C – outwards from multiple points in rings
- D – outwards from a central point in rings**

• Cities in MEDCs and LEDCs both have...

- A – shanty towns
- B – a central business district**
- C – suburbs at the edge of the city
- D – a suburban business district

• The Hoyt and Burgess models are relevant in...

- A – developing countries
- B – developing and developed countries
- C – developed countries**
- D – half of the developed countries

• The Hoyt model shows how industries develop alongside...

- A – motorways
- B – waterways
- C – areas of high cost housing
- D – lines of communication**

Rural Settlements

Basic

• The process of urbanisation is the...

- A – rapid decrease in urban population
- B – rapid increase in urban population**
- C – slow decrease in urban population
- D – slow increase in urban population

• Settlements that are found along main roads are called...

- A – nucleated settlements
- B – urban settlements
- C – dispersed settlements
- D – linear settlements**

• Which of the following best describes urban sprawl?

- A – the increase of a city's population
- B – the expansion of cities into the countryside**
- C – the growth of high-rise buildings
- D – the expansion of cities into brownfield sites

• The rural land found on the fringe of the city is called...

- A – the urban-suburb fringe
- B – the rural fringe
- C – the suburbia fringe
- D – the rural-urban fringe**

Advanced

• Rural settlements often have...

- A – young populations and high birth rates
- B – ageing populations and declining birth rates**
- C – young populations and declining birth rates
- D – ageing populations and high birth rates

• The rural-urban fringe is characterised by...

- A – high-rise buildings and restaurants
- B – factories and offices
- C – shopping centres and industrial parks**
- D – low-cost housing

• Nucleated settlements...

- A – are found along main roads
- B – are spread out with no obvious centre
- C – encompass crossroads**
- D – have a farm at their centre

• What impact does urbanisation have on rural employment?

- A – there will be more people employed by small businesses
- B – there will be fewer jobs available**
- C – there will be more people employed by farming, forestry and fishing industries
- D – there will be more people employed by large-scale industry