

What Are Settlements?

- A settlement is a place where people live.
- They range in size from isolated farmsteads to huge cities.
- Types include hamlets, villages, towns, cities, and conurbations.

Early Settlement Site Factors

- Settlements were located near:
 - Water supply (rivers, springs)
 - Good farmland
 - Shelter (valleys, forests)
 - Defence (hilltops, bends in rivers)
 - Trade routes (river crossings, roads)

Settlement Patterns

Nucleated: Buildings clustered around a central point (e.g. village green).

Linear: Buildings arranged in a line (often along a road or river).

Dispersed: Buildings spread out over a wide area (e.g. farming areas).

How Settlements Change Over Time

- Small villages may grow into towns or cities.
- Industrialisation, transport and trade influence growth.
- Regeneration and decline can occur due to economic or social changes.

Settlement Growth

Advantages: More housing, jobs, services, infrastructure.

Disadvantages: Traffic, pollution, loss of green space, rising house prices.

Urban Models

Burgess Model: Concentric rings – CBD in the centre, then housing zones.

Hoyt Model: Sectors based on transport routes and land use.

Relevance Today: Useful but outdated – cities are more complex and diverse now.

Why Does the UK Need More Homes?

- Growing population and more single-person households.
- Demand is higher than supply – housing crisis.
- Government targets to build more affordable homes.

Changing Shopping Patterns

- Rise of online shopping and out-of-town retail parks.
- Decline of high streets and traditional shopping centres.
- Convenience and home delivery influence habits.

Global Settlement Challenges

Rapid Urbanisation: Growth of mega-cities, especially in LICs/NEEs.

Informal Settlements: Slums lacking basic services.

Environmental Impact: Air pollution, waste, traffic.

Social Issues: Inequality, overcrowding, poor infrastructure.

The Best Settlement in the World?

Vienna, Austria: High quality of life, green space, safety.

Copenhagen, Denmark: Bike-friendly, sustainable, clean.

Vancouver, Canada: Scenic, low crime, access to nature.

- Best depends on factors like safety, healthcare, economy, and environment.

Key Terms

Settlement: A place where people live and interact.

Site: The physical land on which a settlement is built.

Function: The purpose of a settlement (e.g. market town, port, resort).

Urbanisation: The growth of towns and cities.

Infrastructure: Roads, electricity, water, transport networks.

Revision Questions

- 1) What is a nucleated settlement?
- 2) Give two reasons why people chose early settlement sites.
- 3) What is the difference between the Burgess and Hoyt models?
- 4) Name one advantage and one disadvantage of settlement growth.
- 5) Why are more homes needed in the UK?
- 6) How have shopping patterns changed recently?
- 7) What is an informal settlement?
- 8) What challenges do fast-growing cities face?
- 9) What is a dispersed settlement pattern?
- 10) Name one city often considered the best to live in and why.

