# Population and Settlement Definitions

## 1.5 Settlement and service provision:

| Term | Definition |
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| Urban | Built up, densely populated, town or city |
| Rural | Countryside, sparsely populated, small villages and hamlets |
| Site | The point a settlement is located. The actual land upon which a settlement is built. |
| Situation | Where the settlement is located in relation to other surrounding features such as other settlements, rivers and communications |
| Aspect | The direction in which a settlement faces |
| Nodal point | Located where several valleys (natural routes) meet to give a route centre |
| Bridging point | Located by a bridge on a river or by a ford in the river. |
| Wet point site | Settlements built by a river or at springs to improve their access to water e.g. Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey |
| Dry point site | Settlement built upon higher land, above a floodplain protecting them from flooding. E.g. Ely Cambridge |
| Defensive site | Settlement built on a site that protects them from surrounding populations. E.g. protected on three sides by water (Durham) or on a hill with steep slopes |
| Settlement hierarchy | The arrangement of settlements in an area in order of importance. Decided by 3 things: 1. Population size, 2. Range and number of services provided 3. Sphere of influence. |
| Settlement function | What the settlement does to 'earn its living' e.g. market town, mining town, administrate centre, tourist resort etc. |
| Settlement pattern | The shape of the settlement i.e. dispersed, nucleated or linear |
| Dispersed | Where settlements are scattered in a random fashion |
| Linear | Where settlements are following along a line of a river or road |
| Isolated settlement | Settlement that is a long distance from larger settlements or lacks transportation links, could be self-sufficient e.g. Capri, Italy (only accessible by boat) |
| Nucleated | Where settlements are clustered around a particular point. |
| Services | Settlements contain public services such as schools, hospitals and libraries. These also provide jobs for the residents. |
| High order service/function | Specialised services e.g. university or hospital |
| Middle order service/function | More specific than basic but not specialised e.g. boots pharmacy |
| Low order service/function | Basic service, more common, people go to them more often e.g. newsagents |

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| **High order settlement** | A settlement that provides high order services, tend to be urban e.g. London |
| **Middle order settlement** | Settlement that provides middle order goods and services e.g. Keswick, Lake District |
| **Low order settlement** | Settlements that provide low order services, tend to be rural e.g. Thaxted |
| **High order item** | Specialised items, more expensive and rare e.g. furniture |
| **Middle order item** | More than basic but less than high order items, middle range things e.g. hair dryer |
| **Low order item** | Basic items, cheaper and more common e.g. newspaper |
| **Specialised** | Rare, specific, expert, specially designed, particular |
| **Sphere of influence** | The area served by a particular settlement. |
| **Range** | The range of a good or service is the maximum distance that people are prepared to travel in order to obtain it. (short distances for a low order item or service, long distance for high order item or service) |
| **Threshold** | The minimum number of people required to support the service or good. i.e. 2500 for a doctors surgery, 100,000 for a large department store 1 million for University. |
| **Residential** | The main function of most settlements is to provide a place for people to live – this does not mean that they also work there. |
| **Administrative** | Local authority offices run the local services. Can also include national government offices and the monarchy |
| **Industrial** | Goods are manufactured in factories. These are often located around the outskirts of the settlement |
| **Commercial** | Shopping centres and recreation facilities such as sport centres and cinemas which provide services for people |
| **Tourism** | Some settlements have many facilities that attract other people to visit the area. Many coastal settlements change from being fishing villages to holiday resorts |

# 1.6 Urban Settlements

| Term | Definition |
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| CBD | Central Business District or city centre, the commercial business centre of a town or city where land values are at the highest. This is the most accessible part of the town or city. High land values lead to intensive use of the land and buildings are built as high as possible to maximise office space and therefore rental income. |
| Inner City | The part of the urban area surrounding the CBD, it often contains older housing and industry, in a state of poor repair and dereliction. |
| Suburbs | The outer zone of towns or cities |
| Residential area | Area of town or city where people live and have their homes |
| Industrial area | Area of town or city where businesses or factories are based |
| Rural-urban fringe | The area where the urban space meets rural space |
| LEDC | Less Economically Developed Country e.g. Sierra Leone |
| MEDC | More Economically Developed Country e.g. Japan |
| Inequality | Lack of equality, things are not equal or balanced, this could relate to social inequality where some people live in poorer conditions than others and have less services available to them than others. |
| Congestion | Overcrowding, particularly with relation to cars in inner city |
| Land use | The way the land is used, or purpose of it. |
| Urban sprawl | Unplanned and uncontrolled growth of urban towns or cities in to rural countryside |
| Commute | When people live in one place like a rural area and travel to another place like a city in order to work |
| Pollution | Introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment e.g. air pollution from cars or litter to parks |

# 1.7 Urbanisation

| Term | Definition |
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| Urban growth | The increase in size of an urban area like cities or towns |
| Mega city | A city with over 10 million people |
| Social | Of or relating to society, culture, traditions, food, people, families, residents, communities |
| Economic | Of or relating to money, jobs, income, tax |
| Environmental | Of or relating to the spaces we inhabit, physical geography such as trees, forest, rivers, oceans, animals and also the feel of a place, we can talk about the urban environment like is it a nice place to be or is it dirty etc. |
| Rural depopulation | The movement of people to urban areas from the countryside |

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| **Urbanisation** | The process by which an increasing percentage of a country's population comes to live in towns and cities. Rapid urbanisation is a feature of most LEDC's. |
| **Squatter settlements** | Improvised housing made from corrugated metal, sheets of plastic and cardboard boxes. Normally found on the edges of cities in LEDC's these are sometimes called favelas, slums or shanty towns. Housing is run down and often lacks main services like running water, sanitation, electricity and therefore lacks security. |
| **Counter urbanisation** | The movement of people from cities (typically MEDC) to the countryside seeking better quality of life away from air pollution etc. People often move to a rural area and can work remotely. |
| **Informal Sector** | Casual, irregular work e.g. street selling |
| **Poverty** | The state of being poor, deprivation, impoverishment |
| **Urban decay** | When parts of the city become run-down and undesirable to live in |
| **Brownfield site** | Urban land that has previously been developed, such as a site of a demolished building or factory. |
| **Greenfield site** | A piece of natural undeveloped rural land |
| **Affordable housing** | Homes which are cheaper and people with working class jobs are able to pay for |
| **Light industry** | Manufacture of small or lightweight articles e.g. clothes |
| **Heavy industry** | Industries which require a large capital (financial) investment and weighty machinery or big plants e.g. cars |
| **Septic tank** | A tank normally underground where sewage is collected and breaks down with anaerobic bacteria creating a waste which is then emptied by a vacuum truck. These are normally found in rural areas without access to the mainline sewage systems. |
| **Sanitation** | If something is sanitary it means measures to protect public health have been put in place like cleanliness, sewage disposal, clean water access, disposal of garbage |
| **Infrastructure** | The collective name for communication links and basic utilities that get built cross a country to facilitate flows and societies existence e.g. roads, trains, houses, electricity, water. |