Lesson Description

In this lesson we:

- Apply skills in map-reading to determine land use.
- Determine site and situation on topographic maps.
- Sample questions to help you practise and apply key skills in settlement geography.
- Identify useful hints and tips in applying these skills.

Summary

You will need to be familiar with the theory section of the Geography Curriculum to score good marks in your practical exam - Mapwork P2.

Look for the following:

1. The location for a map to show you the position of the topographical map in relation to South Africa
2. You should know your conventional symbols (map key) to assist you in understanding the area covered by the Topographical map
3. Survey the map first before looking at the questions.

Interpretation of settlements on a map:

- Look for evidence of drought or erosion features, which might indicate rural – urban migration
- If there are large informal settlements around a town, this might be evidence of a large population of poor migrants from rural areas or neighbouring countries.
- The size of residential areas may indicate the economic status of the population.
- (Large numbers of small buildings packed tightly together are usually associated with lower income groups, whereas larger residential stands with many open spaces indicate higher income groups
- You will often be asked to describe a settlement shape. It is linear along a road or star-shaped when the town is at the centre of converging roads or railway lines.
- You need to be able to identify and comment on different street patterns.
- Regular street patterns usually indicate planned settlements.
- The grid-iron pattern is associated with many formal settlements in South Africa.
- Informal settlements often show an irregular street pattern because they have not been formally planned
- Sometimes you may be asked if an area is part of the rural-urban fringe of a city.
- The rural-urban fringe is indicated by the presence of golf courses, airports some cultivated land, major highways and open spaces outside a town.
- In South Africa, despite our democracy, evidence of apartheid planning still exists. If there is a residential suburb out of the town with small blocks.
- These are usually separated from a larger settlement by a physical barrier such as a river, main road, railway or industrial area
- You may be asked to describe the challenges facing people in these types of settlements.
- People tend to settle close to rivers, roads, fertile soil, on flat land and near mineral resources.
Test Yourself

Refer to the Topographical Map of Graaf Reinet.

Question 1

One disadvantage of the street plan found in [A2].

A. It improves the flow of traffic
B. It is easy to find your way
C. It can create a gridlock if robots are not working.

Question 2

An environmental problem evident in the south eastern corner of the map is....

A. deforestation.
B. water pollution.
C. soil erosion.
D. air pollution
Question 3
The town of Graaf Reinet is older than Kroonvale due to the high number of...

A. streets.
B. recreational area.
C. monuments
D. none of the above.

Question 4
The dominant type of farming in Graaf Reinet is...
A. commercial
B. subsistence
C. none of the above.

Question 5
Most farms in Graaf Reinet obtain their water from this source.
A. Canals
B. storage dams
C. furrows
D. all of the above
Improve your Skills

Refer to the Topographical Map of Harrismith

Question 1

Suggest possible reasons why the farmer established his farmhouse at “Spes Bona” in [E3]

A. There is water available from Blackspruit
B. There is flat land for cultivation
C. It is close to a road for accessibility
D. All of the above

Question 2

Explain why the railway in [G2] does not follow the road route in [D3]

A. Roads are easily built through/around mountains
B. Railway lines do not follow steep gradients
C. Railway lines follow the straightest possible route
D. All of the above
Question 3
Identify the land use of the green shaded area in [C3].

A. Rows of trees
B. Cultivated land
C. Kings Hills/ A forested area
D. All of the above

Question 4
Identify a challenge for the rural inhabitants in huts around the farm Walton in [G4] could experience.

A. Great distances to walk to the urban area to access goods and services
B. There is no schools close by
C. Only accessible mode of transport is rail
D. All of the above
Question 5
Classify the type of settlement found in Arcadia [D5].

A. dispersed/isolated settlement  
B. nucleated settlement  
C. haphazard settlement  
D. none of the above

Question 6
Identify the street pattern evident in [B1].

A. Radial street pattern  
B. Stellar/star shaped street pattern  
C. Grid Iron street pattern

Question 7
Harrismith is a central place town. What is a central place town?

A. A place that provides goods and services to the surrounding rural area  
B. The exact piece of land on which a town is built  
C. The position of a town in relation to the natural and social factors  
D. None of the above
Question 8
The possible commercial crop grown in Harrismith is...
A. Sugar Cane.
B. Maize.
C. Citrus.
D. None of the above.

Refer to the Topographical Map of Parys

Question 9
Name the settlement shape along the river in [C3].
A. linear
B. radial
C. haphazard
D. none of the above

Question 10
Classify the type of farming in [C3],
A. commercial
B. subsistence
C. none of the above
Question 11
Identify the functional land use at Pistorius Rust in D4.

A. commercial
B. industrial
C. agricultural
D. None of the above

Question 12
Identify the municipal land use in the rural – urban fringe [C4].

A. airport
B. golf course
C. cemetery
D. none of the above

Question 13
Why is the R59 an important road network to the town of Parys?

A. Passing traffic will stimulate the economy.
B. The town is located near a river.
C. Creates more traffic problems.
D. None of the above.
Question 14
Which type of farmer is dominant in the Parys region?
A. Commercial
B. Subsistence
C. None of the above

Question 15
Suggest the street pattern of Parys
A. Grid Iron
B. Stellar/star shaped
C. T – shaped
D. None of the above

Question 16
What type of residential settlement is Tumahole
A. high income
B. low income
C. middle income