Lesson Description

In this lesson we:

- Revise rural and urban settlements

Summary

Settlement Patterns

Nucleated or clustered patterns occur when buildings in a settlement are grouped together.

Isolated or dispersed patterns occur when buildings in a settlement are spread out over an area.

Classification of Settlements

Source:
https://greenfieldgeography.wikispaces.com/IGCSE+Settlements+and+GCSE+Settlements

Dispersed settlements include isolated farmsteads and hamlets and are UNIFUNCTIONAL.

Nucleated settlements include villages, towns, cities, metropolises, conurbations and megalopolises and are MULTIFUNCTIONAL.
### Settlement Shapes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement shape</th>
<th>Possible Reasons for Settlement Shape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circular</td>
<td>Buildings situated around a central important area / building e.g. a church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads / X-shape</td>
<td>Buildings situated at an intersection of roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-shape</td>
<td>Buildings situated at a T-junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear</td>
<td>Buildings situated around a linear feature eg. road or river</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Site and Situation**

The SITE is the actual place / piece of land on which a settlement is built

The SITUATION is where the settlement is in relation to its surrounding features

E.g. Kimberley is actually built on a poor site – but its close proximity to areas where diamonds were found was an advantage.

**Factors Influencing the Site of a Rural Settlement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Factors</th>
<th>Economic Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh water supply – WET-POINT SETTLEMENTS: permanent water supplies define the location of a settlement</td>
<td>Feasibility of commercial farming: large areas of fertile soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water avoidance - DRY-POINT SETTLEMENTS: site is chosen to avoid the danger of flooding in a wet area</td>
<td>Natural harbours: fishing, trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming: arable land, decent grazing, flat land</td>
<td>Tourist attractions and ecotourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building materials and energy sources: availability of wood, clay, grass, mud</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microclimate: slope aspect and inversions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief: Easier to build and farm on flat land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rural-Urban Migration**

The movement of people from rural areas to urban areas.

This is not to be confused with URBANISATION – the increase in the percentage of people living in towns and cities.

Problems faced by rural-urban migrants:

- Lack of education
- Travel costs
- Lack of capital
- Distance
- Adaptation to a new lifestyle
- Misinformation

**Push and Pull Factors**

**PUSH factors** are undesirable factors that cause people to leave a settlement.

**PULL factors** are desirable factors that draw people towards a settlement.
Consequences of Rural Depopulation

1. **Population pressure**
2. **Poor infrastructure**
3. **Inadequate job offer**
4. **Bad educational chances**
5. **Poor health care**
6. **Ecological problems**
7. **Natural disasters**
8. **Social compulsions**

- Improvement in the standard of living
- Better health care and availability of services
- Varied employment opportunities
- Higher wages
- Quality of education
- No social compulsions
- Future prospects

Source: Focus Geography Grade 12.
Social Justice and Rural Problems

**Social justice:** All individuals are entitled to satisfy their basic human needs.

### Rural Development Strategies

#### Rural Land Reform
People are given security of land tenure, including communal ownership informal ownership of land by farm workers and labour tenants.

#### Rural Land Restitution
Land that was forcibly removed from people under Apartheid law is given back to those people.

#### Rural Land Redistribution
Land is allocated to poor and disadvantaged people for settlement and farming.

#### Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) - 2009

**Aims:**
- Eliminate food insecurity and poverty
- Optimise use and management of natural resources
- Create sustainable rural settlements

**Methods:**
- Land reform
- Skills development
- Improving service delivery
- Improving infrastructure
- Revitalisation of rural towns
- Cooperative development

Source: Focus Geography Grade 12.
Other Rural Development Programmes
- **IRDP**: Integrated Rural Development Programme (2000): Improved farming techniques and meeting basic needs.
- **Local Agenda 21 (2001)**: Sustainable rural development strategies – integrating social, economic and environmental factors.

The Origin and Development of Urban Settlements

- Farming produced surplus storage food
- Many people did not have to farm did other activities e.g. making goods, education, building infrastructure etc.
- They lived in nucleated settlements so that they could trade with one another
- Towns developed along transport routes
- Villages → towns → cities
Pre-industrial towns and cities
Concerned mainly with commerce, trade and craft industries

Industrial towns and cities
Industrial revolution-concerned mainly with manufacturing

Pre-industrial towns and cities
Concerned mainly with services

Urbanisation of the World Population

- Urbanisation refers to an increasing proportion of people living in urban areas.
- Urbanisation is growing rapidly
- At present approximately 70% of most economically developed countries are urbanised
- At present approximately 33% of less economically developed countries are urbanised
- Main factors responsible are natural growth and rural-urban migration

Concepts

- **Rate of urbanization**
  Refers to the pace at which urbanisation is occurring.

- **Level of urbanization**
  The percentage of the number of people living in urban areas

- **Urban growth**
  Refers to increase in the number of people living in urban areas
• Urban expansion

Refers to the physical expansion of an urban area

• Urban sprawl

Is the formless expansion of an urban area.

**How Site and Situation Affect the Location of Urban Settlements**

• Site—refers to the exact location on which the settlement develops. Factors are:
  o Water supply
  o Relief
  o Underlying structure of the rock and soil
  o Drainage
  o Resources e.g. raw materials
  o Aspect of slope

• Situation—refers to location of the settlement in relation to the surrounding area. Factors are:
  o Transport
  o Access to market
Classification of Urban Settlements According to Function

Central Places

Is an urban area that provides urban functions to the surrounding rural area e.g. Beaufort West

Trade and Transport Towns

These towns develop as a result of trade and transport e.g. Cape Town

Break-of-Bulk Points

Where one form of transport is replaced by another e.g. Durban

Specialised Towns

These towns develop due to one main function e.g. Umhlanga Rocks
Junction Towns

These towns develop at important transport intersections De Aar

Gateway/Gap Towns

It develops around a gap in a physical feature like a mountain e.g. Harrismith

 Improve your Skills

Rural Settlements

Question 1
(Adapted from NSC Paper 2008)

Study the following diagram (assume it represents a place in South Africa) carefully in order to answer the following questions.

1.1) What settlement pattern is evident at Bleaham? 

1.2) Give TWO advantages of this type of settlement pattern. 

1.3) What settlement shape is evident at Belmouth? Give a reason to support your answer.

1.4) Describe THREE factors that could have influenced the site of Bleaham.

1.5) Describe the situation of Belmouth.

1.6) Discuss THREE reasons to explain why Albert’s shack is not placed on a good site.

1.7) Would Bleaham be considered a unifunctional or multifunctional settlement? Give a reason to support your answer.
Issues in Rural Settlements

Question 1
(Adapted from NSC November P1 2010)

Refer to FIGURE 1 showing the cycle of rural decay which also occurs in the South African landscape. This often results in rural-urban migration resulting in specific problems for rural areas.

1.1 Define the term “rural-urban migration”. (1x2) (2)

1.2 Name TWO push factors that may result in rural-urban migration. (2x2) (4)

1.3 Discuss THREE consequences (results) of rural-urban migration for the South African rural community. (3x2) (6)

1.4 Write a single paragraph (no more than 12 lines) in which you discuss sustainable strategies that can be used to manage South Africa's declining rural settlements. (6x2) (12)
Question 2

Read the article on a social justice issue in FIGURE 2.

TELLING THE STORY ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S RURAL POOR
by Gara LaMarche

This is a story about the Skhosanas, interviewed by Social Surveys Africa:

Until 2001, they survived relatively well on the farm. They had a tap for water; they had firewood. Then the farm was sold to a new owner who wanted the Skhosanas off the land. For two years, they fought eviction. After all, this was the 'new' South Africa, and, for the first time, they had rights. But the farm owner shut down their water tap and ordered them to stop gathering wood on his land. Finally, the owner came early one morning when the children were still asleep, broke down the door, and threw the family's furniture and belongings onto the road. The children were afraid they would have nowhere to sleep. Mr Skhosana was ill and could not work anymore. Mrs Skhosana says she will never forget the experience of 'being thrown out like rubbish'.

2.1 Explain what is meant by the term social justice. (1 x 1) (1)
2.2 Name the social justice issue that the story captures. (1 x 1) (1)
2.3 Why is the word 'new' emphasised in the article? (1 x 2) (2)
2.4 Name the law that secures the rights of people who live under insecure conditions on land owned by others. (1 x 2) (2)
2.5 Excluding the social justice issue mentioned in QUESTION 2.2, discuss TWO other social justice issues experienced in rural areas. (2 x 2) (4)
2.6 Discuss any TWO problems that the government experiences with land reform. (2 x 2) (4)

Question 1

Refer to the picture below, a town in South Africa, and answer the questions that follow.

1.1 Define the term site (1x1) (1)
1.2 State the site factor, visible in the photograph, that determined the location of this settlement. (1x1) (1)
1.3 Explain how this site factor, answer to QUESTION 1.2, was used to locate the settlement. (2x2) (4)
1.4 Explain TWO other possible site factors that could have influenced the location of the settlement. (2x2) (4)
1.5 Evaluate the situation of this settlement. (3x2) (6)