

Gr 12 Geography

SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY

1. The concept of settlement

A grouping of people, activities and buildings is called a **settlement**.

A place where a group of people live

A settlement is a place where:

- ✓ A group of people live
- ✓ An infrastructure exists
- ✓ Buildings occur
- ✓ Social and economic activities happen

2. Site and situation

Site = the actual place where a settlement is found.

Situation = The settlement in relation to its surrounding environment.

SITE:

Many factors influence the choice of a site:

- ✓ **Physical factors:** availability of resources such as water, fertile soil and grazing.
- ✓ **Economic factors:** availability of valuable minerals that can be mined.
- ✓ **Trade and transport factors:** availability of natural harbour or the crossing point of a large river.
- ✓ **Cultural or social factors:** new towns develop away from existing urban settlements due to congestion, pollution and overpopulation. They are designed to:
 - Improve living conditions and lifestyles of people
 - Attract light industries to provide employment
 - Have road networks that allow for easy traffic flow
 - Provide easy access to schools, clinics, shops etc.
- ✓ **Political factors:**
Government policies can influence site of settlement. SA government created new settlements due to need for housing:
 - Ivory Park Village in Midrand
 - Kutlwanoong near Kimberley
- ✓ **Historical factors:**
Some settlements needed defensive sites to protect them from invaders.

SITUATION:

Features surrounding the site are referred to, e.g:

- ✓ Soil
- ✓ Climate
- ✓ Other settlements
- ✓ Rivers
- ✓ Geology
- ✓ Vegetation.

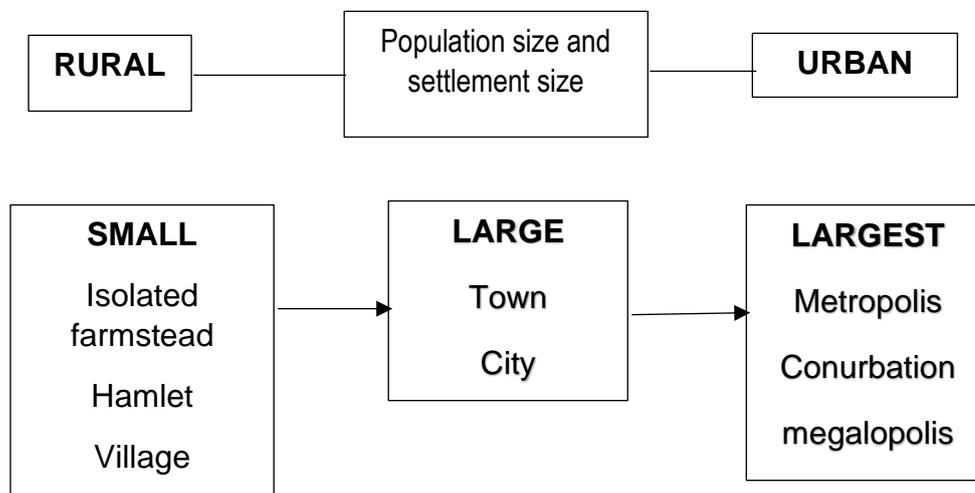
Features that define a settlement's situation usually influence the type of activity that will be carried out in the settlement.

3. Rural and urban settlements

Rural settlement = a small settlement with a *small population* involved in primary activities, the settlement is *unifunctional*

Urban settlement = a large settlement with a large settlement with a *large population* involved in secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities. The settlement is *multifunctional*.

SIZE AND POPULATION:

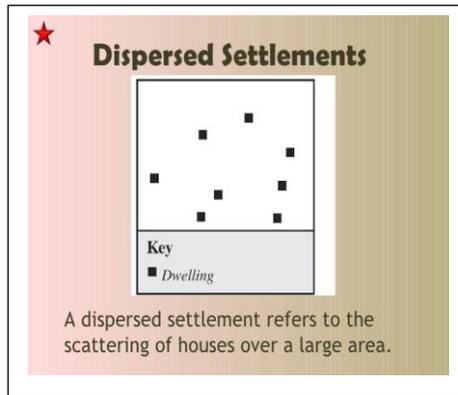


ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND FUNCTION

Rural settlements = UNIFUNCTION: one function – mainly primary activities (farming, fishing, forestry or mining)

Urban settlements = MULTIFUNCTIONAL: wide variety of functions – secondary (manufacturing), tertiary (trade, transport, education, service, administration) and quaternary (law, finance, media, research, IT) activities.

- **Dispersed:** settlements are isolated and spaced far apart from each other.



FUNCTION

Each settlement has a function – function relates to its economic and social development – determines its main activities.

The function is closely related to:

- ✓ The site of the settlement
- ✓ Reasons for settlement's existence
- ✓ Way in which the inhabitants make their living.

Many settlements have lost their original function, or their function has changed over time.

Rural settlements tend to be _____ - functional. Economic activities are mainly _____ activities e.g _____, _____, _____ and _____.

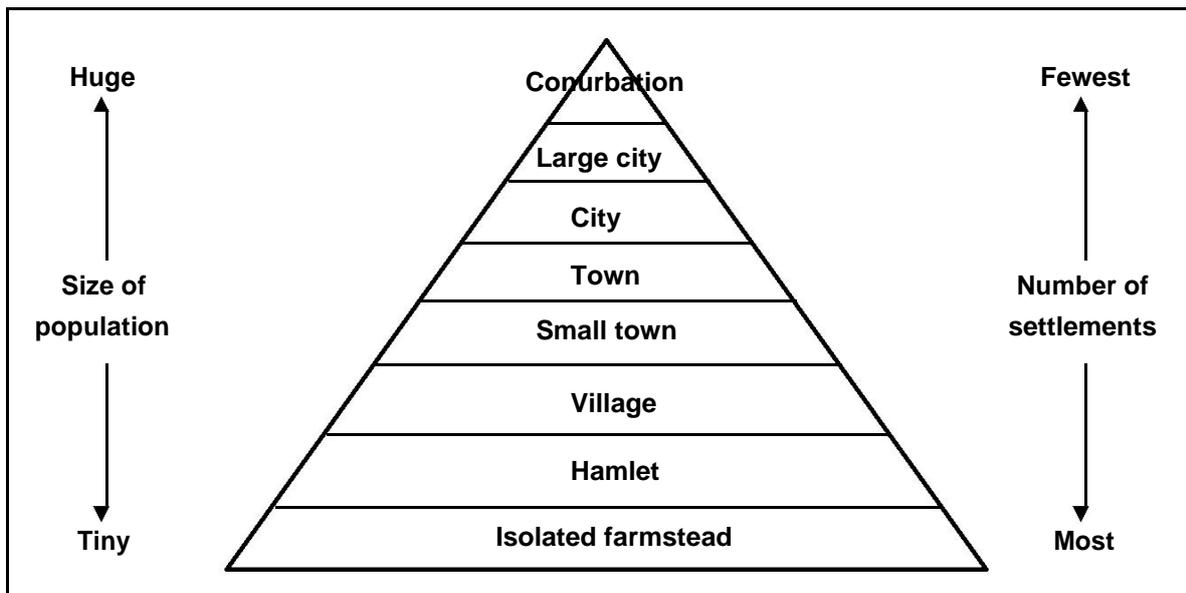
Urban settlements tend to be _____ - functional. Economic activities are _____ activities, e.g. _____, _____ activities, e.g _____ and _____ activities, e.g _____

WORKSHEET 1 – Settlement Geography

QUESTION 1

Refer to the settlement hierarchy in FIGURE 1.1 that shows the classification of different types of settlements. Choose the correct answer from those given in brackets in the statements below. Write only the answer next to the question number (1.1 – 1.8) in your WORKBOOK

FIGURE 1.1: SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY



- 1.1 The isolated farmhouse is (a single/multiple) building(s).
- 1.2 The number of settlements (increases/decreases) as you move up the settlement hierarchy from the isolated farmstead to the conurbation.
- 1.3 The size of the population (increases/decreases) as you move down the settlement hierarchy from a conurbation to an isolated farmstead.
- 1.4 A large city can also be called a (megalopolis/metropolis).
- 1.5 The settlement hierarchy in FIGURE 1.1 is a South African example of a settlement hierarchy as the (largest/smallest) of all settlements is not included.
- 1.6 The only example of a conurbation in South Africa is found in the (PWV/Durban-Pinetown) Industrial Region.
- 1.7 The relationship between the size of the population and the number of settlements is (directly/indirectly) proportional.
- 1.8 The (hamlet/small town) is an example of a rural settlement. (8 x 1) (8)

QUESTION 2

Refer to FIGURE 2.1 which shows two types of settlements (A and B).

FIGURE 2.1



Match the settlement types A and B to the statements below.

- 2.1 This type of settlement is unifunctional
- 2.2 Associated with tertiary activities
- 2.3 The smallest of all the settlement types
- 2.4 These settlements are always nucleated
- 2.5 This settlement has a dispersed pattern
- 2.6 An overconcentration of activities
- 2.7 A metropolis is an example of the s type of settlement
- 2.8 An example of a central place

(8 x 1) (8)