People and Places (Settlement)

Check List

Make sure you can:
- Explain how settlements are classified
- Discuss the complexity, size and function of settlements
- Compare and discuss the functions of rural and urban settlements
- Discuss the tensions between rural and urban settlements and strategies implemented to deal with these

Study Notes

Settlement: is a place where a group of people live together and function together as a group.

Settlements can be classified as urban or rural according to their size and the kinds of activities that take place there.

Rural settlements are usually quite small; most people living there are involved in primary activities such as farming, fishing, forestry or mining. Rural settlements are, therefore, unifunction (one function) and have primary activities.

It is important to know the difference between SITE and SITUATION of a settlement.

SITE: actual piece of land settled on – the physical characteristics of the piece of land.
Factors influencing the choice of site:
- Availability of water
- Arable land
- Grazing land
- Building materials level ground

SITUATION: The position of the settlement in relation to the surrounding environment.
Here we consider:
- Transport routes
- The general relief (e.g. valley, mountain etc.)
- Aspect
- Soil fertility

When the site, situation, customs and traditions are combined, we find that some areas tend to be nucleated while other areas are dispersed.
Comparison of dispersed and nucleated settlements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dispersed</th>
<th>Nucleated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Freely available</td>
<td>In short supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief</td>
<td>Flat ground</td>
<td>Steeper ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil</td>
<td>Unfertile</td>
<td>Fertile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tradition</td>
<td>Nguni settlement</td>
<td>Tswana village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defence</td>
<td>Peace time</td>
<td>War and violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Extreme climates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wet-point settlement:** where there is water in a dry area, e.g. spring, oasis. If water is scarce, people gather around a wet point.

**Dry-point settlement:** where there is a dry point in a wet area, people settle on dry land, e.g. small hills suitable for settlement in a marshy area.

**Function of a Settlement:** most rural settlements are serviced by a central service centre. The service centres provide a market and provide goods and services to the surrounding population, for example, transport, medical, etc.

Once you have identified the settlement, you must identify the **characteristics** of that settlement.

**Characteristics of a settlement:**

- **Size:** The number of people living together. This can vary from the smallest isolated farmstead to a small hamlet (a few farms) to a village that may consist of a few hundred inhabitants. The size is also referred to as the **hierarchy** of the settlement. Ensure that you know there characteristics and South African examples. The triangle has a large base (lots of small settlements) and a narrow apex (less of the larger settlements)
- **Pattern:** Settlements that are far apart are isolated or dispersed. Settlements that are close together to each other are clustered or nucleated.
- **Shape:** Another term used to describe the shape is the *morphology* of the settlement. This refers to how the buildings are arranged in relation to each other, and their physical appearance.

## Comparison of Rural and Urban Settlements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>URBAN</th>
<th>RURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POPULATION SIZE</strong></td>
<td>Larger than rural settlements (bigger than a small village or town).</td>
<td>Smaller than urban settlements (smaller than a large town).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td>Secondary and tertiary (e.g. industrial, commercial and professional).</td>
<td>Primary (mostly agriculture, but also forestry, mining and fishing).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNCTIONS</strong></td>
<td>High and low order, with high order dominating (e.g. specialist shop such as a jeweller that lots of people use). Multi-functional.</td>
<td>Low order (e.g. corner café or general dealer used by a few people, but regularly). Uni-functional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PATTERN</strong></td>
<td>Nucleated (buildings close together).</td>
<td>Nucleated (buildings close together) or dispersed (buildings far apart).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAND USE</strong></td>
<td>Different land-use zones (e.g. commercial, residential, industrial, recreational and green belt).</td>
<td>Mainly used for farming, forestry and mining (all primary activities).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rural Development Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy or programme</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Aims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>International</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agenda 21</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Global plan of action to achieve sustainable development through international consensus on environment and development issues (including poverty, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southern Africa (regional)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Partnership of Africa’s Development (NEPAD)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Framework for economic growth and sustainable development in Africa and a pledge to eradicate poverty and put Africa on a path of sustainable development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South Africa (regional, local)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Programme to improvement governance at local level and eradicate poverty through cross-sectional priority projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions: People and Places (Settlement)

Question 1: (Adapted from Nov 2011, Paper 1, Question 3.1)

Study the figure below, which illustrates a number of settlements.

Match the letters (A–E) on the FIGURE to the type of settlement listed below.

1.1 Linear
1.2 Dry-point site
1.3 Break-off-bulk point
1.4 Specialised town
1.5 Defensive site

(10)
Question 2: (Adapted from Nov 2011, Paper 1, Question 3.3)
Below is a sketch map showing the land use of a city.

![Sketch Map of Land Use](image)

2.1 Account for the location of the CBD labelled A. (1 x 2) (2)
2.2 State TWO characteristics of the CBD. (2 x 2) (4)
2.3 Which land-use zone occupies the largest part of the city? (1 x 2) (2)
2.4 Land-use zone B is the transition zone. Describe TWO factors that give rise to urban decay in this zone. (2 x 2) (4)
2.5 ‘Greening’ of cities is becoming increasingly important because of global warming.
   (a) What evidence is there that this policy is being implemented? (1 x 2) (2)
   (b) Discuss TWO advantages of ‘greening’ cities. (2 x 2) (4)

Question 3: (Adapted from Nov 2011, Paper 1, Question 4.3)
Many people are abandoning (leaving) their farms to live in big cities.

3.1 What is the movement of people from farms to live in big cities called? (1 x 2) (2)
3.2 Suggest TWO push factors resulting in people abandoning (leaving) their farms. (2 x 2) (4)
3.3 State TWO negative effects that this movement is likely to have on cities. (2 x 2) (4)
3.4 Sustainable measures are necessary to encourage people to remain in rural areas. Write a single paragraph (approximately 12 lines) outlining some ideas for the government to reduce rural depopulation. (6 x 2) (12)
Question 4: (Adapted from Nov 2011, Paper 1, Question 4.4)
The figure below shows the position of informal settlements in the city of Nairobi in Kenya.

![Diagram of Nairobi showing informal settlements and rivers](source: Excel Geography A)

4.1 Describe the location of the informal settlements. (1 x 2) (2)
4.2 Name TWO social problems associated with these settlements. (2 x 2) (4)
4.3 Suggest TWO measures that can be put in place to improve the lives of people living in informal settlements. (2 x 2) (4)
4.4 Explain why both the Mathare River and Ngong River are likely to be polluted. (2 x 2) (4)
4.5 In post apartheid South Africa a number of land reform policies have been put in place to solve the problems associated with the shortage of land. Name TWO of these policies. (2 x 2) (4)

Question 5: (Adapted from Nov 2011, Paper 1, Question 3.4)
Study the figure below, which shows a model of an unsustainable city.

![Diagram of an unsustainable city](source: Geography Shortcourse A)

5.1 Explain what you understand by the term sustainable city. (1 x 2) (2)
5.2 Name TWO factors that make a city unsustainable. (2 x 2) (4)
5.3 Suggest TWO measures that a city can employ to become sustainable. (2 x 2) (4)
5.4 Write a single paragraph (approximately 12 lines) outlining the effects of pollution on the health, environment and economy of a city. (6 x 2) (12)