

Changing settlement patterns

Urbanisation

Settlement patterns around the world are constantly changing. One of the factors responsible for these changes is the process of **urbanisation**.

1. Urbanisation is the process by which ... (complete the sentence)

A country is “urbanised” when over 50% of its population live in urban areas (towns and cities). Most of the developed countries (Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand) urbanised very slowly, allowing governments to plan and provide for the needs of the urban people.

2. What are the needs of urban people?

In the developing countries (Africa, Asia, South America), the process of urbanisation has been much more rapid than in the developed countries.

Exercise

London	Mexico
1860 – 1 million people	1950 – 1 million people
1960 – 9 million people	1980 – 9 million people

- 3.1 How many years did it take for the population of London to increase from 1 to 9 million people?
 - 3.2 How many years did it take for the population of Mexico to increase by the same amount?
 - 3.3 Which city expanded its population faster?
 - 3.4 Which city, London or Mexico, is located in a developed country?
4. How could the fast rate of urbanisation in Mexico be a problem for the government?

Urbanisation is the result of:

- a) Natural increase
- b) Rural-urban migration (rural depopulation)

Rural to urban migration

The decision to move from a rural area to an urban area is usually the result of push and pull factors – unfavourable factors in the rural area “push” people away, while at the same time the attractions of the cities “pull” people to them.

People are lured to cities by the belief of a better quality of life, with better education and job opportunities.

Pull

- Improved employment opportunities, jobs in factories pay more than farming;
- Improved quality of life and standard of living for migrants, who not only want a better life for themselves but are determined that their children should have the chance of a good education to benefit from the advantage this might bring them;
- Expectations of improved housing with services such as electricity and water;
- Availability of schools, hospitals, and entertainment;
- Access to education is very important.

Push

- Pressure on the land – not enough for people to live on;
- Large families mean that there is not enough land for each child;
- Poor quality of life – hard work, long hours, little pay for farmers;
- Poor-quality housing;
- Increasing use of machinery reduces job opportunities in farming;
- Lack of infrastructure, e.g. electricity, water and sewage services;
- Overpopulation due to high birth rates;
- Starvation;
- Natural disasters, e.g. drought, hurricanes, floods and volcanic eruptions, crop failure, fire, pests;
- Workers do not own the land and feel powerless;
- Lack of education, health and welfare facilities;
- Lack of investment from the government.

Results of rural-urban migration

Migration of people into the cities causes the POOR rural areas they leave to go into a decline (poverty cycle). If they come from wealthy commercial farming areas, these areas may become wealthier as **mechanised** farms are more profitable than those using a lot of manual labour.

5. Draw a **concept diagram or a cartoon** to show how the push and pull factors operate to make poverty worsen in poor subsistence areas.

Problems of cities in the developing world

Once migrants arrive in the cities they find life very different to what they imagined. Most migrants are poor with low levels of skills. They often fail to find work and remain unemployed. They can't afford the available housing or the housing is inadequate. The result is a growing number of unemployed people with nowhere to live. As a result, shanty towns and squatter settlements develop. The lack of housing and high levels of unemployment are currently the most pressing problems being faced by cities in the developing world.

Where in the cities do shanty towns develop? Think of your own city!

6. Name five areas where you might typically find shack settlements developing in cities.
7. Write a paragraph, describing what shack living is like in South Africa. Use the following ideas to help guide you: Building materials, provision of services and infrastructure, living conditions, health problems. You must discuss all of the ideas in some depth to get very good marks. Some research in books or on the internet will also help you.

Your paragraph will be assessed based on the following rubric.

Criteria	Level achieved
Not in paragraph form. Only one or two ideas covered. No real discussion. Answer has no structure, and shows very little understanding. Writing not very legible, spelling and/or grammatical errors evident.	1 (0-4)
Not in true paragraph form with full sentences, not all ideas covered. Limited discussion. Answer has little structure and shows limited understanding. Writing legible, spelling and/or grammatical errors evident.	2 (4-5)
In paragraph form with full sentences, all ideas covered and discussed. Answer has some structure, and shows some understanding. Writing legible, a few spelling and/or grammatical errors.	3 (6-7)
In paragraph form with full sentences, all ideas covered and adequately discussed. Answer has a logical sequence and structure and shows good understanding. Writing legible, no spelling and/or grammatical errors.	4 (8-10)

Exercise – Urban problems

Governments and urban authorities battle to keep up with the pace of urban growth. The article that follows highlights this new threat. Read the article carefully and answer the questions that follow.

BBC News Thursday, July 1, 1999 Published at 09:42 GMT 10:42 UK

BANGLADESH STRUGGLES TO COPE

Overcrowded cities as many Bangladeshis leave their villages

By David Chazan in Dhaka

Zaynab Begum, her husband and three children live in a tiny bamboo and corrugated hut in a Dhaka slum. Their living space is smaller than six square metres. They have no electricity, running water or toilet, and an open sewer runs outside the hut. "It's difficult to live here because it's cramped and uncomfortable," she said. "But my husband is a rickshaw-puller. We can't afford anything else." Zaynab Begum's family are among millions of Bangladeshis who have migrated to the cities in search of work. Fifty years ago, only about 4% of the population lived in urban areas. Now more than 25% are city dwellers.

Overcrowding and malnutrition are worst among the urban poor but the urban population is likely to continue to increase as people without land or jobs are driven into cities.

Strain on resources

Bangladesh is the world's ninth most populous country, with about 123 million people according to official estimates. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare says the population is expected to grow to about 210 million by the year 2020.

Despite the relative success of family planning programmes which have brought the population growth rate to between 1.6% and 1.8% a year, already overcrowded Bangladesh will inevitably suffer further strain on its limited resources and land.

The population is expected to stabilise at about a quarter of a billion by 2050, if family planning programmes continue to reduce the birth rate.

But Bangladesh is already one of the world's most densely-populated countries, and its low per capita income is unlikely to increase.

"In a small country like Bangladesh, it will be a really big problem to accommodate such a huge population," said Mizanur Rahman of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh.

Millions migrate to cities in search of work. Malnutrition levels are already high. At least half of Bangladesh's people live below the poverty line. They eat only about half of the amount of food that would be considered normal elsewhere in the world.

Bangladesh is already unable to provide jobs, housing and food for all its people, and some analysts fear that there

may be an increase in crime and violence as increasing numbers of people have to compete for resources.

Grade 8 Social Sciences Worksheet

8. Imagine you are an aid worker in Bangladesh. Use the information in the article to list the problems created by the growth of squatter communities in cities in developing countries. [4]
9. What is the main reason for the movement of people from rural areas into the slums of Dhaka? Is this a push or pull factor? [2]
10. Describe the living conditions experienced by the Begum family. [5]
11. The authorities of Bangladesh are unable to provide houses and jobs for all the people. What could be the result of this inability to provide for people's needs? [5]
12. Explain what is meant by family planning programmes. [4]
13. Explain how family planning programmes can go some way towards helping with the problem of overcrowding in cities. [6]

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Suggested Solutions

1. Urbanisation is the process by which the percentage of a country's population living in the urban areas (towns and cities) increases.
2. What are the needs of urban people?
The needs of rural and urban people are similar, but if the urban population is increasing rapidly, then the large-scale provision of housing, schools, roads, water supply, power supply, hospitals, etc. requires long-term planning.
- 3.1 How many years did it take for the population of London to increase from 1 to 9 million people?
100 years
- 3.2 How many years did it take for the population of Mexico City to increase by the same amount?
30 years
- 3.3 Which city expanded its population faster?
Mexico City
- 3.4 Which city, London or Mexico City, is located in a developed country?
London
4. How could the fast rate of urbanisation in Mexico be a problem for the government?
To build enough houses for an additional 8 million people (2 million houses) requires a lot of money (Mexico is not a wealthy country) and a lot of skilled labour and professional planners, not to mention all the roads, power supply, sewerage systems, schools and so on that have to be built. One of the most difficult things is to find enough suitable land.

Any sensible points.
5. Draw a **concept diagram** or a **cartoon** to show how the push and pull factors operate to make poverty worsen in poor subsistence areas.
Concept diagrams are more than simple mind maps. Rather than ideas radiating out like spokes of a bicycle wheel, there are cross links. Each arrow must have an explanation.
E.g. Illiteracy ----- > Unemployment
(urban jobs require the ability to read)

Generally, the more correctly labelled the cross links are, the higher the level of thinking that is demonstrated by the diagram. This is a skill that takes considerable practise but is worth using on a regular basis, as it really teaches the learners how to think.

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6. Name five areas where you might typically find shack settlements developing in cities.

Any land unsuitable for normal housing: flood plains; near rubbish tips; near noisy roads or factories; in parks in poor areas; in patches of forest or hidden gullies (out of sight of other residents who might complain); under freeway bridges; etc.

7. Write a paragraph, describing what shack living is like in South Africa. Use the following ideas to help guide you: Building materials, provision of services and infrastructure, living conditions, health problems. You must discuss all of the ideas in some depth to get very good marks. Some research in books or on the internet will also help you.

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8. Imagine you are an aid worker in Bangladesh. Use the information in the article to list the problems created by the growth of squatter communities in cities in developing countries. [4]

Increasing pressure on limited resources. This is the main idea. Good answers must refer to this idea, whether it is food, living space, education, health care, etc.

9. What is the main reason for the movement of people from rural areas into the slums of Dhaka? Is this a push or pull factor? [2]

Population growth has meant that the rural areas cannot support all the people, so they move to the cities, hoping to find work. Rural population growth is a push factor.

10. Describe the living conditions experienced by the Begum family. [5]

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The answer needs to go beyond that mentioned in the article. What is it like to live in 6 m², with no electricity, clean water and proper toilet? While there are many South Africans living in such conditions, it is much worse in Bangladesh.

11. The authorities of Bangladesh are unable to provide houses and jobs for all the people. What could be the result of this inability to provide for people's needs? [5]
Mass malnutrition; rising civil unrest; diseases spreading easily; even more unemployment ... a vicious circle of poverty.
12. Explain what is meant by family planning programmes. [4]
Family planning is the process whereby governments and aid agencies try to educate families to have fewer children. This entails such things as getting married later; spacing children out; using contraceptives; and changing the way people think of children as a form of insurance in old age.
13. Explain how family planning programmes can go some way towards helping with the problem of overcrowding in cities. [6]
Successful family planning slows the population growth rate, giving governments more time to develop the housing and job creation necessary to improve the lives of the people. However, for family planning to succeed, education needs to improve first, which is not easy.