



GRADE 12 GEOGRAPHY POWER POINT LESSONS

TOPIC: SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY

Revision of: Rural Settlements

Distribution of Urban Settlements

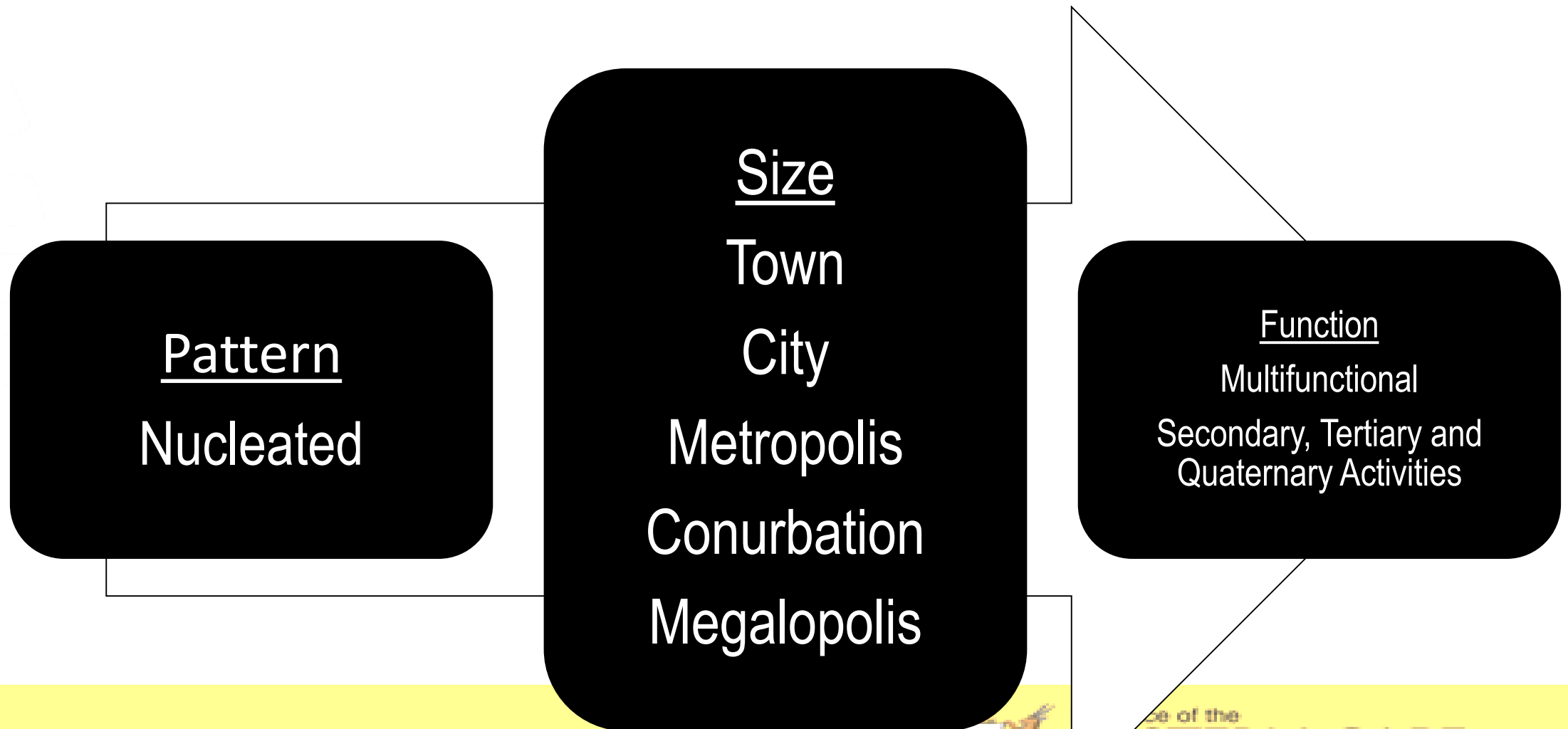
6-9 April 2020



The classification of Rural Settlements



The classification of Urban Settlements



The Factors of Site, Situation and Distribution

The **SITE** refers to the exact piece of land which is occupied by a settlement and the physical nature of the landscape – relief, drainage, soil characteristics

NB: The **SITUATION** of a settlement is a broader concept that refers to the relationship of the settlement to its wider surrounding i.e. how is the settlement situated with respect to traffic routes.

NB: The **DISTRIBUTION** is a much broader concept dealing with all the settlements in an area and its relationship with the environment. The **DISTRIBUTION** deals with:

- (a) **PATTERN** – The distribution of buildings in respect to each other
- (b) **INTERNAL STRUCTURE** – The distribution of buildings in the settlement according to appearance ... the shape of the buildings, the arrangement of the buildings, the arrangement of the streets

The Factors of Site, Situation and Distribution of Rural Settlements

Site Factors

- Availability of drinking water
- Availability of Arable Land
- Availability of Pastures
- Availability of fuel sources

Situation Factors

- The position of a farmstead in relation to the slope
- The position of the farmstead in relation to access of transport routes

Distribution Factors

- The arrangement of the buildings
- The shape (s) of the buildings
- The arrangement of the streets



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Situation Factors

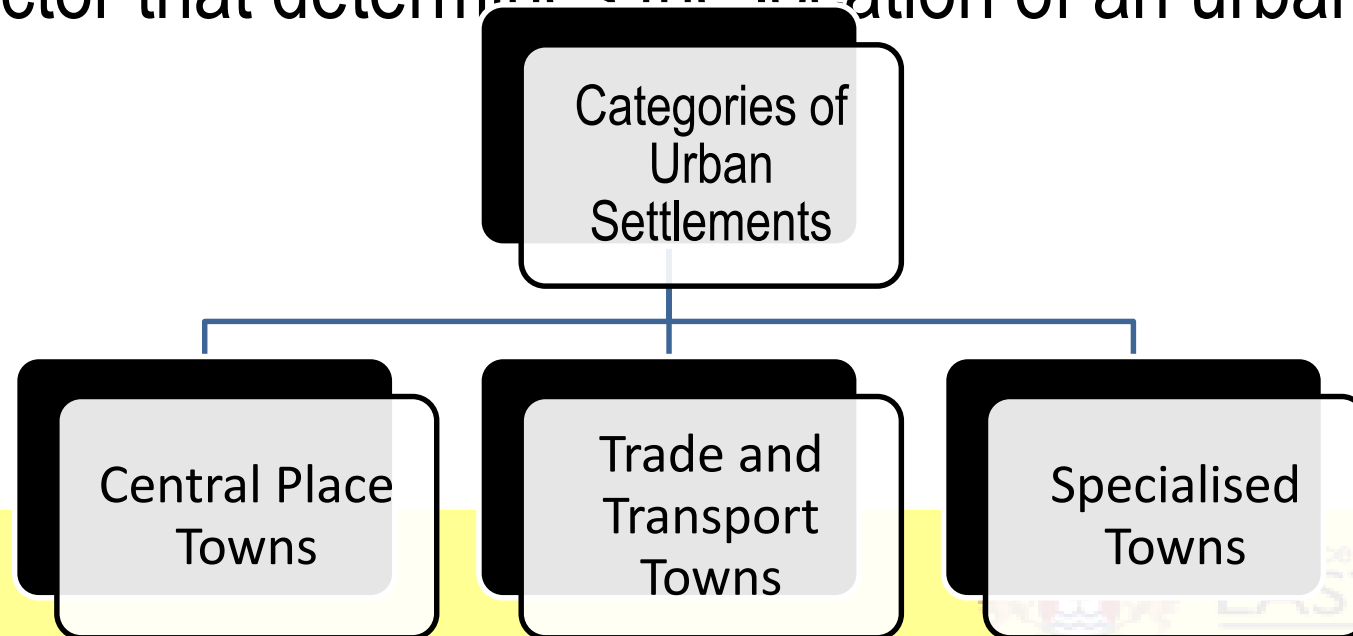
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Distribution Factors

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- The shape (s) of the buildings
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The Distribution of Urban Settlements

- This section deals with how can the location and distribution pattern of urban settlements be explained
- NB: There are **THREE** main categories on the basis of the type of factor that determines the location of an urban settlement:



The Distribution of Urban Settlements The Central Place Theory and Distribution

- The Central Place Theory offers the best explanation for the distribution of central places.
- It is the most influential theory in the understanding of human geography
- The foundations of the Central Place Theory were developed by a German Geographer – Walter Christaller
- The central place theory involves more than distribution of Central places, Christaller extended the theory to include the HIERARCHICAL ORGANISATION and SPHERES OF INFLUENCE of Central Places.

The Distribution of Urban Settlements The Central Place Theory and Distribution

Sphere of Influence

- The ability of an urban centre to provide a variety of urban services to its surrounding urban and rural environments

Threshold Population

- The minimum number of people require to support a good or a service in an urban centre

Range

- The maximum distance from which a good or service can draw its customers

The Distribution of Urban Settlements The Central Place Theory and Distribution

- Central Places are not the same SIZE
- With respect to SIZE it is possible to arrange central places according to a RANKING order.
- The URBAN HIERARCHY of CENTRAL PLACES categorises urban centres according to the number and degree of specialisation of functions
- Every function has its own threshold population and range



Think about ...

... the differences of goods and services required on a daily basis (frequently) and goods and services required less frequently

The Distribution of Urban Settlements

The Central Place Theory and Distribution

Low-order Centre

- Central places with a small threshold population, few services and mainly low-order services

High-order Centre

- Central places with a large threshold population offering many services and mainly high-order services

Low- order Service

- Things we need virtually every day e.g. daily groceries, bread, milk

The Central Place Hierarchy

Characteristics

- The rank of an urban centre is dependent on the NUMBER and FUNCTIONS offered by the low-order centre.
- The NUMBER of low order central places is always higher than high order central places
- There are always fewer high order central places.
- Since the high order central place has more functions than the low order central place, it will always have a larger POPULATION.



To think about

(According to Christaller, the **position of a city or town in the size hierarchy** of towns and cities is determined by its position in **the functional hierarchy**: - The higher its functional rank, the larger its population)

The Urban Hierarchy

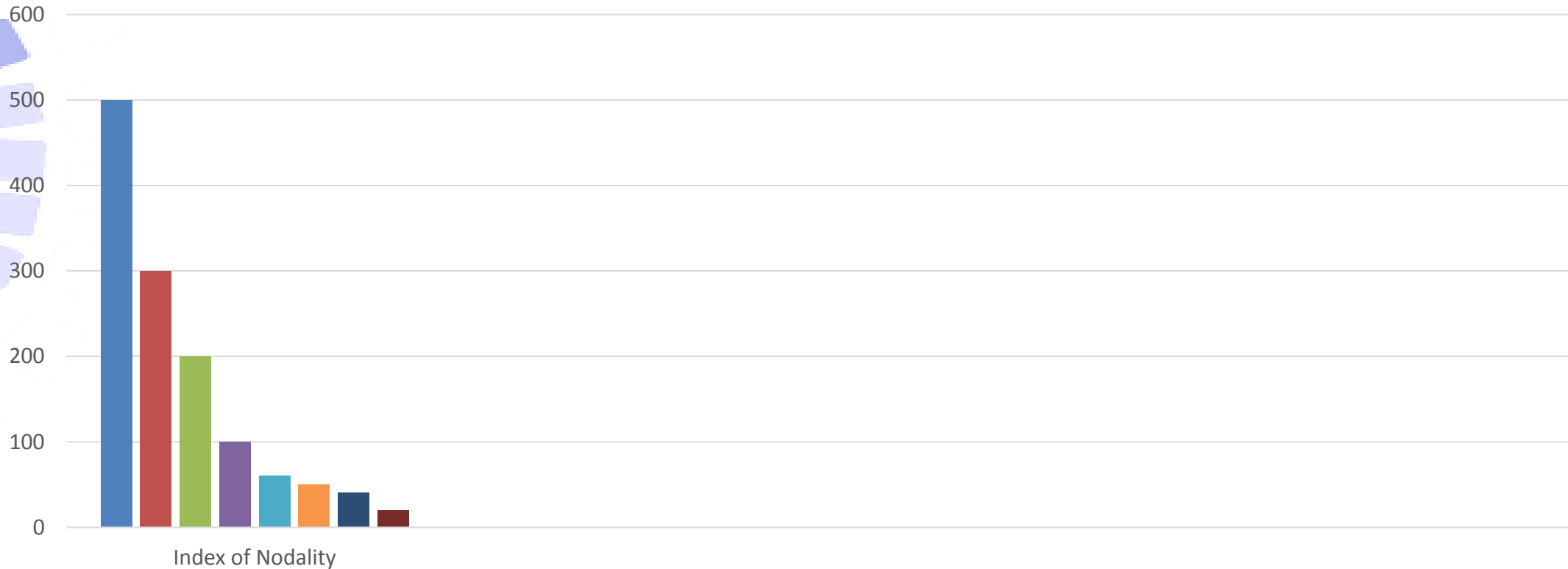
The position of a town in the hierarchy is determined by its function, not necessarily by its population size.

- In 1967 Professor RJ Davies (South Africa) developed EIGHT hierarchical categories based on the classification of the number and type of functions offered by an urban settlement.
- Each type of function was given a numerical weighting e.g. if an urban centre had a university it was allocated 40 points and if an urban centre had a bank it was allocated 1 point.
- Each town in South Africa was given a numerical value – This was known as the towns **INDEX OF CENTRALITY**



The Urban Hierarchy – EIGHT HIERARCHICAL CATEGORIES

RJ Davies – Urban Hierarchy



■ Primate Metropolitan

■ Major Metropolitan

■ Metropolitan

■ Major Country Town

■ Country Town

■ Minor Country Town

■ Local Service Centre

■ Low-order service centre

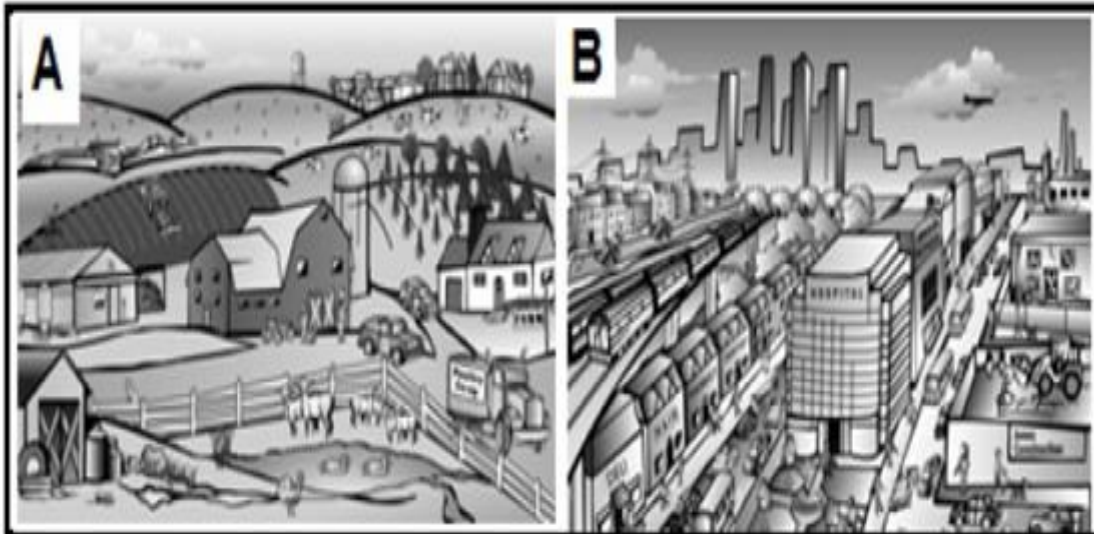


The Urban Hierarchy – EIGHT HIERARCHICAL CATEGORIES

CATEGORY OF SETTLEMENT	EXAMPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA
PRIMATE METROPOLITAN AREA	GREATER JOHANNESBURG AND SURROUNDING AREAS (PWV Region)
MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREA	PRETORIA, DURBAN, CAPE TOWN
METROPOLITAN AREA	BLOEMFONTEIN, PORT ELIZABETH
MAJOR COUNTRY TOWNS	NELSPRUIT, NEWCASTLE
COUNTRY TOWNS	HARRISMITH, BEAUFORT WEST
MINOR COUNTRY TOWNS	MUSINA
LOCAL SERVICE CENTRES	FRANSCHOEK
LOW-ORDER SERVICE CENTRE	VAN REENAN, CLARENS



TYPES OF SETTLEMENTS



[Source: toxtown.nlm.nih.gov]

Refer to the TYPES OF SETTLEMENTS which shows two types of settlements (**A** and **B**). Match the settlement types **A** and **B** to the statements below.

- 1.1.1 This type of settlement is unifunctional
- 1.1.2 Associated with tertiary activities
- 1.1.3 The smallest of all the settlement types
- 1.1.4 These settlements are always nucleated
- 1.1.5 This settlement has a dispersed pattern
- 1.1.6 An overconcentration of activities
- 1.1.7 A metropolis is an example of this type of settlement
- 1.1.8 An example of a central place

ASSESSMENT 2 – UNDERSTANDING CENTRAL PLACES

1.2.1 What is a *central place*?
(1 x 1) (1)

1.2.2 What is the main function of a market town?
(1 x 1) (1)

1.2.3 What is the relationship between the size of central places and the number of central places?
(1 x 2) (2)

1.2.4 State TWO differences between a high-order service and a low-order service.

(2 x 2) (4)

A threshold population is the minimum number of customers required to support a service or a function.

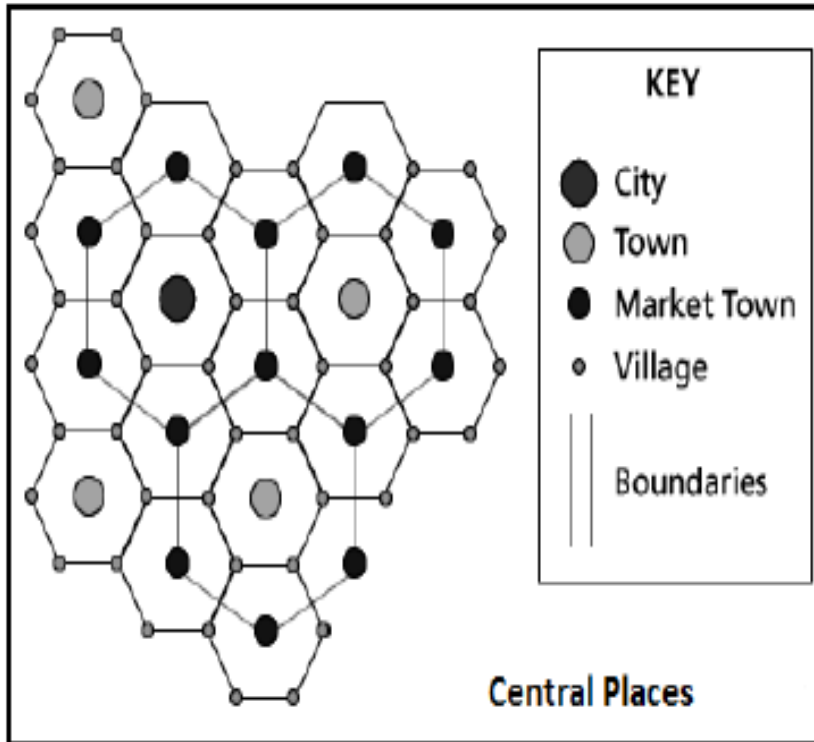
Determine the relationship between the threshold population and the order service.

(1 x 2) (2)

Explain the impact of locating a high-order service in an area with a low threshold population

(2 x 2) (4)

CENTRAL PLACES

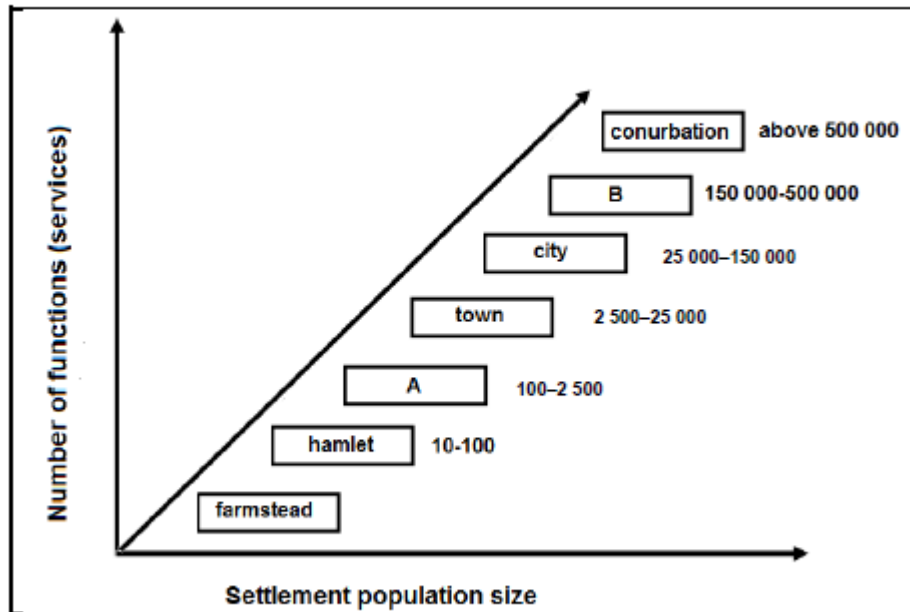


[Source: <http://www.watd.wuthering-heights.co.uk>]



ASSESSMENT 3 – UNDERSTANDING SETTLEMENT CLASSIFICATION AND URBAN SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY

SETTLEMENT CLASSIFICATION HIERARCHY

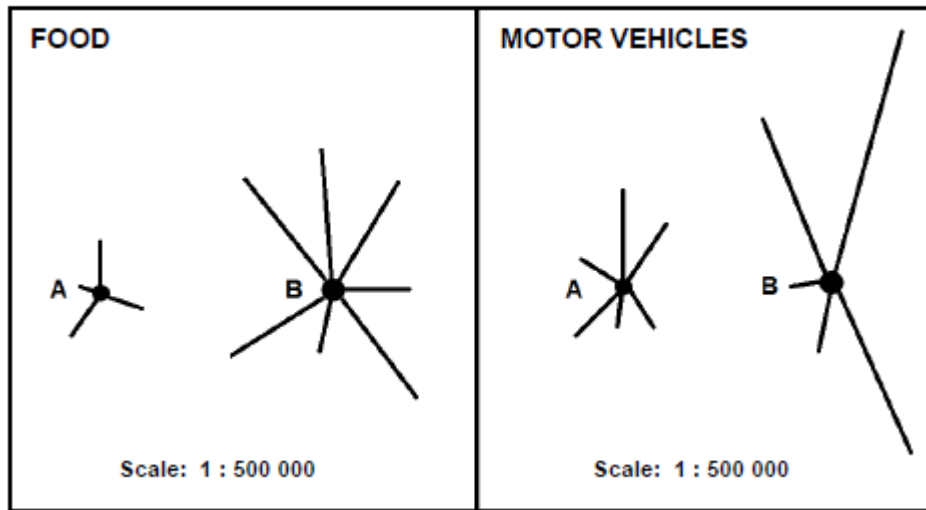


[Adapted from Wikispaces and Exam Series]

- 1.3.1 Name the settlement type that will be found at **A**.
- 1.3.2 Why will **B** have a larger sphere of influence?
- 1.3.3 Which is the smallest settlement on the hierarchy?
- 1.3.4 Will the town or the city have a higher threshold population?
- 1.3.6 Give a reason for the conurbation having a large sphere of influence.
- 1.3.7 Will settlement **A** or **B** have more high-order functions?
- 1.3.8 Which urban settlement offers the fewest services?

ASSESSMENT 4 – UNDERSTANDING URBAN SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY CONCEPTS

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AND RANGE



[Source: Examiner's own sketch]

- 1.4.1 Define the terms *sphere of influence* and *range*. (2 x 1) (2)
- 1.4.2 Which product, food or cars, has a larger range? (1 x 1) (1)
- 1.4.3 Give a reason for your answer to QUESTION 4.3.2. (1 x 2) (2)
- 1.4.4 Comment on the threshold population required for motor vehicle sales. (1 x 2) (2)
- 1.4.5 Describe TWO characteristics of settlement **A**, which is a low-order centre. (2 x 2) (4)
- 1.4.6 Explain what influences the sphere of influence of a settlement such as **B**. (2 x 2) (4)

