Urbanisation is the process of economic and social change in which an increasing proportion of the population of a country or region live in urban areas.
Urban vs rural

**Urban**

An area which is characterised by higher population density, a variety of services and industry; employment is mainly in non-agricultural activities.

**Rural**

An area (country) which is characterised by lower population density, few services and fewer industries. The majority of the working population is engaged in agricultural activities.

A settlement – rural or urban – consists of a group of buildings in which people live and work. The larger and more complex a settlement, the greater the number and types of buildings there are, often extending over a much wider area.
Urban and rural areas

How are the characteristics of these places different?
Settlement patterns

• Spatial distribution: settlement patterns can be described as linear, clustered or dispersed.
• Features or activities associated with settlements are arranged in a particular way across the surface of the Earth, for various reasons, e.g. houses built along a railway line form a linear pattern.

Use the diagram to explain each of the types of spatial distribution and how these may apply to the pattern of human settlement.
Types of settlement

• There are various terms used to describe settlements, such as ‘farm’, ‘village’, ‘city’, ‘town’, ‘hamlet’, ‘megacity’, ‘metropolis’, ‘conurbation’, ‘agglomeration’.

• These key terms can have different meanings in different places, but they are often linked to the size of the population living in the area, rather than their function.

• Settlements can be rural or urban, depending on the employment of the majority of the population (urban settlements = majority employed in non-agricultural activities). For example: A village in Australia is defined as about 100-200 people living in a rural area, but a village in China is defined as having a population density of between 100 and 2500 people per square km, as long as the major industry is agricultural.
Defining urban settlements

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), in Australia, ‘An Urban Centre is generally defined as a population cluster of 1,000 or more people’.


There is no one standard definition of an urban centre across the world. The term ‘city’ may be used for an urban centre that dominates other centres because of its economic or administrative significance, for an urban locality which reaches a specified population size or, as in England and Wales, a title traditionally given to towns with a cathedral.

For this reason, the types of urban settlements are usually categorised by their characteristics/functions, rather than just their size of population. For example, ‘metropolis’: a large city which is often the capital of a country or region; has more complex and specialised goods and services; often has a central focus called the CBD (Central Business District).
Note: China and India, the two most populous countries in the world, are represented as having a lower rate of urbanisation. In other words, the majority of the populations live and work in rural areas.
Early urbanisation

• Early humans sustained life through a hunter-and-gatherer lifestyle, which was often nomadic.
• Later, life was sustained through farming, which required people to settle in one place for a period of time so that they could cultivate crops and raise herds of animals.
Settlements began to emerge approximately 10,000 years ago in western Asia (Catalhoyuk, in modern-day Turkey, is the earliest known settlement).
Early urbanisation

- Over time, as populations continued to grow, cities developed and began to trade with cities in other regions.
- These cities became hubs of trade for merchants, craftspeople and tradespeople.

This painting shows traders from two towns in a sixteenth-century marketplace.
Urbanisation: effects of the Agrarian and Industrial Revolutions

• Until the beginning of the 18th century, life remained relatively unchanged for people over quite a long time period.
• The bulk of the world’s people lived in the countryside (rural areas) and worked in agriculture or related fields.
• However, several major changes were about to occur, which would influence modern urbanisation.
The Agrarian Revolution

Technical innovations in farming practices occurred, which required fewer agricultural workers:

• the use of fences meant there was less need for shepherds, goatherds, goose girls and other farm workers
• introduction of crop rotation in fields meant that more could be produced on less land
• mechanisation of farming processes (through ploughs, seeders, reapers and threshers) meant that there was less work in the fields.

However, people still needed work, so many moved to urban areas.
The Industrial Revolution

• The Industrial Revolution was a period of rapid economic changes in Britain and Europe, brought about by advances in mechanisation (machines) that vastly improved production (manufacturing).

• Rapid increases in production led to the development of factories that needed a large urban workforce.

• Employment opportunities lured people from rural areas to urban areas.

This image shows an artist’s impression of Manchester in 1841. Manchester was called ‘Cottonopolis’ because most of the work in the city related to manufacturing cotton. The Cottonopolis image shows the industrial city of Manchester, set in a rural landscape.

Manchester

‘c.’ is short for ‘circa’, which means ‘about’.

These maps show the urban growth of Manchester between 1650 and 1801.
Industrial Revolution in Britain

Inventions change the way goods are produced

Raw materials, cheap labour and markets from the colonies

Population increases meant more workers and more markets
• The movement of people from rural areas to urban areas is called **rural-to-urban migration**.

• Factors that cause people to leave rural areas and move to urban areas are called **push and pull factors**:

  - **Push factor**: A condition that drives the movement of people away from their homes
  - **Pull factor**: A condition that attracts the movement of people to a place

**What do you believe may be push and pull factors operating today that cause a movement of people from rural areas into urban areas?**
# Push and pull factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Push factors (pushing people out of rural areas)</th>
<th>Pull factors (pulling people into urban areas)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work is harder to find in rural areas.</td>
<td>More employment opportunities in cities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of services, such as education and healthcare.</td>
<td>Cities have more services (such as healthcare and education) for people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance to travel can be off-putting, or lack of public transport.</td>
<td>Travel times significantly reduced, compared with the countryside. Cities have public transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived lack of entertainment and culture in country areas.</td>
<td>Urban areas are seen as environments that have many more cultural and recreational opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental factors, such as drought or floods.</td>
<td>Environmental factors seem to have less impact on urban areas (at least directly).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of economic opportunity, for example harder to start up a business in rural areas.</td>
<td>Economic opportunities: urban areas are centres of innovation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Correlation (links) between world-population growth, industrialisation and urbanisation

Approximate average population of the world’s 10 largest cities 1500–1950

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>295,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>614,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>6,400,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2014, the top 10 most populated cities had an average population of approximately 27,126,700.
Attributions

Slide 3: Los Angeles skyline – http://www.morguefile.com/archive/display/127797
Farm – http://www.morguefile.com/archive/display/188612
Slide 6: Definition source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2310.0Chapter23102011#SOS CC BY 2.5 creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/au/
Slide 7: Sbw01f, Urban population in 2005 world map http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Urban_population_in_2005_world_map.PNG CC BY-SA 3.0 creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en
Slide 10: Pieter Bruegel the Elder, The Fight Between Carnival and Lent (scanned for the Yorck Project) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pieter_Bruegel_d._%C3%84._066_066.jpg (modified outline to oval)
Slide 13: Goodall, Edward, engraving of Manchester from Kersal Moor by W Wylde; http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cottonopolis1.jpg
Slide 18: Graph 1 – Data sourced from: Logue et al (1965) Australia in World History Volume 1 (Jacaranda Press, Brisbane Qld)
Graph 2 – Data sourced from: United States Census Bureau, International database http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/worldpop/table_population.php