

6 Urbanisation and models of the city

– Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	Write it 3 times (English)		
Urbanisation	_____	_____	_____
Suburbanisation	_____	_____	_____
counter-urbanisation	_____	_____	_____
re-urbanisation	_____	_____	_____
megacity	_____	_____	_____
world city	_____	_____	_____
Central place theory	_____	_____	_____
range	_____	_____	_____
threshold	_____	_____	_____
rank-size rule	_____	_____	_____
primacy	_____	_____	_____
gravity model	_____	_____	_____
Burgess concentric zone model	_____	_____	_____
Hoyt sector model	_____	_____	_____

Harris–Ullman
multiple nuclei
model

Recall

You have lived in or visited a city and noticed that the centre looks different from the edge, and that shops, offices and housing are not mixed at random.

This sheet gives you the models that explain that pattern, and the vocabulary for city systems.

New ideas

■ 1 Urbanisation and its causes

Urbanisation is the increase in the proportion of a population living in urban areas. It is driven by rural push (mechanisation, land shortage) and urban pull (jobs, services, education).

Suburbanisation moves people outward from the city core; **counter-urbanisation** moves them past the suburbs into rural areas; **re-urbanisation** brings them back to a revitalised centre.

A **megacity** has over 10 million people; a **metacity** over 20 million; a **world city** exerts influence far beyond its own country through finance, culture and corporate headquarters – a matter of function, not size.

■ 2 How cities relate to each other

Central place theory (Christaller) explains the size and spacing of settlements. Each settlement has a **range** – how far people will travel for a good – and a **threshold** – the minimum population needed to support it. High-order goods (a specialist hospital) have a large range and high threshold, so there are few such centres, spaced far apart; low-order goods (a bakery) have small range and threshold, so those centres are numerous and close together.

The **rank-size rule** says the n th largest city is $1/n$ the size of the largest. Where instead one city dominates – several times larger than the second – that is **primacy**, and a **primate city** is often a sign of a colonial or highly centralised past.

The **gravity model** predicts interaction between two places as proportional to the product of their populations and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.

■ 3 Models of internal structure

Burgess concentric zone model : rings around the central business district – CBD, transition zone, working-class housing, better housing, commuter zone.

Hoyt sector model : wedges radiating from the centre along transport lines, so a high-income sector runs outward as a strip rather than a ring.

Harris–Ullman multiple nuclei model : the city grows around several nodes, not one, because some activities repel each other (heavy industry and high-income housing) and others cluster.

There are also regional variants: the **Latin American (Griffin–Ford)** model with its elite spine and peripheral squatter settlements; the **Southeast Asian (McGee)** model built around an old port zone; the **African** model with three distinct CBDs.

■ 4 Bid-rent inside the city

Land is most expensive at the centre because it is most accessible. Retail can pay most and so takes the core; industry pays less and takes a middle ring; housing pays least per unit area and takes the outside. That is the same bid-rent logic as von Thünen’s farms.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

6.1 Distinguish between the range and the threshold of a good. [2]

6.2 Explain why there are fewer high-order central places than low-order ones. [2]

6.3 Define a primate city. [2]

6.4 State one difference between the Burgess and Hoyt models of urban structure. [2]

6.5 Explain, using bid-rent, why retail occupies the central business district. [2]
