

5.8 Von Thünen Model

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS von thünen model 冯·杜能模型 • transport cost 运输成本 • extensive 粗放

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **Von Thünen model** 冯·杜能模型 of land use.

You must be able to:

- state the Von Thünen model's key assumption
- describe the order of the land-use rings
- explain how **transport cost** 运输成本 shapes the rings
- state one limitation of the model

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The model

The **Von Thünen model** predicts farm land use around a central market. Its key driver is **transport cost**: perishable or heavy goods locate close to market, cheaper-to-move goods farther out.

■ The rings

From the centre outward: **market gardening/dairy** (perishable), **forest** (heavy fuel/timber, historically), **field crops/grain**, then **ranching/livestock** on the outer ring.

■ Limitations

It assumes a flat, uniform land with one market and no roads or rivers — real geography, refrigeration, and transport change the pattern.

2 Practice

2.1 State the main factor that determines land use in the Von Thünen model. [2]

2.2 Explain why perishable goods like dairy locate near the market. [2]

2.3 A modern region uses refrigerated trucks and highways.

(a) State one Von Thünen assumption this breaks. [1]

(b) Explain how it changes the ring pattern. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 In the Von Thünen model, ranching and livestock are located [1]

A	B
C	D

A nearest the market

B in the outermost ring

C in the forest ring

D at the exact centre

3.2 The Von Thünen model's central assumption is that transport cost rises with [1]

A	B
C	D

A population

B distance from the market

C soil quality

D rainfall

3.3 Dairy farms cluster close to a city in the model.

(a) Explain why, using transport cost. [1]

(b) State one real-world factor the model ignores. [1]
