

Cities and Urban Land-Use

AP Human Geography ■ Unit 6

AP Human Geography



Cities and Urban Land-Use

What we will cover

- 1 Urbanization
- 2 World cities
- 3 Size & distribution
- 4 Internal structure
- 5 Density & infrastructure
- 6 Sustainability challenges

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Growth of cities

Urbanization

- **Urbanization** 城市化 = the rising share of people in cities.
- A city's **site** 场地 is its physical setting; its **situation** 位置 is its position to others.
- Transport, communication, and industrial jobs drive growth.



Cities concentrate people and activity

World cities and globalization

- A **megacity** 特大城市 has over 10 million people.
- A **world city** 世界城市 is a command centre of the global economy.
- World cities form an interconnected global network.

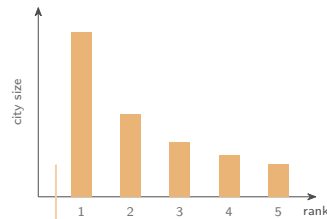


World cities command global networks

2

Structure of cities

Size and distribution



- The **rank-size rule** 位序-规模法则: the n th city $\approx 1/n$ of the largest.
- A **primate city** 首位城市 is more than twice the second city.
- The **gravity model** 引力模型: interaction rises with size, falls with distance.

Worked example – rank-size or primate?

Country A: largest 12M, 2nd 6.1M, 4th 3.0M. **Country B:** largest 12M, 2nd 2.5M. Which fits rank-size?

A: rank-size predicts 2nd = $\frac{12}{2} = 6$ M and 4th = $\frac{12}{4} = 3$ M. Both match, so A **follows rank-size**.

B: $12 > 2 \times 2.5 = 5$, so B has a **primate city**.

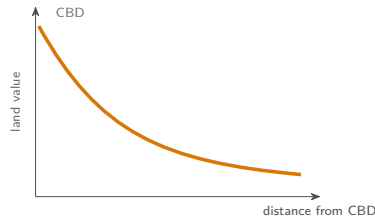
Test the **second** city first: more than double $\Rightarrow$ primate, and you can stop. Only if it is not primate do you check whether the **whole** $1/n$ ladder holds.

Internal structure

- **Concentric zone model** 同心圆模型: rings around a CBD.
- **Sector model** 扇形模型: wedges along transport routes.
- **Multiple nuclei model** 多核心模型: several centres.

Density and infrastructure

- **Land value** 地价 peaks at the CBD, pushing buildings up.
- **Zoning** 分区规划 sets what is built where.
- **Infrastructure** 基础设施 enables growth and development.



land value peaks at the CBD (bid-rent)

3 Urban challenges

Change and sustainability

- **Suburbanization** 郊区化 and **urban sprawl** 城市蔓延 consume land.
- **Gentrification** 士绅化 raises values and can displace residents.
- **Smart growth** 精明增长 and **greenbelts** 绿化带 support sustainability.



Uneven growth shapes who gets housing

Key points

Site = physical; **situation** = relative position

Rank-size vs **primate-city** distributions

Three models: **concentric**, **sector**, **multiple nuclei**

Sprawl + gentrification are key urban challenges

Worked example – the command word is the question

“Compare the concept of a metacity with the concept of a world city.” (real AP question)

“A metacity is defined by size – a continuous urban area of more than 20 million people – while a world city is defined by influence, acting as a command centre for the global economy. Tokyo can be both, but a large metacity in a poorer country may not be a world city.”

Compare needs an **explicit point of difference** (size versus influence), **not** two definitions sitting side by side.

Check yourself

- 1 Metacity or world city: defined by influence?
- 2 What does the rank-size rule predict?
- 3 What is a primate city?
- 4 Name one cost of rapid urbanization.

Answers 1. world city 2. the nth city is 1/n the size of the largest 3. one city far larger than all the rest 4. informal settlements, strained infrastructure