What is Urbanisation?

This is an increase in the amount of people living in urban areas such as towns or cities. In 2007, the UN announced that for the first time, more than 50 % of the world's population live in urban areas.

Settlement Hierarchies

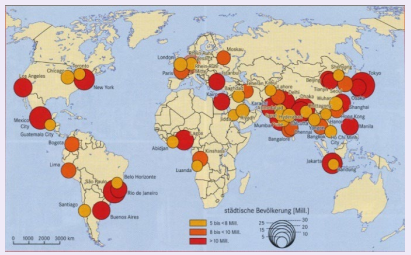
If we group and classify a number of settlements according to their size and shape, the result is settlement hierarchy.

Key Characteristics of Settlement Hierarchy.

- The number of services that a settlement provides increases with settlement size.
- Small settlements will only provide low-order services such as a post offices.
- Larger settlements and conurbations have a much larger sphere of influence than smaller ones.
- The range of a service or product is the maximum distance people are prepared to travel to purchase it.

Types of Cities

Megacity — An urban area with over 10 million people living there.



More than two thirds of current megacities are located in either EDCs and LIDCs. The amount of megacities are predicted to increase from 28 to 41 by 2030.

World City — Cities that are centres for trade and business. They hold global influence.



Key 'world cities' include London, New York, Tokyo and Paris. Most are located within ACs but are now gradually expanding into EDCs, for example Moscow.

Causes of Urbanisation

The movement of people from rural to urban areas.

Push	Pull
• Natural disasters • War and Conflict • Mechanisation • Drought	• More Jobs • Better education & healthcare • Increased quality of life. • Following family members.

Consequences of Rapid Urbanisation in LIDCs

Although there are lots of opportunities in urban areas, the rapid growth can place many pressures that causes various problems.

Social Consequences

- Little official housing available.
- Infrastructure struggles to support growing population.
- Increase in crime rates.

Environmental Consequences

- Rubbish may not be collected.
- Sewage and toxic waste pollutes river environments.
- Increased congestion produces more pollution.

Economic Consequences

- May not be enough jobs – increased unemployment.
- Informal sector increases Little access to education and healthcare.

Counter-Urbanisation in ACs

This is the movement of people from city centres to the outskirts.

Push	Pull
• Overcrowding and pollution. • Unemployment increases. • Deindustrialisation of centre. • Traffic congestion increases CO^2.	• Green spaces & family friendly. • New modern housing estates. • Improved public transport. • Rents cheaper on outskirts.

Topic 5
Urban Futures

Suburbanisation

This is the movement of people from city centres to the outskirts.

Push	Pull
• Overcrowding and pollution. • Unemployment increases. • Deindustrialisation of centre. • Traffic congestion.	• Green spaces & family friendly. • New modern housing estates. • Improved public transport. • Rents cheaper on outskirts.

Consequences of Suburbanisation

Environmental Consequences

- New housing damages countryside and habitats.
- Increase of cars adds air pollution.

Economic Consequences

- People leaves centres and they become deserted.
- Unemployment increases, which leads to poverty.

Social Consequences

- Offices and businesses are abandoned.
- Economic and ethnic segregation.

Rapid Urbanisation: Life in Lagos, Nigeria

Background

Lagos is a port on the coast of Nigeria. Recently the city has experienced rapid population growth with 3.4 million extra people coming it home between 2000 and 2010.

Effects of Urbanisation

Social	Economic	Environmental
• Many live without electricity. • High diseases rate and life expectancy low.	• High rate of corruption to officials. • Business is limited due to poor infrastructure.	• Large scale traffic issues. • Slums such as Makoko are heavily polluted with poor sanitation.

Management

- Authorities removed many dwellings in slums such as Makoko.
- A loan of $200 from the World Bank to improve drainage and solid waste.
- New ideas such as the 'floating homes and school' have been suggested.

Re-urbanisation in ACs

This is the movement of people back into urban areas.

Push	Pull
• Lack of jobs in rural and suburban areas. • Less leisure and entertainment in rural areas. • Counter-urbanisation may have increased house prices.	• Redevelopment of brownfield sites with improved housing. • Young people are attracted to the Universities. • People are attracted to entertainment facilities available.

Consequences of Re-urbanisation

Social Consequences

- Shops and services benefit from the additional residents.
- Increase in tension between new and older residents.
- House prices in redeveloped areas increase.
- Schools benefit from the increase of students.
- More jobs and less employment within the area.

Environmental Consequences

- Redevelopment of brownfield sites improves old industrial and polluted areas
- Decreases pressures on greenfield areas.
- Could destroy urban wildlife.

Economic Consequences

- New shops and services will improve local economy.
- Jobs available may not be accessible to original residents.
- Urban tourism may increase.

Informal Housing

This is housing that is built on land which does not belong to those who are building it. This may be on land that is unsuitable due to its surroundings.

Internal Growth

Internal growth occurs when urban areas experience rapid rates of population growth. This comes as a result of a large amount of arrival of people in cities, who after finding a job, house and partner will have children. This occurs mostly in LIDCs.

Greenbelt Area

This is a zone of land surrounding a city where new building is strictly controlled to try to prevent cities growing too much and too fast.

Conurbanisation

A conurbation is a region comprising a number of cities, large towns, and other urban areas that, through population growth have merged to form one continuous urban or industrially developed area.
For example: Greater Manchester includes Manchester, Bolton, Oldham, Bury and Rochdale.

AC: Challenges & Opportunities for Cities: LEEDS Case Study

Location and Background

Leeds is the largest city in Yorkshire and the 3rd largest in the United Kingdom. The city is at the heart of a conurbation which includes cities such as Bradford and Huddersfield.



City's Importance

- Has the fastest rate of job growth in the country.
- Third largest manufacturing centre in the UK, especially for clothing.
- Contains four independent universities.
- After London the most important financial centre in the UK.
- Has major transport links that connect effectively to the UK and the world.

Migration to Leeds

Leeds began in Saxon times but developed into a major manufacturing location during the Victorian era of the 1800s. Now Leeds is a truly multicultural city with 17% being from black and other minorities communities.

- Many commonwealth populations, such as India, moved in during the 1950s.
- The city is also home to a large Irish community from the mid 21st century.
- Polish, Ukrainian & Hungarian refugees arrived after WWII.

Leeds's way of Life

- The city benefits by the diversity and many different cultures.
- The population benefits from many companies and shops locating there.
- City is only a short distance from Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- Good entrainment centres and night life.



City Challenges

- There is a lack of affordable housing, especially for the young generation.
- Social inequality including deprivation and poverty is a problem for young people.
- Some communities are being replaced by students (studentification)which then require different services.
- The rapid increase in population has caused pressures on transport and services such as education.

South Bank Redevelopment

The south bank area of Leeds is undergoing major development in the next decade. This will lead to…

- A new high speed railway line (HS2) is considered to run through Leeds.
- Retail and leisure services being supported.
- A new areas for contemporary arts.
- Educational improvements to Leeds College.
- Water taxis and bus services to cut down carbon emissions.

EDC: Challenges & Opportunities for Cities: RIO DE JANEIRO Case Study

Location and Background

Rio is a coastal city situated in the South East region of Brazil within the continent of South America. It is the second most populated city in the country (6.5 million) after Sao Paulo.



City's Importance

- Has the second largest GDP in Brazil It is headquarters to many of Brazil's main companies, particularly with Oil and Gas.
- Sugar Loaf mountain is world heritage site
- One of the most visited places in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Hosted the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympics.
- Christ the Redeemer is a new 7 wonder.

Migration to Rio De Janeiro

The city began when Portuguese settlers with slaves arrived in 1502. Since then, Rio has become home to various ethnic groups.

However, more recently, millions of people have migrated from rural areas that have suffered from drought, lack of services and unemployment to Rio. People do this to search for a better quality of life.

This expanding population has resulted in the rapid urbanisation of Rio de Janeiro.

Rio's way of Life

- The recent sporting events have improved the city's infrastructure and some service.
- The city has a thriving tourism industry with high class resorts along the famous beaches.
- The Rio Carnival is an important cultural event for traditional dancing and music.
- Standards of living are gradually improving.



City Challenges

- Shanty towns called Favelas are established around the city, typically on unfavourable land, such as hills.
- There are a severe shortage of housing, schools and healthcare centres available.
- The city suffers from a high crime rate that includes gun/gang violence and drugs.
- The rapid urbanisation causes dangerous levels of pollution and traffic congestion.
- Large scale social inequality, is creating tensions between the rich and poor.

Self-help schemes - Rocinha, Bairro Project

- The authorities have provided basic materials to improve peoples homes with safe electricity and sewage pipes.
- Government has demolished houses and created new estates.
- Community policing has been established, along with a tougher stance on gangs with military backed police.
- Greater investment in new road and rail network to reduce pollution and increase connections between rich and poor areas.