JC-Learn
Geography Notes
Urbanisation
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The growth of towns and cities has occurred over time through the development of economic, administrative and social activities.

*Decentralisation -*
- This is a policy of transferring power from central government to areas throughout the country. The Irish government is introducing decentralisation to reduce the focus on Dublin.
- Some government departments are being relocated to other parts of the country. This will move workers away from the primate city, resulting in more even distribution of the population of Ireland.

Types of urban settlement:
- Defensive - located on ridge/ elevation to allow for easy defence of site.
- River - located near fresh water supply and source of food.
- Bridging point - crossing of a river was a key location for development of a settlement.
- Nodal point - some settlements developed where routes met.
- Coastal - sea was, and is, an international route way.
- Monastic - settlements developed as centres of learning near monasteries.

Factors which influenced distribution of urban settlements in Ireland:
- Historical - events in history have affected the distribution, eg. coastal locations were associated with Vikings and Normans developed walled cities.
- Relief - settlements can be based in many locations; low-lying (easy access to settlement) or upland (suitable for defence), coastal (trading with others) or river areas (easy passage for road and rail at crossing point along a river).
- Resource-based settlements - settlements may develop in area which has access to resources
- Tourism - tourists attracted to coastal regions, such as Bray.
➢ Fishing - settlements that rely on fishing industry have developed on coast.
➢ Overspill - congestion in urban areas encouraged people to settle outside region. This urban overspill is caused by pressure on land and need for housing. These settlements are called new towns.

*Case study: Development of Dublin*

Vikings -
- In 841 AD, Vikings settled at the rear of Dublin Castle. Their small settlements was located above south bank of the River Liffey at Wood Quay. The town was later fortified with a ditch and an earth rampart.

Anglo-Normans -
- They invaded Dublin in 1169. The port continued to grow with development of trade with England. Medieval Dublin was surrounded by stone walls. From the 16th century to the 18th century, England controlled Ireland but there was an Irish parliament based in Dublin.

18th Century -
- Dublin grew rapidly then. A grid-like pattern of streets and squares was constructed. Wide streets allowed for the movement of horses and carts. The street layout focused on elegant buildings.

19th Century -
- By 1800, Dublin’s population had rise to around 180,000. It experienced huge poverty during this time with entire families living in one room. Dublin became a city for the poor with many living in tenements. Within the city, the port area became the location for employment.

Early 20th Century -
- Still bad poverty in Dublin, about a quarter of families living in one room. The clearance of slums began in the 1920s. The slums were replaced with housing beyond the city centre.
Late 20th Century -
- Traditional industries declined, but building of new industrial estates on the outskirts of the city replaced them. The new industries were electronics, chemicals and engineering. The population of city centre fell as areas of slum housing were demolished. The outward migration resulted in the expansion of the city. Dublin underwent major redevelopment and renewal schemes, eg. Dublin Docklands.

21st Century -
- Areas zones as open space/ farmlands are being rezoned and built upon. The green belt is being reduced. Migration beyond the city and suburbs has resulted in an increase in the population of the dormitory towns, like Maynooth.

Functional Zones
Cities are divided up into the following zones:
1. A core area of business and shopping activity
2. Shopping areas
3. Industrial areas
4. Residential areas
5. Open space for recreation

A function of a city is an activity of the city. The zonation is an area, which has a characteristic that can be recognised and mapped. The following factors influence the types of zones in a city -
- Different land values throughout the city
- Historical and social factors
- Location within the city

Core area of business and shopping activity
The Central Business District (CBD) is the core area of business and shopping activity. The CBD is the centre of a city. This location is the focus of transport routes. CBDs are multi-functional and include administrative, commercial and social activities. The land value is high in the CBD, so high-rise buildings are common.
- The tops of the buildings are used for residential purposes. The ground floor is used for retail outlets use, while the first few floors are used for offices. The very bottom of the building (basement) can be used for carparks and storage.

**Shopping areas**
Shops within the urban area can be locally or regionally based. The shops can be in small shopping areas or large shopping centres.
- Small shopping centres - people shop for their daily needs here, and they are located in villages or at main crossroads.
- Large shopping centres - they attract shoppers from surrounding residential area, and from a wider region. They can be located on the outskirts of an urban area and are easily accessible, eg. Dundrum off the M50 in Dublin.

**Industrial areas**
Modern industries have located in purpose-built industrial estates. Their location on the outskirts of a city is based on many advantages over a location in the city centre:
- Lower land value, open land area that allows for expansion, easy access as it is near main arteries of transport, reduces traffic congestion, supply of labour is supplied from local residential estates.

**Residential estates**
The urban area contains various types of residence, which varies from high-rise accommodation, housing estates and apartment complexes to individual houses. The city centre contains multi-storey residential areas, while the suburbs have detached and semi-detached houses.

**Open spaces**
These are areas in a city that are not built upon. They are the environmentally friendly area of the urban zone. They are zoned as open space or green belt terrains to prevent total urban sprawl, eg. St Stephen’s Green.
*Case study: Functional zones in New York*

New York City is a centre of many activities and functions. It made up of five boroughs: The Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Manhattan.

The CBD -
- High-rise buildings are the norm in this zone. The main locations are Lower Manhattan, which contains the financial district (on Wall Street) and Mid-Manhattan, which houses the retail outlets.

Industrial areas -
- Today, industry is located on the outskirts of the city. The new locations provide industries with cheaper and more open areas of land with access to infrastructure. Industry is today located in New Jersey. New Jersey port is the main port for New York.

Open space -
- The main locations of open space in this city are Central Park, the Bronx Zoo and the New York Botanical Gardens. Central Park provides an escape from the busy streets and high-rise buildings.

Land Use

The value of land tends to increase towards the city centre and this leads to a greater intensity of land use. Land use differs throughout the city.

- The CBD provides the most accessible location within the city and businesses need to have this access to a large number of customers.

Land value is the cost of purchasing land. The cost will reflect the need for and use of the land. Land value increases towards the city centre, and is highest in the CBD. Businesses that require large spaces, like car dealers, are located on the city outskirts away from the city centre.

- The value, height and density of residential buildings decreases as you move away from the CBD.
Residential accommodation
All residential areas are associated with location.
- City centres have high density housing. Space is limited, with some small backyards and main house entrance opening onto the street.
- Suburban housing is mainly detached and semi-detached and built on small plots of land.
- Public housing is built by local authorities and provides modest housing, eg. Tallaght.
- Private housing is built by companies, which base their prices on the construction type, location and demand.

Type of housing -
- Detached (individual houses)
- Semi-detached (two houses which share an adjoining wall)
- Terraced (a line of houses joined together)
- Apartments (multi-unit housing)
- Town house (multi-storey house)

Age of housing -
- The development of large urban areas has turned small villages into towns and then into an expansive city. Traditionally, the suburban residential developments are younger than those of the city centre.

*Case study: Ballymun
Ballymun is an area close to Dublin Airport on the north side of Dublin.

History -
- It was known for its multi-storey residential tower blocks, which were built in the 1960s. The tenants who came there primarily came from the most deprived areas of inner city Dublin. There was a lack of facilities throughout the area, and in the 1980s it had many social problems.

Ballymun redevelopment -
- The area has undergone a renewal scheme to address the problems of the community. The plan for Ballymun is to change
it into a self-sustaining development, with a projected population of 30,000.

- The aims of development are quality homes with a good social mix, a planned town centre with commercial activity, a vibrant local economy and five identifiable neighbourhoods with facilities.

Ballymun regeneration project -
- Four of the seven towers, as well as one eight-storey block and two four-storey blocks have been demolished. The residents have been rehoused in new state-of-the-art housing.
- The new housing is a mixture of public, private, voluntary and co-operative housing.

### Recognisable Patterns

The daily movement of people within a city makes recognisable patterns in time and space. The most common type of movement is commuting. A commuter is a person who lives in the suburbs and travels to work in the city.

Commuter zones have evolved with the development of urbanisation. These are residential regions which are located in the city suburbs beyond the city centre.

Rush hour is the daily movement of people at specific times during the day. Rush hour occurs twice daily - in the morning between 8 and 9 am and in the evening between 5 and 6 pm. These are times when most people are going to or returning from work.

- Effects - longer commuting times, traffic congestion, earlier departure from home to reach work.
- Other reasons for rush hour traffic - school runs, single users, increased car ownership, poor public transport

**Solutions to traffic congestion**

1. Quality Bus Corridors (QBCs) - bus lanes along the road that give priority to buses. They reduce bus journey time. They increase passenger numbers using the service. They decrease
traffic congestion, as up to 75 passengers can be transported on the bus.
2. Cycle lanes - lanes along the main roads designated for cyclists.
3. Light rail - the DART and the Luas. They both move large numbers of people from the suburbs to the city centre.
4. Reducing cars in urban areas - pedestrianisation of streets, increased use in public transport systems and stricter on parking.

Urban Problems
The rapid pace of social and economic change within Western cities in the 20th century has caused problems for urban dwellers. These include:

- Zones of decline and zones of sprawl
- Inadequate infrastructural services
- Community disruption
- Unemployment
- Crime

*Students should study two of the problems for the Higher Level course; we will give you three in detail.

Zones of decline and of sprawl
Zones of decline -
- Areas in decline may be in a poor state of repair. Factors associated with zones of decline include failure of businesses, a lack of amenities (facilities) and migration from this zone.

Zones of sprawl -
- Urbanisation is an area of high population density. The expansion of settlement brings with it urban sprawl. This occurs when limits of urban area continue to expand quickly. Open spaces are being built upon and the green belt is disappearing. The reasons for this are cheaper land value here, farmers selling their land, and suburban developments have been profit-orientated.
Inadequate infrastructural services

- The building of residential estates has increased dramatically in the suburbs, but the accompanying services have not developed as quickly.
- The primary concern for developers is making a profit from the houses they build; they are not concerned with the provision of adequate services for these houses.
- The following services are lacking in suburban communities: educational facilities, local shops, transport services, emergency services and community resources.

Crime

- There is an increase in the level of crime within the urban area. The problem has been associated with unemployment and drug abuse.
- Problems associated with crime include drugs, culture of violence, alcohol and racism.
- Drugs are a part of society and are widely available in the city centre. Many violent crimes are carried out every day on city streets.

Urban Planning

In Western cities, attempts by planning authorities to alleviate the social and economic problems of inner cities have led to a number of initiatives:

1. Inner city renewal and redevelopment
2. Planning of new towns

1. Renewal and Redevelopment

Renewal -

- When an area is update, it is modernised but its function remains the same. This process is known as renewal.
- Examples of renewal are when a residential area in the inner city is replaced with modern housing. The process is achieved by demolishing the old houses and replacing them with new ones.
• An example of renewal is Ballymun, Dublin. The high-rise residential towers have been replaced with family homes.

Redevelopment -
• If land use of the location is changed, this is called redevelopment. Changes of residential use are the most common type of redevelopment.
• An example of the redevelopment of an area is the Jervis Street, Dublin redevelopment. The Jervis Street Hospital was demolished and replaced by a public car park used for the shopping and business community.

2. New Towns
New towns are specially developed to facilitate the growth of urban areas. New towns offer an alternative to the congested, rundown inner cities. The characteristics of new towns are the following:
• New towns are purpose-built to accommodate a specific population
• They are located near large urban areas
• Their function is to house the overspill of the city
• New settlers are mainly young families
• New towns provide industrial estates

*Case study: New town - Tallaght, Dublin

Initial problems:
• Tallaght was supposed to be the ultimate planned environment. The new residents were a mixture of those from inner city and suburbs of Dublin and elsewhere in Ireland. The main problem encountered was lack of a town centre and adequate services.

Today:
• Tallaght has grown to have a population of 77,000. It is a vibrant urban settlement with its own town centre; a major shopping facility (The Square); civic offices; commercial, financial and community facilities; an Institute of Technology and a hospital.
The Luas has aided the development of Tallaght by adding a regular access to the city centre.  
Tallaght’s location off the M50 motorway and N81 routeways provides transport access for car and commercial vehicles.

Urbanisation in the Developing World

Urbanisation in the developing world has led to patterns and problems of urban growth that differ from those that characterise Western cities. These problems tend to be more severe. They include:
  ➢ Faster growth  
  ➢ Greater degree of unplanned development  
  ➢ Lack of infrastructural services  
  ➢ Greater social and economic inequalities

*Students must be aware of all of the problems above. Detailed studies (from case study) are to be made of two of these problems.

*Case study: Kolkata (Calcutta), India

Kolkata is India’s largest and most densely populated city. There is high migration towards here, and housing for this migrant population in the city is in the form of shanty towns. The city suffers from a lack of open space, a shortage of clean water and pollution.

Greater degree of unplanned development:
  o The wealthy live close to the city centre. Employment is nearby, with modern office blocks located in the centre. Other facilities reflect the wealth of the region.  
  o Moving away from the city centre, the quality of residences deteriorates. On reaching the outskirts of the city, the vast areas of poor quality housing form shanty towns. A shanty town is an area occupied by a high density of people. The area is a vast expense of unplanned settlement with narrow passages between the dwellings. The spread of fire is a problem and the standard of living is poor.
Lack of infrastructural services:
- Access to clean water is very limited
- Communal toilets are common, with little waste treatment.
- Open waste disposal along the street is common
- Facilities are poor, especially the medical services, with many dying from diseases like typhoid.
- Most slum dwellers cannot afford basic educational services and remain illiterate
- There are no roads within the shanty town
- There is no electricity supplied to shanty towns