Year 5 Geography Assessment: Understanding Population

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and explain patterns of population distribution and the factors that influence where people choose to live.

Read each question carefully. Use your geographical knowledge of settlements and population density to provide full, clear answers. Write in full sentences where required.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastal regions and inland areas of the United Kingdom. He has noticed that some areas, like the city of London, have a very high number of people living close together, while other areas, such as the Scottish Highlands, have very few people spread over a large distance. Finn wants to understand why people choose to live in different places and how these populations change over time.

Word bank: Population density · Settlement · Urban · Rural · Migration · Infrastructure · Resources · Climate

1. Define the term 'population density'. (2 marks)

2. Identify two human or physical factors that might encourage people to settle in a specific area. (2 marks)

3. Explain the difference between an 'urban' area and a 'rural' area. (3 marks)

4. If a new factory opens in a small village, how might this affect the local population? Give a reason for your answer. (4 marks)

5. Finn observes that many people migrate to large cities for work. Suggest two reasons why the cost of living (such as housing, priced in £) might be higher in these densely populated cities compared to remote villages. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are a town planner. You have been asked to design a new settlement. Describe three features your town must have to support a growing population and explain why these are important for the people living there. (5 marks)

7. Name one disadvantage of living in an area with a very high population density. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple map showing two areas: one with high population density (urban) and one with low population density (rural). Label your diagram to show where you have placed homes, schools, and green spaces.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find the current population of the United Kingdom and compare it to the population of a country with a much lower population density. Write three sentences explaining why you think the numbers are so different.