Exploring Settlements: From Hamlets to Cities

Learning objective: To identify and describe different types of human settlements and explain the geographical reasons for their locations.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of settlement patterns, land use, and geography to provide full, clear answers.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastline and rivers to understand how human settlements grow. From the small, quiet villages in the countryside to the bustling, tall-building skylines of major cities, every place has a story about why people chose to build there.

Word bank: settlement · urban · rural · conurbation · infrastructure · site · situation · hamlet

1. Define the terms 'urban' and 'rural'. Give one example of a typical land-use activity you might find in each. (2 marks)

2. Finn is looking at a map of a town built near a river. Suggest two reasons why early settlers often chose to build their homes close to a water source. (2 marks)

3. Explain the difference between a 'hamlet' and a 'city' in terms of population size and available services (e.g., shops, schools, transport). (2 marks)

4. What is a 'conurbation'? Provide a brief explanation of how this type of settlement is formed. (2 marks)

5. If a new settlement were being planned in your local area, what are two pieces of 'infrastructure' that would be essential for the people living there? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing a hypothetical settlement. Include the 'site' (where the buildings are) and the 'situation' (the surrounding environment, such as hills, forests, or rivers).

Extension challenge: Research a 'ghost town' or a settlement that has been abandoned. Write a short paragraph explaining why people might have moved away and what happened to the buildings.