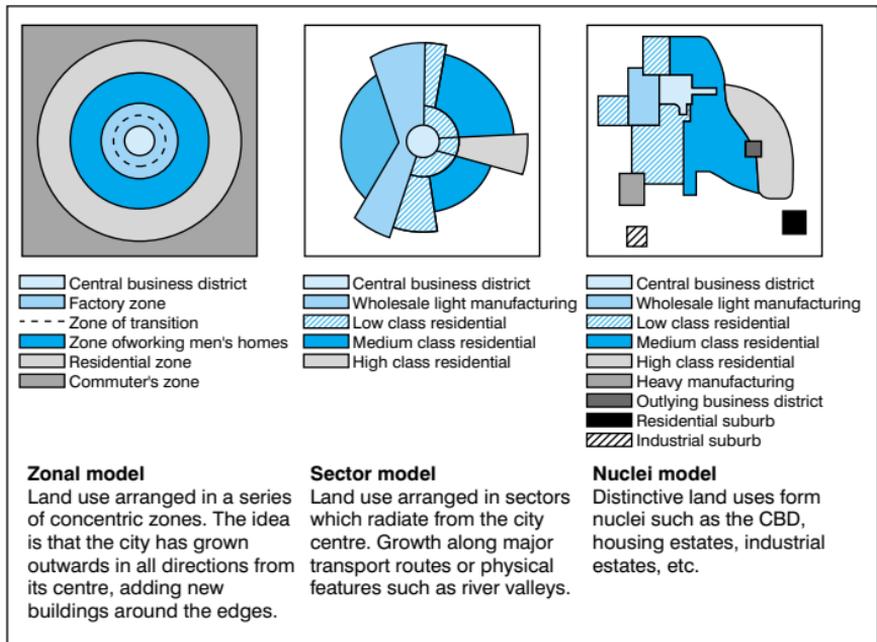


## Urbanisation

- Urban growth** is the increase in size of built-up areas in towns and cities. **Urbanisation** is the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities. Urbanisation is greatest in the LEDCs. This has led to the development of **millionaire** and **megacities**. In many LEDCs there is a **primate** pattern with one city many times larger than the second largest city. Urbanisation takes place as a result of **migration** and **natural increase**. **Counterurbanisation** has led to the decline of the largest cities in MEDCs.
- In many cities in MEDCs there are patterns in the land use, including **concentric circles** and **sectors**. In some cities there may be smaller, irregular shaped areas of land, each with its own distinctive land use.



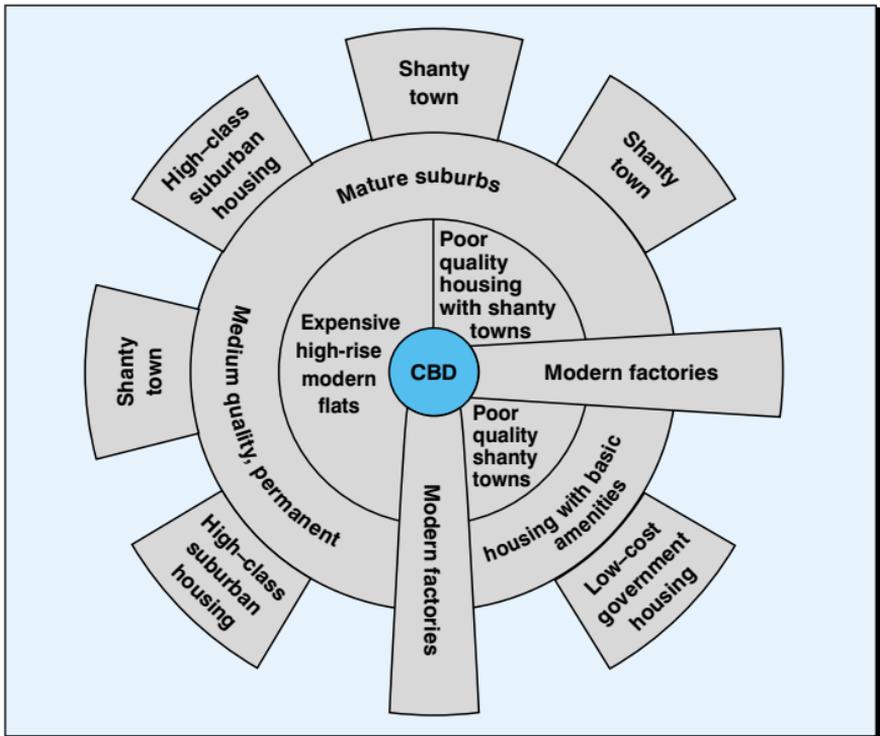
Models of city structure

### Urban settlement in the UK

- The **Central Business District (CBD)** is the most accessible part of the city as it is the focus of routes. There is an intense competition for space, so land values are high resulting in many multi-storey buildings. Large shops and office blocks dominate these areas. The CBD is relatively small because people there are prepared to walk only short distances to shops. Very few people live in the CBD, as the land is too expensive for housing.
- The **inner city** consists of a **twilight zone**, which is in decline and contains industry, housing and derelict land. There are areas of **high-density housing** built in the nineteenth century when industry thrived in urban areas. The **suburbs** consist of low-density detached and semi-detached housing.
- Income, family status, ethnicity and the distribution of housing types affect where people live. Better-off families with children tend to live in the outer suburbs. Inner cities have a higher proportion of disadvantaged people. Ethnic **ghettos** have developed where immigrants have moved into the inner city.
- Inner city problems have proved very difficult to solve. In the 1950s people were moved out to **peripheral council estates** or to **New Towns** and **Expanded Towns**. High-rise flats were unsuccessful. Since the 1970s **urban renewal** projects have replaced **comprehensive redevelopment**. The housing in inner cities is being modernised and the environment improved. This allows people to remain in the inner city and retain their community spirit.
- In recent years there has been some migration of more well-off people into the inner city areas. This process of **gentrification** occurs because these people like to be near where they work and where entertainment takes place.

## Urban areas in LEDCs

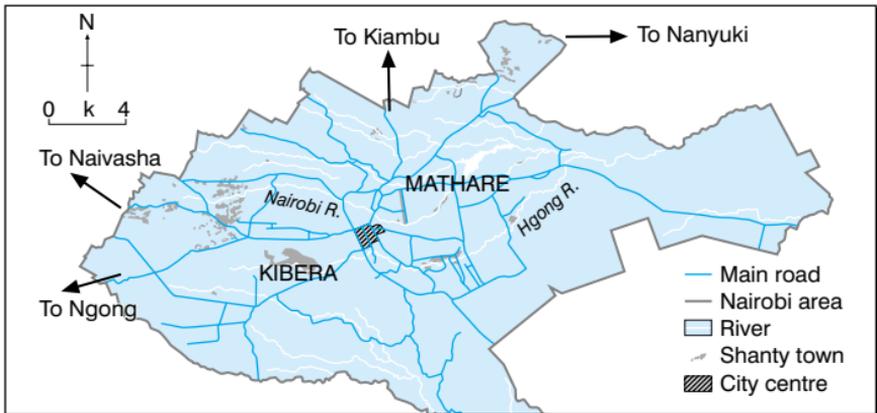
- Cities in LEDCs have a very different land use pattern to those in MEDCs. The CBD is dominated by modern administrative and commercial activities. Better-off people live in modern high-rise apartments around the CBD. Recently arrived migrants from the countryside live in derelict buildings and vacant plots of land close to the CBD where they look for work. The quality of the housing decreases with distance from the city centre. Commercial and industrial areas often follow the main roads and railways out from the city centre.



*Model structure of a city in a LEDC*

## URBAN SETTLEMENT (4)

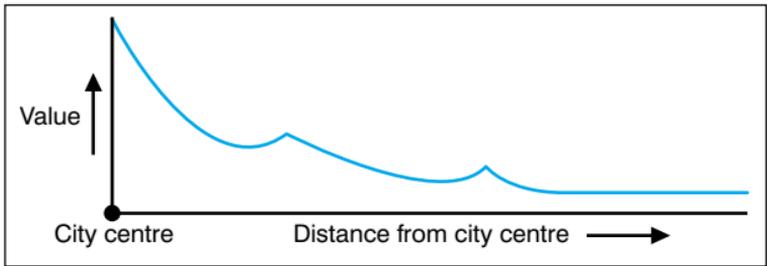
- The rapid growth of cities in LEDCs has produced illegal **shanty towns**. These are normally found around the edge of the city or on derelict land which is too steep for building or is prone to flooding. Initially the shanty houses are built with any available materials, such as sacking or corrugated iron. The absence of electricity and running water leads to a high incidence of disease. Inhabitants of shanty towns improve their homes as they become better off.
- Governments of LEDCs have tried hard to improve conditions in shanty towns. Cheap, purpose-built flats have been constructed in some cities, even though this encourages yet more people to migrate to the city. Some squatters in shanty towns are given legal status to encourage them to upgrade their homes.
- In '**site and service**' projects families are given a plot of land, served by roads, electricity and water, on which to build a home. Under a '**self-help scheme**' building materials are provided to improve temporary shacks.
- Increasingly it has been recognised that the best way to approach the shanty town problem is to improve conditions in the countryside. It is hoped that this will reduce urbanisation. Urban areas are growing so quickly that they are increasingly **unsustainable**.



*Location of shanty towns in Nairobi*

## Urban settlement (1–4)

- 1 What is a 'millionaire' city? (1)
- 2 What is the disadvantage of a primate pattern of settlement? (1)
- 3 Why are there so many high-rise buildings in the CBD of a city? (1)
- 4 The accessibility of the CBD is no longer the advantage that it used to be. Explain why. (1)
- 5 What is a 'green belt'? (1)
- 6 The following is a graph showing how the value of land decreases from the city centre. Explain the variations in the shape of the graph. (4)



- 7 Give two reasons why high-rise housing was not considered to be a successful solution to inner city problems. (2)
- 8 How does the distribution of the poorest housing areas differ within cities in LEDCs and MEDCs? (2)
- 9 What is a 'ghetto'? (1)
- 10 What is 'comprehensive redevelopment'? (1)
- 11 Name a New Town. (1)
- 12 How do the locations of New Towns and Expanded Towns differ? (1)
- 13 Name two ways in which MEDCs have tackled urban traffic problems. (2)
- 14 How may gentrification affect the lives of people already living in the area? (1)

- 1 A city with a million or more inhabitants. (1). The term 'million city' is sometimes used.
- 2 Most of the country's resources and investment go into its largest city. The rest of the country does not get its fair share. (1) The primate city is usually the capital.
- 3 The cost of land is high so it is cheaper to build upwards. (1)
- 4 Land values are too high for many businesses to survive. (1) Many shops have moved to out-of-town sites.
- 5 An area of land around an urban centre where development is restricted. (1). Recreation, transport routes and other developments have increased pressure on the Green Belt.
- 6 There is a general decrease in land value with distance from the city centre. (1) There is a very rapid decrease within a short distance of the city centre. (1) Increased accessibility at road junctions leads to some increase in land values further out. (1) Beyond a certain point distance has little effect on land value. (1)
- 7 There was a loss of community spirit. (1). Many of the homes suffered badly from damp. (1)
- 8 In LEDCs the poorest people live on the edge of cities (1). The poorest housing in MEDCs is close to the city centre. (1)
- 9 An area where the population is dominated by people of one religious or ethnic group. (1). In geographical terms, this is not necessarily a disadvantaged area.
- 10 A solution to inner city problems that involves pulling down housing and moving people out. (1)
- 11 Stevenage (1).
- 12 New Towns are found closer to conurbations. (1) People from London have moved to Expanded Towns as far away as Bodmin, Cornwall.
- 13 Pedestrianisation. (1) Park and ride schemes. (1).
- 14 It increases the cost of housing. This can put houses beyond the budgets of local people. (1) Islington in London is an example of a gentrified area.