

FAQ's

1. What are the five major phases that describe human settlements?

PRIMITIVE NON-ORGANIZED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(Started with evolution of man)

PRIMITIVE ORGANIZED SETTLEMENTS
(The period of villages- Eopolis- this lasted about 10,000 years)

STATIC URBAN SETTLEMENTS OR CITIES
(Polis – which lasted about 5000 to 6000 years)

DYNAMIC URBAN SETTLEMENTS
(Dynapolis- which lasted 200-400 years)

THE UNIVERSAL CITY
(Ecumenopolis- which is now the beginning)

2. What is the importance of nucleus and discuss static urban settlements?

As settlements grew in size, man came to realize that the principle of the simple nucleus was not always valid in the internal organisation of the total shells of the community, at this single nodal point, which was adequate for the village and for the small cities, no longer sufficed

The first thing to happen was the expansion of the nucleus in one or more directions; it was no longer limited to the settlement's center of gravity.

For example: the small settlement of Priene, in ancient Greece, where the central nucleus expanded in two ways:

First in a linear form along a main street which contained shops that would normally be clustered in the central agora.

Secondly through the decentralisation of some functions, such as temples.

3. Discuss the Early Dynapolis.

Dynapolis:

- First expansion of the urban settlement.
- 30 miles in diameter.
- All part of the land it covers is not sterilised.
- The microorganisms in the soil no longer exist.
- The original animal inhabitants have largely been banished.
- Rivers are foul and the atmosphere is polluted.
- Climate and microclimate have retrogressed.

The first dynamic urban settlement - the early Dynapolis. This is the phase when small independent human settlements with independent administrative units are beginning to grow beyond their initial boundaries. From the economic point of view this development is related to industrialisation, and from the technological point of view to the railroad era, which first made commuting from distance points possible. The settlements expand in all directions, instead of spreading only along the railway lines creating new islands of dependent settlements around railway stations, as during the phase of the early Dynapolis. The city is breaking its walls and spreading into the countryside in a disorganised manner.

4. What are the factors affecting location of a human settlement

Physical factors that influence the location of a settlement include;

Water supply – settlements need water, they often locate on wet point sites for this. Settlements built away from rivers and water supplies to avoid flooding are located at dry point sites.

Defence – building on high ground allowed people the chance to look out for enemies (e.g. Edinburgh castle) while

surrounding a settlement with water also helped with deed defence e.g. Durham is built inside a meander.

Aspect and shelter – In the northern hemisphere south facing slopes receive more sunlight and are protected from cold Northerly winds. More settlements and agricultural land is therefore located on South facing slopes.