FAQ's

1. **How can we describe settlements?**

   Area: How large the area is settlement is?

   Site: describes the actual land upon which a settlement is built.

   Population: the size and type of people that live in the settlement.

   Shape: describes how the settlement is laid out. It is a pattern.

   Situation: describes where a settlement is located in relation to other surrounding features such as other settlements, rivers and communications.

   Function: this relates to the settlement's economic and social development and refers to its main activities.

2. **Discuss dispersed pattern type of human settlements.**

   A **dispersed settlement**, also known as a **scattered settlement**, is one of the main types of settlement patterns used by landscape historians to classify rural settlements found in England and other parts of the world. Typically, there are a number of separate farmsteads scattered throughout the area. A dispersed settlement contrasts with a nucleated village.

   In England, dispersed settlements are often found in the areas of ancient enclosure outside the central region—for example, Essex, Kent and the West Country. An example of a dispersed settlement given by W G Hoskins is Middle Barton in Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire.

In some parts of England, the pattern of dispersed settlement has remained unchanged for many hundreds of years. Many of the locations found in Domesday may be dispersed farmsteads.[4] It is sometimes possible to identify documentary references to farmsteads in the 18th or 19th centuries with these Domesday entries

In areas of Kent and Essex close to London, development of residential housing during the 20th century has often disguised the dispersed nature of the original settlement.

3. What are the characteristics of the linear pattern of human settlements?

In geography, a **linear settlement** is a (normally small to medium-sized) settlement or group of buildings that is formed in a long line. Many follow a transport route, such as a road, river, or canal though some form due to physical restrictions, such coastlines, mountains, hills or valleys, as in the case of Victoria, Hong Kong. Linear settlements may have no obvious center, such as a road junction or green. Linear settlements have a long and narrow shape.

In the case of settlements built along a route, the route probably predated the settlement, and then the settlement grew up at some way station or feature, growing along the transport route. Often, it is only a single street with houses on either side of the road. Mileham, Norfolk, England is a good example of this. Later development may add side turnings and districts away from the original main street. Places such as Southport, England developed in this way.

A linear settlement is in contrast with ribbon development, which is the outward spread of an existing town along a main street.

4. **Describe nucleated human settlements?**

A nucleated village or clustered settlement is one of the main types of settlement pattern. It is one of the terms used by geographers and landscape historians to classify settlements. It is most accurate with regard to planned settlements: its concept is one in which the houses, even most farmhouses within the entire associated area of land, such as a parish, cluster around a central church, which is close to the village green. Other focal points can be substituted depending on cultures and location, such as a commercial square, circus, crescent, a railway station, park or a sports stadium. A sub-category of clustered settlement tends to be a planned village or community, deliberately established by landowners or the stated and enforced planning policy of local authorities and central governments.

5. **Discuss the characteristics of leapfrogging development.**

The concept of **leapfrogging** is used in many different domains of economics and business, and was originally developed in the field of industrial organization and economic growth. The main idea beyond the concept of leapfrogging is that small and incremental innovations lead the dominant firm to stay ahead. However, sometimes, radical innovations will permit to new firms to leapfrog the ancient and dominant firm. The phenomenon can occur to firms but also to leadership of countries, or cities.

More recently the concept of leapfrogging is being used in the context of sustainable development for developing countries as a theory of development which may accelerate development by skipping inferior, less efficient, more expensive or more polluting technologies and industries and move directly to more advanced ones.

It is proposed that through leapfrogging developing countries can avoid environmentally harmful stages of

development and do not need to follow the polluting development trajectory of industrialized countries.

6. **Discuss the site factors that influence the development of settlements.**

Bridging point:
The **lowest bridging point** is the location on a river which is crossed by a bridge at its closest point to the sea. Historically - that is, before the development of engineering technology that allowed the construction of tunnels and high-level road bridges - the lowest bridging point of a river was frequently the point at which an important town or city grew up, and particularly where trade and commerce took place. The place could be served by roads on either side of the river, allowing access from a wide hinterland; had river transport available upstream; and often was at a location that allowed seagoing traffic to approach it from a downstream direction.

Dry point

A **dry point** is an area of firm or flood-free ground in an area of wetland, marsh or flood plains. The term typically applies to settlements, and dry point settlements were common in history. In the United Kingdom extreme examples of dry point settlements include Glastonbury, situated on a low hill in the marshy, and once frequently flooded, Somerset Levels, and Wareham in Dorset surrounded by flood plains to the west and Poole Harbour to the east. A dry point has the advantages of flood protection, fertile soil (due to previous floodings which would have deposited silt on the land) and fairly flat land which is ideal for agriculture and building.

Nodal point
A nodal point (route center) is a point where two routes, such as roads, railways, or rivers meet. Bridging

points, gap towns and ports can also be considered nodal points.
Characteristics:

- Route center (focal point)
- Near food supply
- Good for transportation of goods and raw materials.
- Its easy to commute from one place to another.
- Tends to over crowd
- Can get easily flooded is close to two rivers.

Defensive
In medieval times **defence** was one of the most important factors influencing the site of a settlement. The relief (shape) of the land often proved to be the best form of defence. Edinburgh castle sits on the top of a glacial crag, in an almost perfect position to defend itself, with very little chance for the attackers. In Italy, there are many walled hill-top villages, whilst the Maoris in New Zealand built their settlements (called Pa's) on the top of steep hills to prevent being attacked. The other common natural feature used for defence is water, and in particular rivers. Both Shrewsbury and Durham are very good examples of where a **meander** of the river has formed an area of land bounded by water on three sides. This provided both cities with excellent defences, as they only had a thin neck of land to defend.
Wet point
This refers to any site that has access to water, usually through being beside a river. Towns would either grow up along the river or clustered near the point at which the river enters the sea. Examples of wet point sites include the towns and villages of the Welsh valleys, which tend to extend along the flat valley floor, rather than up the steep valley sides. Spring line settlements in the North and South Downs are also good examples of wet point sites.

Aspect and shelter : Aspect and shelter are two of the most important factors that were used when deciding where to locate a settlement. Aspect relates to the direction in which the land faces. In the Northern Hemisphere the best slopes to locate on are those that face south, as they will receive the most sunshine, and therefore be best for agriculture. This can be seen clearly in many of the valleys of the Alps, where settlements have located on the south-facing slopes. Shelter is also very important, particularly from the cold northerly winds and prevailing south westerly winds in the UK. A good example of settlements being sheltered by their natural surroundings are the many spring-line settlements found along the base of the chalk escarpments of the North and South Downs. These settlements would also have benefited from the good water source and fertile farmland nearby.