

GRADE 8 | 2024

Population and Settlement

Social Sciences: Geography

CAPS ALIGNED

MatricHub.co.za | South Africa's Matric Resource Hub

1. Population Distribution

Population distribution refers to where people live. It is uneven - some areas are densely populated, others sparsely populated.

- Dense population: many people per km² (e.g. coastal cities, fertile river valleys)
- Sparse population: few people per km² (e.g. deserts, mountains, very cold regions)

2. Factors Affecting Settlement

Physical Factors

- Water: people settle near rivers, lakes, and rainfall areas
- Climate: moderate temperatures attract settlers
- Flat land: easier to build on and farm
- Fertile soil: good for farming and agriculture
- Natural resources: mining and forestry attract people

Human Factors

- Economic opportunities: jobs attract people to cities
- Transport routes: settlements grow along roads and rivers
- Security: people settle in safe areas
- Services: schools, hospitals attract people

3. Settlement Patterns

- Nucleated: buildings clustered together (villages, towns)
- Linear: settlements along a line (road, river, railway)
- Dispersed: scattered, individual buildings over a wide area

4. Urbanisation

Urbanisation is the process of people moving from rural to urban areas. South Africa is rapidly urbanising.

FORMULA: $\text{Urbanisation rate} = (\text{urban population} / \text{total population}) \times 100$

- Push factors: poverty, lack of jobs, drought force people to leave rural areas
- Pull factors: jobs, services, better quality of life attract people to cities

KEY POINT: Rapid urbanisation can lead to informal settlements (shacks), pressure on services, and traffic congestion.