



SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY



**AN INTEGRATION OF CLASSIFICATION OF SETTLEMENTS
ACCORDING TO SIZE AND COMPLEXITY AND CONCEPTS
RELATED TO URBAN HIERARCHIES.**



Examination Guidelines 2017

Study of settlements

- Concepts of:
 - Settlement
 - Site
 - Situation
- Rural and urban settlements
- Classification of settlements according to:
 - Size and complexity
 - Pattern
 - Function

Urban hierarchies

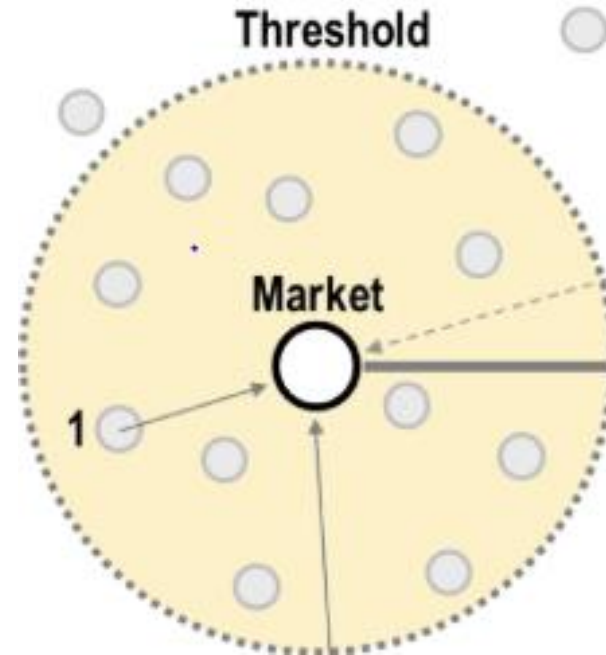
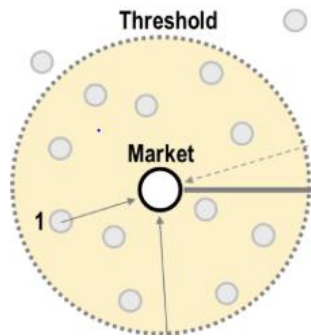
- Concepts of:
 - Urban hierarchy
 - Central place
 - Threshold population
 - Sphere of influence
 - Range of goods
- Concepts of:
 - Low- and high-order functions/services
 - Low- and high-order centres



URBAN HEIRACHY CONCEPTS

Threshold population is the minimum number of customers needed in order for a business/service to be profitable.

Larger stores selling comparison goods need a larger threshold population than smaller stores. These larger stores are found in bigger settlements e.g. cities and smaller stores in smaller settlements e.g. villages.





LOW ORDER GOOD, FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES

- Are used/bought everyday/regularly, generally cheaper
- Generally found near the customer
- Bread, post office, petrol station etc

HIGH ORDER GOOD, FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES

- Specialised and bought/used less frequently, generally more expensive
- Found in higher order centres
- Airport, hospital, regional shopping centre/cars



High or low order goods?





Low order service – bakery





High order service – car sales



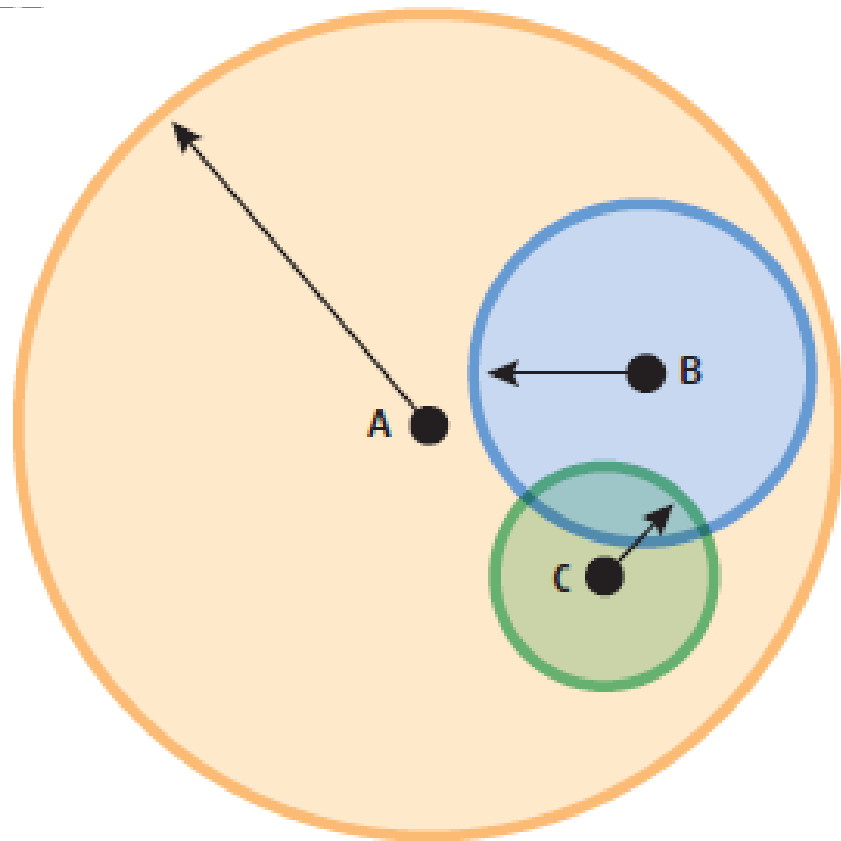


Low order centres provide low order goods/services/functions to surrounding area




High order centres provide high order goods/services/functions to settlements



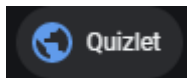
Sphere of influence is the area from which an urban area gets its customers



Key:

-  Sphere-of-influence of large town A.
-  Sphere-of-influence of small town B.
-  Sphere-of-influence of village C.

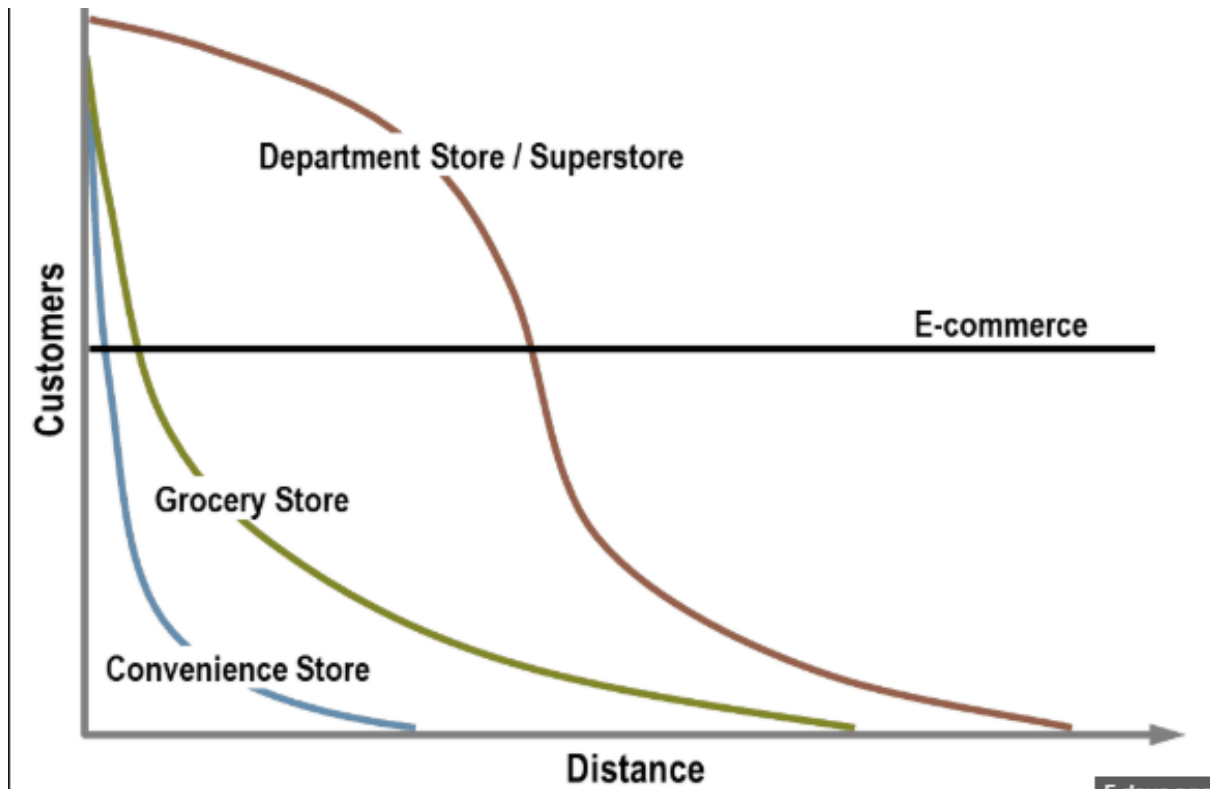
Sphere-of-influence of a settlement.





Range of goods/services refers to maximum distance person is prepared to travel in order to obtain service or buy a good.

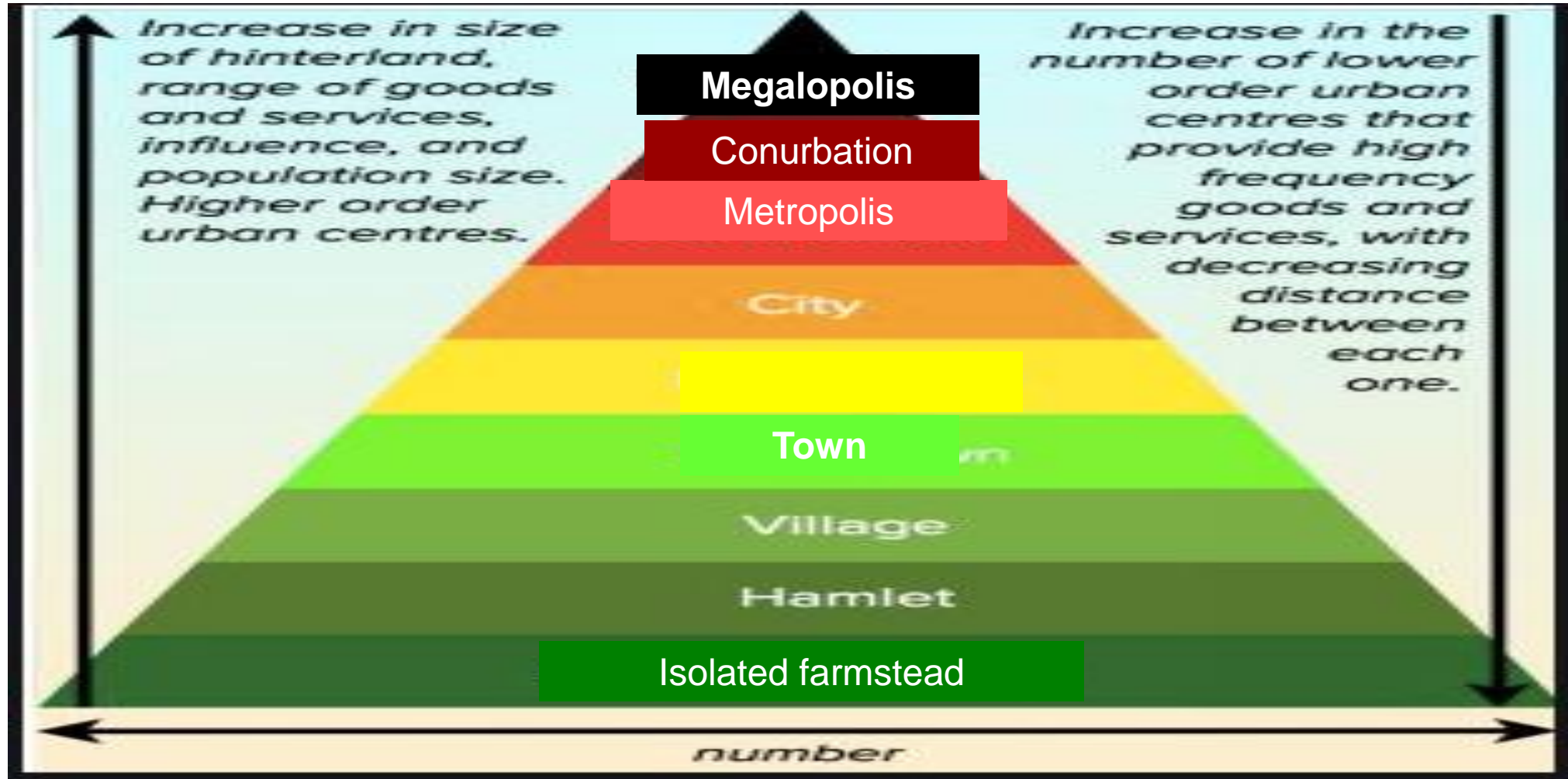
Higher order goods and services have a larger range compared to lower order goods



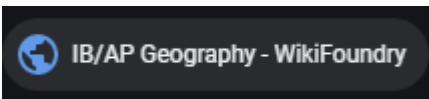


Settlement hierarchy refers to the ranking of settlements according to size and complexity, population size, range of services and size of sphere of influence

Urban hierarchy refers to the ranking of urban settlements according to their significance, size and complexity, population size, range of services and size of sphere of influence



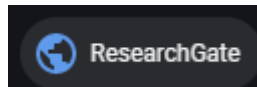
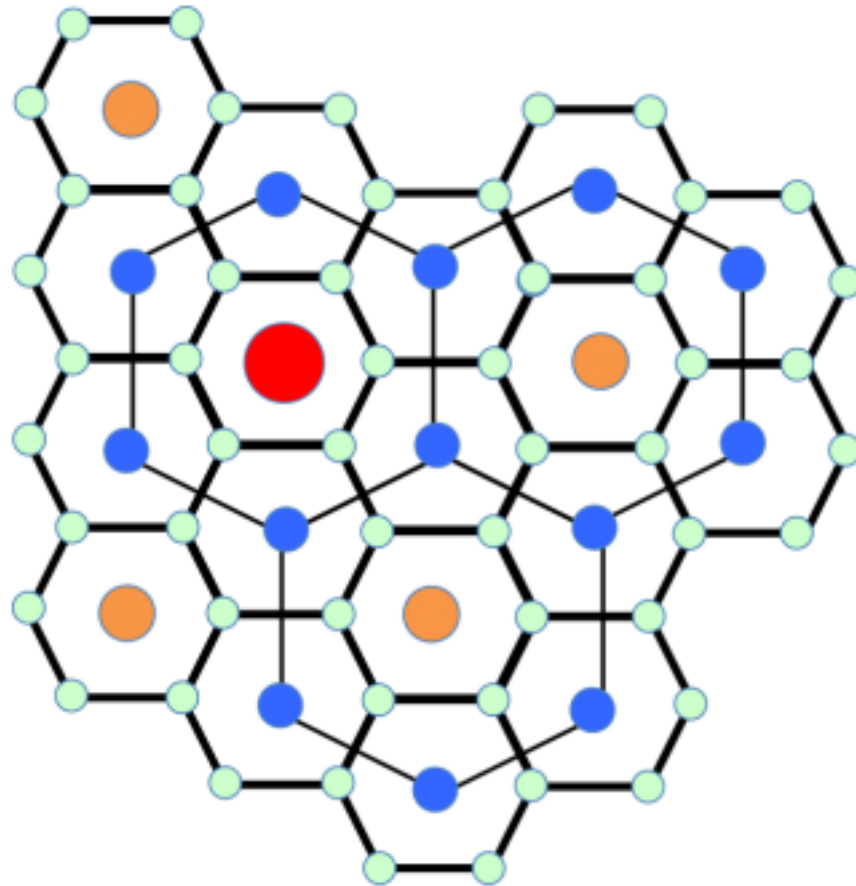
Adapted from



R. Davechand 2020



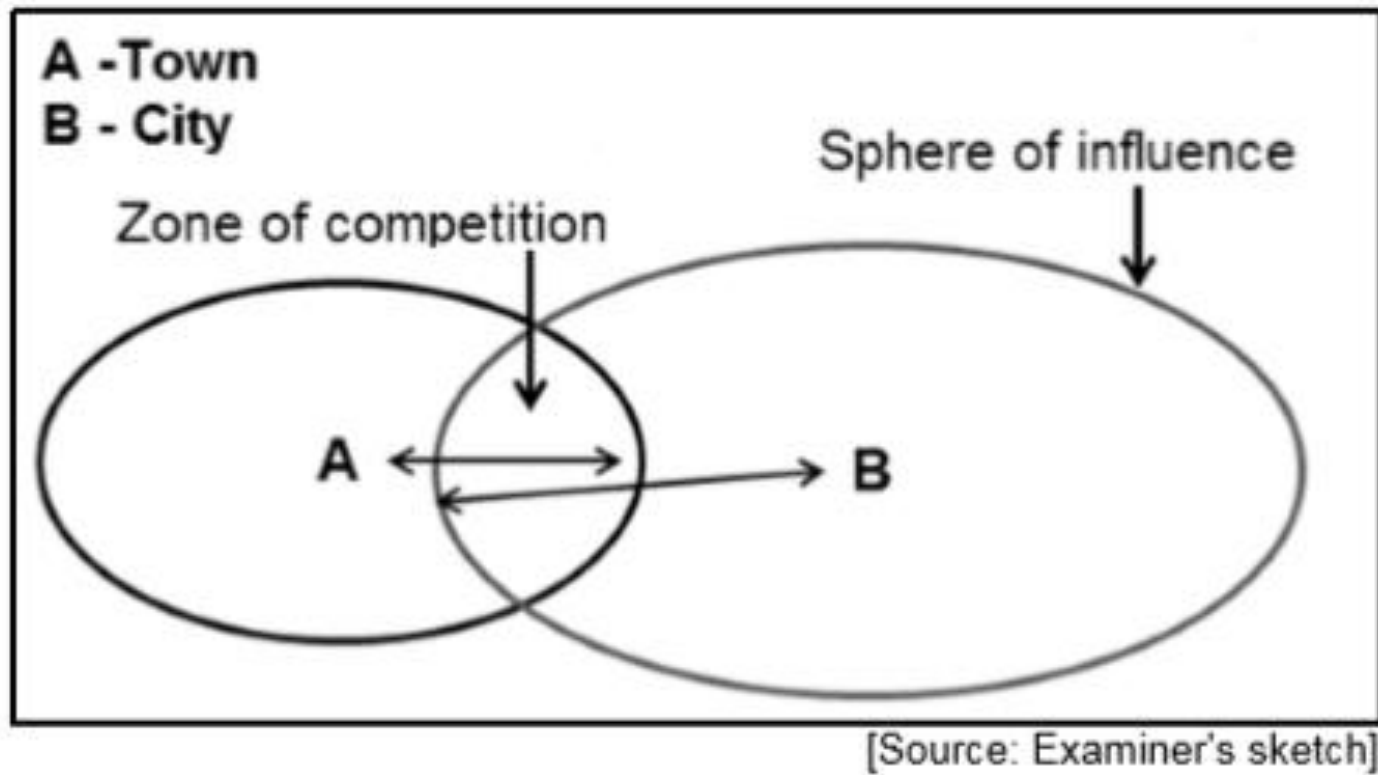
Christaller's Model of central places





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FIGURE 4.3: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE





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4.3 Refer to FIGURE 4.3 based on high- and low-order urban centres and their spheres of influence.

4.3.1 Define the term *sphere of influence*. (1 x 1) (1)

4.3.1 Market area from where an urban settlement/business draws customers (1)
[CONCEPT] (1 x 1) (1)



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4.3.2 Compare the size of the city's sphere of influence with that of the town. (1 x 1) (1)

4.3.2 City larger/bigger/wider than the town (1)
OR
Town smaller/narrower than the city (1)

(1 x 1) (1)



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- 4.3.3 What determines the size of the sphere of influence of an urban settlement? (1 x 1) (1)
- 4.3.3 The order of the goods sold in a particular service area/order of services provided/degree of specialisation of services/goods (1)
Number of functions/goods that are offered (1)
Type of functions offered/goods sold (1)
Variety of goods/services offered (1)
Price of goods/services (1)
[ANY ONE] (1 x 1) (1)



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4.3.4 Give TWO possible reasons for the overlap of the town's sphere of influence with that of the city. (2 x 2) (4)

- 4.3.4 Zone of competition/where people can choose which place to shop at (2)
- Personal choice/convenience of where to go (2)
- Travel to place which offers better services (2)
- If there is little impact on travelling time and cost for the product they want to purchase (2)
- Going to either town or city for another purpose and shopping while there (2)
- En-route to place of work/residence (2)
- Offering of cheaper goods/services (2)
- Variety of goods offered (2)
- For high order/speciality goods/services customers can choose to go to the city (2)
- For low order/daily goods/services customers will most likely go to the town (2)

[ANY TWO] (2 x 2) (4)



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4.3.5 Explain why the range (distance) of different goods and services offered in city **B** is not the same. (2 x 2) (4)

4.3.5 Distance travelled (range) will depend on the order of the goods/service (2)
High order goods/services/consumer goods have a greater range and draw customers from farther away (2)
Low order goods/services/basic commodities/convenience goods have a shorter range therefore people not prepared to travel very far (2)
Cost of goods/services – the cheaper, the shorter the distance/the more expensive, the farther the distance (2)
[ANY TWO] (2 x 2) (4)



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4.3.6 According to the urban hierarchy of settlements, why are there more low-order centres (towns) than high-order centres (cities)? (2 x 2) (4)

- 4.3.6 People not prepared to travel long distances to obtain lower order goods/services/convenience goods/functions (2)
- More low order centres will exist to provide for the daily needs of people/goods/functions that are frequently needed (2)
- Increased costs to obtain low order goods/services/functions if you have to travel to high order centres for daily needs (2)
- Low order centres serve a small area (2)
- High order goods and services are not required daily/less frequently (2)
- Fewer outlets provide high order goods/services/functions/not regular use of services (2)
- People are prepared to travel long distances to obtain high order goods/services/functions therefore fewer high order centres needed (2)
- High order centres serve a large area (2)
- Economic progression - as economic development takes place, some smaller centres will grow into larger centres (as number of goods/services/functions increases, that town will grow) (2)

[ANY TWO]

(2 x 2) (4)

R. Davechand 2020