

ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 12**Human Settlements**

Geography · Chapter 4 · Use this with the Board Paper · Companion to Quick Drill

HOW TO USE

Attempt the Board Paper first (closed-book, full time). Then come here. For 2-mark+ questions, compare your answer to the model. For 3-4 mark questions, also consult the **Topper Templates** below — these show the exact step-by-step structure that scores full marks per CBSE marking-scheme conventions.

MODEL ANSWERS · BOARD PAPER**Section A — VSA (1 mark × 4)****Q1. Name the four types of rural settlements on the basis of form. [1 mark]****Ans:** Compact/clustered, semi-clustered/fragmented, hamleted and dispersed/isolated.**Q2. Who coined the term 'conurbation'? [1 mark]****Ans:** The Scottish planner Patrick Geddes, in 1915.**Q3. What is a million city? [1 mark]****Ans:** A city with a population of more than one million (10 lakh).**Q4. What is a dry-point settlement? [1 mark]****Ans:** A settlement built on a dry, elevated patch (mound, levee or terrace) in water-logged or flood-prone tracts, to escape inundation.**Section B — SA-I (3 marks × 2)****Q5. Distinguish between rural and urban settlements. [3 marks]****Ans:** RURAL settlements are dominated by PRIMARY (agricultural) activities — farming, fishing, forestry — while URBAN settlements are dominated by SECONDARY (manufacturing) and TERTIARY (services) activities. URBAN settlements have HIGHER population size, density and built-up area, and typically carry an ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS (municipality, corporation). They also provide URBAN AMENITIES — piped water, sewerage, mass transport, formal markets and hospitals — at a scale rural settlements do not match.**Q6. Distinguish between a conurbation and a megalopolis. [3 marks]****Ans:** A CONURBATION (term coined by Patrick GEDDES, 1915) is a continuous urban region formed by the MERGER of several originally separate towns or cities into one built-up zone — e.g. Greater London, Tokyo. A MEGALOPOLIS (term coined by Jean GOTTMANN, 1957) is a much larger 'super-metropolitan' region of MANY conurbations and cities knit together by transport corridors, the classic example being the BOSTON-WASHINGTON belt of the US east coast. A megalopolis contains conurbations; not every conurbation grows into a megalopolis.**Section C — SA-II (5 marks × 3)****Q7. Describe any four types of rural settlements on the basis of their forms. [5 marks]****Ans:** By SHAPE and degree of agglomeration, rural settlements are of four types. (1) COMPACT (CLUSTERED) — closely-built single agglomeration with a clear nucleus, on FERTILE ALLUVIAL PLAINS (Punjab, Haryana, western UP); formed for security, kinship and intensive farming. (2) SEMI-CLUSTERED — a small main cluster with one or two outlying smaller clusters, from social segregation or fragmentation; Gujarat plains, parts of Rajasthan. (3) HAMLETED — village fragmented into SEVERAL HAMLETS (para, palli, nagla, dhani), separated but bearing one name; middle and lower GANGA PLAIN, Chhattisgarh, lower Himalaya. (4) DISPERSED — scattered single huts or 2-3-hut clusters on remote hills, jungle clearings or individual fields, no nucleus; MEGHALAYA, Arunachal, Kerala backwoods.

Q8. Explain the functional classification of urban settlements with examples. [5 marks]

Ans: Urban settlements are classified by their **DOMINANT FUNCTION**; the standard scheme is by Chauncy HARRIS (1943). (1) **ADMINISTRATIVE** — seat of government (New Delhi, Washington). (2) **DEFENSIVE** — forts/garrisons on strategic routes (Jodhpur, Jhansi). (3) **CULTURAL** — religion, pilgrimage, learning (Varanasi, Jerusalem, Oxford). (4) **RECREATIONAL/TOURIST** — leisure and scenery (Shimla, Nainital, Las Vegas). (5) **INDUSTRIAL** — manufacturing (Jamshedpur, Pittsburgh, Detroit). (6) **MINING** — mineral extraction (Dhanbad, Khetri, Kalgoorlie). (7) **TRANSPORT** — rail, port or air nodes (Mughalsarai, Singapore, Aden). (8) **COMMERCIAL/TRADING** — trade and finance (Agra, Frankfurt). Most cities are **MULTI-FUNCTIONAL** and the leading function **CHANGES** over time.

Q9. Explain the major problems of human settlements in developing countries. [5 marks]

Ans: In developing countries, urbanisation has **OUTSTRIPPED** city capacity, producing inter-linked problems. (1) **HOUSING SHORTAGE** and **SLUMS** — migrants in sub-standard housing of mud, plastic and tin in informal settlements such as Dharavi (Mumbai), no secure tenure. (2) **WATER SHORTAGE** — piped supply intermittent, ground-water tables fall, urban poor buy from tankers. (3) **POOR SANITATION** — sewerage covers a fraction; untreated sewage drives outbreaks of cholera, diarrhoea, dengue. (4) **TRAFFIC CONGESTION** — private vehicles on inadequate roads produce gridlock in Delhi, Bengaluru, Jakarta, Lagos. (5) **AIR POLLUTION** — vehicle exhaust and waste burning push PM2.5 above WHO limits. Root cause: **RAPID, UNPLANNED** urbanisation; solutions: **PLANNED LAND USE**, public transport, affordable housing and **DECENTRALISATION** to smaller towns.

Section D — Long Answer (2 marks × 1)

Q10. What is the difference between a wet-point and a dry-point settlement? Give one example of each. [2 marks]

Ans: A **WET-POINT** settlement forms where water is **SCARCE** (dry, semi-arid tracts) — the settlement clusters **AROUND** a spring, well or oasis, e.g. oasis villages of the Thar/Sahara. A **DRY-POINT** settlement forms where water is **ABUNDANT** but **DANGEROUS** (water-logged/flood-prone tracts) — the village is built on a **DRY, ELEVATED** patch (natural levee, mound, terrace) to **ESCAPE** inundation, e.g. levee villages on the Brahmaputra floodplain. Wet-point **SEEKS** water; dry-point **ESCAPES** it.

★ TOPPER ANSWER TEMPLATES

4 TEMPLATES · MEMORISE THE FORMAT

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'Describe the four types of rural settlements on the basis of forms.'

Annual

Step 1
[1 mark] **Setup**

On the basis of **SHAPE** and **DEGREE** of agglomeration, rural settlements in India are classified into **FOUR** types — compact/clustered, semi-clustered/fragmented, hamleted and dispersed/isolated.

Step 2
[1 mark] **Compact / clustered**

COMPACT (CLUSTERED) settlements are a closely-built single agglomeration of houses, with a clear nucleus of streets and lanes, typically found on **FERTILE ALLUVIAL PLAINS** and in the northern states (Punjab, Haryana, UP). They form for **SECURITY**, kinship and intensive farming.

Step 3
[1 mark] **Semi-clustered / fragmented**

SEMI-CLUSTERED (FRAGMENTED) settlements have a small main cluster with one or two outlying smaller clusters, often arising from segregation of a dominant community from others, or from fragmentation of a once-compact village. Found in Gujarat plains and parts of Rajasthan.

Step 4
[1 mark] **Hamleted**

HAMLETED settlements consist of a village fragmented into **SEVERAL SMALL UNITS** called **HAMLETS** (paras, palli, nagla, dhani), physically separated but bearing a common name. Typical of the middle and lower Ganga plain, Chhattisgarh and the lower Himalayas.

Step 5
[1 mark] **Dispersed / isolated**

DISPERSED (ISOLATED) settlements are extremely scattered — isolated huts or small hamlets of a few huts on remote hills, in jungle clearings or on individual fields. Found in Meghalaya, Arunachal, Kerala backwoods and parts of the central Indian uplands.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Naming the four types without giving one region per type.
- Confusing semi-clustered with hamleted (semi-clustered = main + outlier; hamleted = many equal-sized units).
- Calling dispersed 'small clusters' — they are isolated farmsteads.
- Omitting the underlying cause (security, fragmentation, terrain).

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'Explain the functional classification of urban settlements.'**

Most years

Step 1 [1 mark]	Setup + classifier	Urban settlements are classified by their DOMINANT FUNCTION . The most widely used scheme was proposed by Chauncy HARRIS (1943) and identifies several broad functional categories, though most cities are multi-functional.
Step 2 [1 mark]	Administrative + defensive	ADMINISTRATIVE towns host the seat of government — national, state or district capitals (New Delhi, Washington, Canberra). DEFENSIVE towns originated as forts or garrisons guarding strategic routes (Jodhpur, Jhansi).
Step 3 [1 mark]	Cultural + recreational	CULTURAL towns are centres of religion, pilgrimage or learning (Varanasi, Jerusalem, Vatican City, Oxford). RECREATIONAL/TOURIST towns thrive on leisure and scenery (Shimla, Nainital, Miami, Las Vegas).
Step 4 [1 mark]	Industrial + mining + transport	INDUSTRIAL towns are dominated by manufacturing (Pittsburgh, Jamshedpur, Detroit). MINING towns grow on mineral extraction (Dhanbad, Kalgoorlie, Khetri). TRANSPORT towns are nodes on rail/port/air networks (Mughalsarai, Singapore, Aden).
Step 5 [1 mark]	Commercial / trading + caveat	COMMERCIAL/TRADING towns specialise in trade and commerce (Agra, Lahore, Frankfurt). Most cities are MULTI-FUNCTIONAL , and a city's leading function can CHANGE over time as the economy evolves.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Listing functions without one named example per function.
- Omitting Chauncy Harris as the classifier.
- Missing the 'multi-functional + changes over time' caveat.
- Confusing administrative with cultural towns.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'Explain the problems of human settlements in developing countries.'**

Most years

Step 1 [1 mark]	Setup	In DEVELOPING countries, the pace of urbanisation has far OUTSTRIPPED the capacity of cities to provide housing, services and infrastructure, producing a cluster of inter-linked problems.
Step 2 [1 mark]	Housing + slums	SHORTAGE OF HOUSING and proliferation of SLUMS — large numbers of migrants live in sub-standard housing made of mud, plastic and tin sheets in informal settlements (Dharavi in Mumbai, Kibera in Nairobi), without secure tenure.
Step 3 [1 mark]	Water + sanitation	WATER SHORTAGE and POOR SANITATION — piped water supply is irregular, groundwater tables fall, and sewerage covers only a fraction of the population, exposing slum dwellers to repeated outbreaks of cholera, diarrhoea and dengue.
Step 4 [1 mark]	Traffic + pollution	TRAFFIC CONGESTION and AIR POLLUTION — explosive growth in private vehicles on inadequate roads produces gridlock and high concentrations of PM2.5, CO and NOx; Indian metros routinely breach WHO air-quality limits.
Step 5 [1 mark]	Synthesis	The root cause is RAPID, UNPLANNED urbanisation; the solutions lie in planned land use, public transport, affordable housing schemes and decentralisation of smaller towns to absorb the rural-urban shift.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Listing only three problems out of five.
- Saying problems are caused by poverty alone (the trigger is rapid unplanned urbanisation).
- No real-world example for slums or pollution.
- Missing the planning/decentralisation conclusion line.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 3-mark: 'Distinguish between rural and urban settlements.'**

Most years

Step 1 [1 mark]	Occupational structure	RURAL settlements are dominated by PRIMARY (agricultural) activities — farming, fishing, forestry — while URBAN settlements are dominated by SECONDARY (manufacturing) and TERTIARY (services) activities.
Step 2 [1 mark]	Size + density	Urban settlements have a HIGHER population size, density and built-up area; rural settlements are smaller, lower-density and surrounded by farmland.
Step 3 [1 mark]	Administration + amenities	Urban settlements carry an administrative tag (municipality/corporation) and provide piped water, sewerage and public transport; rural settlements typically do not.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Saying 'urban means bigger' as the only distinction.
- Missing the primary-vs-secondary/tertiary occupational shift.
- Forgetting the administrative-status criterion.

MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES

- Thinker attributions: Patrick Geddes = conurbation; Jean Gottmann = megalopolis; Chauncy Harris = functional classification. Reversing them loses marks.
- Each correctly named rural type / urban function / urban problem carries roughly one mark; naming without explaining or without an example earns only partial credit.
- One Indian region or named city is mandatory for every rural type and urban function for full marks.
- On the urban problems question, stating the root cause (rapid unplanned urbanisation) and one solution (planning/public transport/decentralisation) earns the synthesis mark.
- Wet-point seeks water, dry-point escapes it — reversing them is a frequent error and costs both marks on the 2-marker.
- A clean labelled sketch of the four rural shapes can earn one extra mark in the 5-mark rural-types question.