

## Settlement Revision Notes

### Patterns in the distribution of Irish settlement

The location of Irish settlement is related to a number of factors:

#### (1) Social and historical:

##### **Pre-Christian settlers**

- The first settlers in Ireland were hunters and gathers (approx. 9,000 years ago). The main evidence for them was found at the archaeological site at Mount Sandel beside the River Bann, Derry.
- They used the river for water, food and transport.
- Stone Age settlers (left behind megalithic tombs) were located in the Boyne Valley beside the River Boyne.
- The river was used as a mean of communication, water supply and food.
- The valley has good fertile soils for farming and a warmer southerly aspect.

##### **Vikings**

- Viking traders arrived in the 9<sup>th</sup> century from Scandinavia they settled near the coast or along the main Irish rivers.
- They raided many monasteries in Ireland.
- Evidence of their settlement is town names ending in fiord e.g. Wexford.

##### **Early Christian settlers**

- Irish monks built many monasteries often in remote places e.g. Glendalough.
- Some of these became large settlements e.g. Clonmacnoise.

##### **Normans**

- Normans arrived in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and built many towns in the South and East.
- They built castles on high land and often on the bend of a river, as it was easier to defend.
- Towns often grew up around the castles as they offered protection e.g. Carlow.

##### **Plantation**

- Planters arrived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, they built many fortified houses on estates to protect themselves from attack.
- These estates are well laid out and have fine architectural features e.g. Cahir.

#### (2) Resource and terrain:

- Altitude

Most settlement is located in the lowlands as mountainous areas repel people due to difficulty of construction, too wet and too windy.

- Drainage Patterns

River valleys have attracted much settlement in Ireland due to the water supply and rich alluvial soils e.g. Barrow.

Settlements are often located at a bridging point or ford (Ath) e.g. Baile Atha Cliath.

A lot of settlements developed due to access to the sea and coastal resources e.g. Killybegs.

- Land Quality

Settlers are attracted to the well-drained fertile lowlands mainly located in the East.

Powerful Norman families e.g. Bulters = Kilkenny, were attracted to these areas. Fertile Munster attracted English planters e.g. Sir Walter Raleigh, Youghal.

### Primacy of Dublin

- Dublin is a primate city this means that it is more than twice as big as the next largest city in the country.
- Other examples are Paris and Copenhagen.
- The growth of Dublin is because it is the seat of government, chief port, nodal point and has 30 % of the population.
- This growth has been slowed by the government through decentralisation the movement of government offices around the country e.g. Carlow = Department of Trade and Enterprise.

### Polder Settlement in the Netherlands

Polders are reclaimed land from the sea e.g. Zuyder Zee, Netherlands.

They are an expensive development to create extra space for farming and residential. It was also hoped that they would accommodate the overspill from the Randstad conurbation (ring of cities that joined together to make one large urban centre, Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam and Utrecht):

1. Dam built to cut off the sea. New Lake Ijssel formed.
2. Salt water pumped out.
3. Trial polder at Wieringermeer developed.
4. North-East polder created with road access.
5. Planned farms laid out in grid pattern with villages in a radial pattern from main centre Emmeloord.
6. More polders created at Eastern and Southern Flevoland with planned nucleated settlement.

### **Caption: Netherlands and the Zuyder Zee polder**

#### **Settlement classified by functions**

<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>River Shannon</b>	<b>River Rhine</b>
<b>Village</b>	Provides a small range of services to the locals e.g. post office.	Castleconnell	Rudesheim, medieval village.
<b>Market</b>	Wider range of services e.g. banks	Birr	Cologne
<b>Defence</b>	Many towns developed around a castle or defensive site for protection.	Athlone, a nodal and bridging point.	Cologne

<b>Resource-based</b>	Rely on the exploitation of a nearby resource e.g. coal.	Shannonbridge, has a large peat fuelled power station.	Ruhr valley, nearly exhausted coalfields.
<b>Port</b>	Found along a deep estuary with docking facilities and warehouses.	Foynes, for the heavy industry Aughinish Alumina.	Rotterdam, large port 20 % of Europe's oil enters it.
<b>Residential/Dormitory</b>	People live in the suburbs of towns commuting to work daily.	Limerick	Cologne
<b>Recreation</b>	Holiday resorts with leisure activities as their main employment.	Killaloe, boating activities in Lough Derg.	Basel, centre for watersports.
<b>Ecclesiastical</b>	Many towns developed around ecclesiastical sites for protection, education and spiritual needs.	Clonmacnoise	Cologne, Christian origins 200 A.D.

### Multi-functional Settlement

(Large settlements often have a combination of the above functions.)

<b>Limerick (River Shannon)</b>	<b>Cologne/Koln (River Rhine)</b>
<u>Defensive</u> The Vikings, then the Normans settled here building castles, defensive function ended after the Treaty of Limerick 1691.	<u>Recreational</u> Cologne is a major urban tourist centre and the largest historic town in Germany with specialist trade fairs and buildings.
<u>Market</u> Limerick developed as a market town due to the port, bridging and nodal point. It is near to the Golden Vale farming region	<u>Market</u> Cologne developed as a market centre due to the port, bridging and nodal point.
<u>Residential</u> Limerick is a rapidly expanding residential centre with many jobs in education and health.	<u>Port</u> Most important port and distribution centre, it can facilitate large ships and cargo e.g. Ford car assembly components.

### Settlements change in function over time

(Marking Scheme: 10 marks, named town/city 1 mark and three functions @ 3 marks each, 2 marks statement and 1 mark development)

#### (1) Mining in Navan:

- Navan, Co. Meath is a market and manufacturing town.
- In 1977 Tara Mines (resource-based function), one of the largest lead and zinc mines in Europe, opened.
- It had a huge impact on population growth (1971 = 5,907 and in 2002 = 21,436), employment (650 employees) and the local urban economy e.g. retail outlets, there is also a high quality of life.

- Navan's growth, between 1961 and 2002, has also been caused by an overspill from Dublin, as it is now becoming a commuter town.

(2) Large scale industrial development in Clarecastle:

- Clarecastle, Co.Clare is a bridging point and had a past defensive function, with Normans in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and then later as a garrison for British soldiers stationed there.
- Clarecastle also had a past port function, importing corn from Ennis in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Clarecastle now has a manufacturing function with the opening of a large chemical plant Syntex Ireland (Roche Pharmaceutical) in the 1970's.
- Clarecastle close to Shannon International Airport for easy transport of goods.

Development of Communication links

Communication links are roads, rail, airports, seaports, internet and phone.

(1) Irish road network:

- Regular movement of people and goods around the country has led to a good road network.
- Growth in car ownership has led to improvements in the road network with ring-roads, by-passes and motorways.
- The governments National Spatial Strategy (2002) looks about continuing to develop the road network.

(2) Rhine river transport

- The Rhine is Europe's most important artery of trade.
- Rotterdam-Europort at the mouth of the Rhine is one of the world's largest ports.
- Ships carrying raw materials e.g. metal ores can travel from Rotterdam to Basel in Switzerland.
- A lot of heavily industrialised cities have developed along the course of the river.
- The Rhine is connected to many other canals and waterways in Europe.

**Higher Level Only**

(3) EU airports

Air transport is popular due to competition between airlines, wealthy population and increase in number of flights.

Charles de Gaulle airport, France is one of the world's busiest airports.

It is connected to the A1 motorway to Paris and French TGV rail service.

It has helped develop industry and businesses in Roissy-en-France, a local town.