**The ‘Leisure Hierarchy’**

The availability of leisure facilities varies according to the size of the settlement. Each leisure facility is influenced by:

1. Its **threshold population** – the number of people needed to support the facility
2. Its catchment area or **sphere of influence** – the size of the area that the facility serves
3. Its **range** – the maximum distance people are prepared to travel to use the facility



Smaller settlements offer leisure facilities that can survive on a smaller **threshold population** with a smaller **sphere of influence** and **range**.

Larger settlements have **higher order** leisure facilities/services. These include specialized services that need a large **threshold population**.

**Activity 1**

**Classify the following leisure facilities according to the size of settlement in the table below:**

Garden centre Leisure Centre Gym Theatre Restaurant Resort Hotel

Country Park Community Centre Museum Horse Riding Centre Local Bar

Library Hotel/Guesthouse Travel Agents Bowling Alley Nature Reserve

Nightclub Specialist Sports Shop Sports Field Cinema Post Office

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Size of settlement**  | **Leisure Facilities/Services** |
| City |  |
| Town  |  |
| Village |  |
| Hamlet  |  |

**Intra-Urban Leisure Patterns**

From the centre to the edge, the availability of leisure facilities varies between zones (‘intra-urban’) of a city too. This diagram shows the zones of a typical MEDC city:

**Rural –Urban Fringe:** The edge of the city where urban and rural land uses mix
**Suburbs:** A largely residential zone with larger houses with gardens
**Transition Zone:** A zone characterized by industry/warehouses and inner city housing, some of which has been **gentrified**
**Central Business District:** The commercial and economic core with the highest accessibility and highest land values

**Activity 2**

Imagine you are completing a land use **transect** from the Central Business District (CBD) to the Rural-Urban Fringe to record the variation in leisure facilities from the centre to the edge of the city.

**As you walk from the CBD outwards, what would you expect to find and why?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Urban Zone** | **Leisure Facilities** | **Explanation** |
| Central Business District  |  |  |
| Transition Zone |  |  |
| Suburbs |  |  |
| Rural-Urban Fringe  |  |  |

**Activity 3: Open Spaces in Urban Areas**

Open spaces, including city parks nearer the centre and country parks on the edge of the city, are regarded as an important land use in any urban area. Give **at least three reasons** why it is important for city planners to ensure that there is sufficient open spaces for urban residents.

**Activity 4: Applying an urban leisure hierarchy model to Bangkok:
How well does it fit?**

Here is a model that shows the typical distribution of leisure facilities in an urban area according to a ‘leisure hierarchy’:



**Draw an annotated sketch map of the leisure facilities in and around Bangkok.**

1. In your annotations, describe and explain the distribution of facilities.

**You could include the following leisure facilities in Bangkok:**

Golf courses Muay Thai Arena’s Shopping Centres Parks Night Clubs

Horse racing Creative Arts/Music School Pubs, bars & restaurants Water Sports

Movie Theatres Shopping Market Temples Night Markets Hotels

Massage Parlours Fishing Ponds Spots Clubs Zoos/Safaris Amusement Parks

**Use the links to interactive maps on the Internal Assessment wiki to help you!**

1. How well does Bangkok’s distribution of leisure facilities fit the model above?

**Constructing an annotated map takes some skill, although you do not have to be artistic. Make sure all your annotations are clearly linked by arrows to your map. Using a key to classify different zones on your map is a good idea too. Have a look at this example of an annotated map to explain population distribution in Brazil:**

