



Isle of Wight – service provision on a small island in southern England

A good way of comparing the population thresholds of different services is to carry out a land use survey. Figure D and graph E show results of a survey of service provision for the Isle of Wight, which has a population of 138 400. Its largest town, the coastal holiday resort of Ryde, has 18 700 inhabitants. Photo C shows the town of Ryde.

Because each type and level of service has its own population threshold, it also requires a minimum area from which enough people can be drawn. This is called its **catchment area**. Low order goods such as bread and newspapers, which are cheap and bought frequently, have much smaller catchment areas than high order (expensive) items like beds and cars. Another term for 'catchment area' is **sphere of influence**.

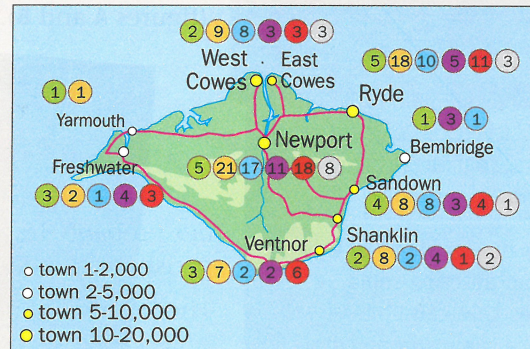


C An aerial view of Ryde

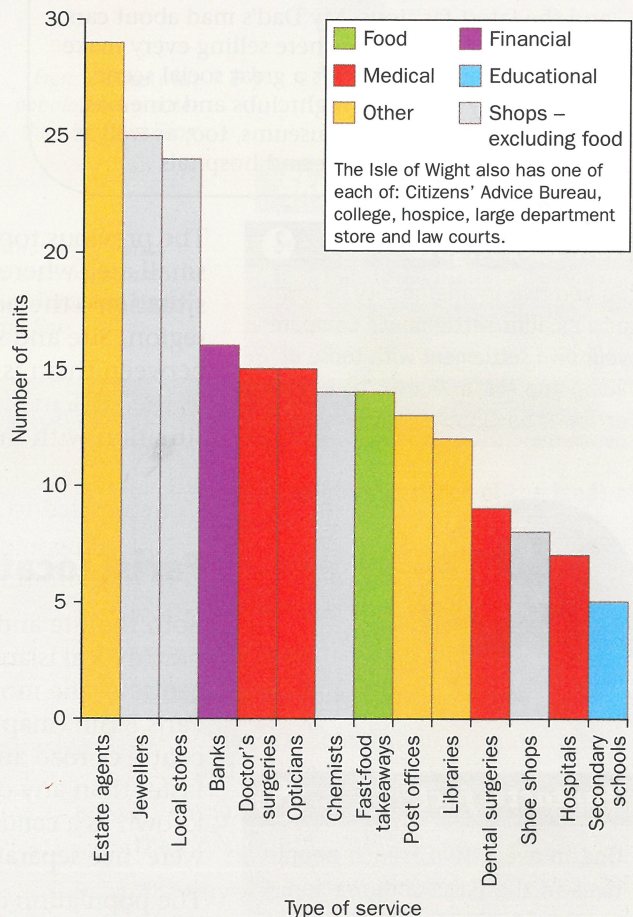
Now Investigate



- 1 Imagine that you have been given the job of planning a new leisure centre to meet the recreational needs of your local community. What criteria (for example transport and threshold population) will you need to consider to make sure that the new centre will be a success?
- 2 Suggest why the threshold population of a doctor's surgery might be different from that of a dentist's surgery.
- 3 Look at map D and explain why Newport has more services than Ryde?



D Distribution of services on the Isle of Wight



E The number of businesses in some of the Isle of Wight's different kinds of services