

3.8 Human Population Dynamics

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS doubling time • crude birth rate • crude death rate

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **human population dynamics**.

You must be able to:

- use **crude birth rate** and **crude death rate**
- calculate a growth rate and the **doubling time** (rule of 70)
- explain factors affecting human populations

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later – follow the steps and you can do the Practice and Exam-style questions yourself.

■ Birth and death rates

Crude birth rate (CBR) and **crude death rate (CDR)** are births/deaths per 1000 people per year. The natural growth rate is:

$$\% \text{ growth} = \frac{\text{CBR} - \text{CDR}}{10}.$$

(Dividing by 10 converts “per 1000” to a percentage.)

■ A worked growth rate

$$\text{CBR} = 30, \text{CDR} = 10: \text{growth} = \frac{30 - 10}{10} = 2\% \text{ per year.}$$

■ Doubling time (rule of 70)

The time for a population to double is approximately:

$$\text{doubling time} \approx \frac{70}{\% \text{ growth rate}}.$$

At 2%, doubling time = $70/2 = 35$ years.

■ Factors

Growth is affected by health care (lowers CDR), education, economic development, and family planning (lower CBR).

2 Practice

Now apply the methods above.

2.1 A country has $\text{CBR} = 25$ and $\text{CDR} = 5$. Find the percent growth rate. [2]

2.2 Write the rule-of-70 doubling-time formula. [1]

2.3 Find the doubling time for a 2% growth rate. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The doubling time for a population growing at 3.5% is about [1]

- ☐ **A** 10 years
B 20 years
C 35 years
D 70 years

3.2 A country has $\text{CBR} = 40$ and $\text{CDR} = 12$ per 1000.

(a) Find the percent growth rate. [2]

(b) Find the doubling time. [2]

3.3 Explain how improved health care can, at first, increase population growth. [2]