

Exercise walk-through

2.7

Population Policies

AP Human Geography

Population policies and mechanisms

Policy aim	Original hypothetical example
Pro-natalist	Subsidised childcare reduces a cost of raising children; fertility may respond, depending on family goals and other barriers.
Anti-natalist	A voluntary family-planning programme intended to reduce births expands access to contraception and information.

Distinguish the stated aim, implementation and observed outcome. Voluntary access and coercive restrictions are different policy instruments.

Policy evaluation: attempt

Original scenario: a government offers childcare subsidies. Five years later, births rise, but a large cohort has also entered reproductive ages.

Can the birth count alone prove that the policy raised fertility? Identify the missing indicator and one plausible alternative explanation.

Policy evaluation: worked check

Two explanations fit the reported rise in births.

Policy mechanism: cheaper childcare could enable more desired births per woman.
Test age-specific fertility rates or TFR before and after the policy.

Cohort mechanism: more people enter reproductive ages; births rise even if fertility rates do not. Examine the size of reproductive-age cohorts.

Neither mechanism is established by a birth count alone. Timing, other policies and economic conditions also matter for attribution.

Immigration policy and population composition

A hypothetical government expands temporary visas for nurses. This can increase immigration and ease specific vacancies if qualifications are recognised.

Age and occupational selection can change population composition. Temporary visas need not create permanent settlement, and total change still depends on births, deaths and emigration.

To evaluate the policy, examine arrivals, departures, visa duration and employment. Admission targets alone do not establish actual population growth.

Unintended consequences and choices

Lower fertility can contribute to later aging. Birth restrictions can interact with son preference and sex-selective behaviour, but a skewed sex ratio is not an automatic result of every family-planning programme.

Governments can consider childcare, participation, retirement policy, migration and productivity in different combinations. A pro-natal response is one option, not a necessary later stage.

Evaluate effects on particular groups and time periods; a policy label alone does not establish its success.

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 Define a pro-natalist policy and give one example. [2]

2.2 Explain why a low-fertility country might adopt a pro-natalist policy. [2]

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2.1 Define a pro-natalist policy and give one example. [2]

2.1

- a policy encouraging more births; e.g. baby bonuses, paid parental leave, childcare subsidies

2.2 Explain why a low-fertility country might adopt a pro-natalist policy. [2]

2.2

- its workforce is shrinking and population aging; more births would sustain the labour force and support the elderly

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A rapidly growing country introduces family-planning limits.

(a) What type of policy is this?

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

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(a) What type of policy is this?

[1]

(a)

- anti-natalist

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A rapidly growing country introduces family-planning limits.

(b) State one unintended consequence such a policy can cause.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A rapidly growing country introduces family-planning limits.

(b) State one unintended consequence such a policy can cause.

[1]

(b)

- skewed sex ratio, aging population, or future labour shortage

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Offering cash bonuses for each new baby is a

[1]

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A anti-natalist policy

B pro-natalist policy

C migration policy

D measure of development

3.2 A country worried about resource strain from rapid growth is most likely to adopt an

[1]

☐

A pro-natalist policy

B anti-natalist policy

C open-border policy

D aging policy

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Offering cash bonuses for each new baby is a

[1]

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- A anti-natalist policy
- B pro-natalist policy
- C migration policy
- D measure of development

3.1 B

- rewarding births encourages them – pro-natalist

3.2 A country worried about resource strain from rapid growth is most likely to adopt an

[1]

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- A pro-natalist policy
- B anti-natalist policy
- C open-border policy
- D aging policy

3.2 B

- to slow growth it discourages births – anti-natalist

Exercise 3.3

3.3 Decades after a strict one-child policy, a country now offers incentives to have more children.

(a) Explain why the policy switched from anti- to pro-natalist.

[2]

Exercise 3.3

3.3 Decades after a strict one-child policy, a country now offers incentives to have more children.

(a) Explain why the policy switched from anti- to pro-natalist. [2]

3.3

(a)

- the earlier policy over-lowered fertility, causing an aging population and shrinking workforce, so the government now encourages births to rebalance