
Every FRQ is scored point by point, and nearly every point needs the term APPLIED to a named place or the scenario. Below, each sentence is annotated with what it earns – and notice that a scoring answer is two or three sentences, not a paragraph.

Structure of an answer

Label the parts (A), (B), (C). No introduction, no conclusion, no restatement of the prompt – none of them can earn a point.

Match the task verb: DESCRIBE gives characteristics, EXPLAIN gives a cause, COMPARE gives both sides.

I (A) Define the demographic transition model. (B) Explain ONE reason a country in Stage 2 experiences rapid population growth. (C) Explain ONE consequence of that growth for the country's economy.

(A) The demographic transition model describes how a country's birth and death rates change as it develops, moving through stages from high birth and death rates to low ones. (B) A country in Stage 2 experiences rapid growth because death rates fall sharply – through improved sanitation, food supply and medicine – while birth rates remain high, since family size responds to cultural and economic expectations only after a delay. The widening gap between the two produces natural increase. (C) That growth produces a large youth-dependent population, so a high share of national income must go to schooling and healthcare rather than to productive investment, which slows capital accumulation until the cohort reaches working age.

Commentary: (A) is a definition and stops there – the prompt said DEFINE, and adding an example wastes time.

Commentary: (B) explains the MECHANISM (why death rates fall, why birth rates lag) rather than stating that they diverge.

Commentary: (C) runs to an economic consequence and names it. 'There are lots of children' describes; 'income goes to schooling rather than investment' explains.

Using a stimulus

If a map, chart or table is supplied, the points expect it to be used. Cite a value from it.

I (D) Using the map, identify the region with the highest physiological density and explain why it differs from its arithmetic density.

(D) The Nile valley in Egypt shows the highest physiological density. Physiological density divides population by ARABLE land rather than by total land, and because almost all of Egypt is desert, the small cultivable area produces a physiological density many times its arithmetic density – which is why arithmetic density understates the pressure on Egypt's farmland.

Commentary: The region is NAMED specifically. 'Africa' or 'the north' would not earn the point.

Commentary: The distinction is explained through the data, not merely defined – the reason the two measures diverge IS the answer.