

Past-paper walk-through

Population Policies ■ 2.7

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2024 Set 2 Q3
- 2023 Set 1 Q1

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 3

2024 Set 2 ■ Q3

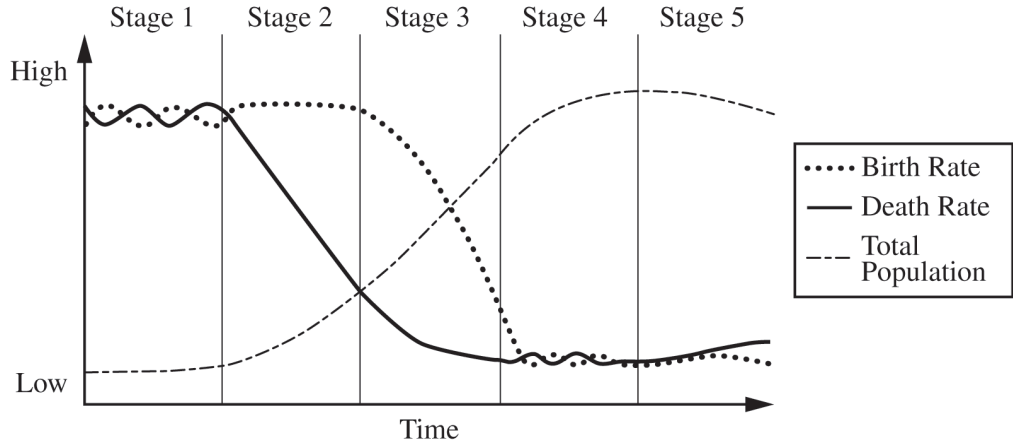
The demographic transition model can be used to theorize the changes in a country's total population over time.

- (a)** Select ONE country listed in the table and identify its stage in the demographic transition model.
- (b)** Define the concept of a pronatalist policy.
- (c)** Explain ONE factor that affects birth rates as countries move from stage 3 to stage 4 in the demographic transition model.
- (d)** Describe ONE likely economic effect when countries have negative population growth.
- (e)** Based on the data shown in the table, describe a policy that a government might develop in response to demographic change.

Question 3

- (f)** Explain ONE reason why the life expectancy in urban areas may be higher than the life expectancy in the entire country.
- (g)** Using the data in the table, explain how, over time, low birth rates may impact the country's percent of population over age 65.

Question 3



Solution 3

(a)

Mark scheme

- - Any country in the table (Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Japan, Portugal, or Romania) and stage 4 or stage 5.

Solution 3

(b)

Mark scheme

- - Pronatalist policies are those that encourage or promote population growth.
- - Government programs that provide incentives (e.g., longer parental leave, childcare, tax credits) for increasing fertility rates and/or population growth.
- - Pronatalist policies are designed to increase the birth rate and/or the fertility rate of an area.

Solution 3

(c) Mark scheme

- - Increased access to health care, contraceptives, and/or other family planning information tends to reduce the number of children born.
- - Increased access to education and/or employment of women is generally associated with lower fertility.
- - More people live in urban areas where space is limited or the cost of living makes raising children more expensive, reducing the birth rate.
- - People may have fewer children over time as agricultural production requires less labor (e.g., mechanization, agricultural chemicals).

Solution 3

- - Decreases in infant and/or child mortality rates may reduce the need to have more children.
- - Government policies and/or programs may reduce fertility (e.g., antinatalist policies).

Solution 3

(d) Mark scheme

- - A country with an aging population or a high elder dependency ratio may spend more money on programs for the elderly or retired.
- - A low youth dependency ratio may create an opportunity for public funds to be shifted from education and/or childcare needs to social services for the elderly.
- - Countries may not have a large enough workforce or enough working-aged people to support the economy and/or pay taxes.
- - Employers may need migrants to supplement declining labor pools and/or a smaller workforce.

Solution 3

- - Primary sector activities that are labor-intensive may be limited as the economy shifts to activities that require fewer workers.
- - Economies may shift from labor-intensive primary and/or secondary sector activities to tertiary or higher-sector activities that can be performed by an aging workforce or outsourced to workers in other countries.
- - Large companies may create economies of scale and/or increase usage of technology to create more efficient production processes that use fewer workers.
- - Economic stagnation and/or decline may occur when there are fewer people to purchase goods, real estate, and/or services.

Solution 3

(e) Mark scheme

- - Governments might implement pronatalist or population growth policies and/or increase immigration.
- - Pro-immigration policies might include expanding access to public benefits or services and/or provide assistance with assimilation.
- - Pronatalist policies might include increased parental leave, increased tax incentives, government-subsidized childcare, and/or family-friendly employment law.
- - Governments might redesign finance or tax structures (e.g., changes to social security and/or pension systems) that affect the elderly population.

Solution 3

- - Governments might expand health care options for the elderly population (e.g., retirement or nursing homes, health clinics, specialty hospitals), and/or governments might train professionals specializing in geriatric health care.
- - Governments might support programs to meet the social needs of senior citizens (e.g., adult day care, senior centers, senior housing).
- - Governments might support policies that improve infrastructure to make landscapes, signage, transportation, and/or buildings more friendly to the elderly.
- - Governments might try to slow or halt rural population loss by improving rural-to- urban transportation systems, encouraging remote work, and/or promoting rural economic growth (e.g., tourism, industry).

Solution 3

(f) Mark scheme

- - Urban areas may have better access to food, health care, sanitation, and/or social services.
- - There may be greater access to education, nutritional information, and/or health information in urban areas.
- - Urban working conditions may include shorter daily working hours, fewer weekly hours, less physically demanding work, and/or better safety (e.g., fewer work accidents).
- - Urban living may lead to healthier lifestyles due to greater access to recreation facilities, sports activities, walkable cities, and/or bikeable cities.

Solution 3

(g)

Mark scheme

- - Low birth rates may lead to an increase in the percent of population over age 65 because the overall population ages and/or there are fewer children.
- - If birth rates drop below death rates or if the rate of natural increase is negative, the overall population will age and/or the percent of population over age 65 will increase.

Question 1

2023 Set 1 ■ Q1

No stimulus.

The rate of natural increase (RNI), also known as the natural increase rate, helps geographers assess annual population growth or decline.

- (a)** Define the concept of RNI.
- (b)** Describe how a country may have a negative RNI.
- (c)** Compare ONE difference between RNI and the total fertility rate as indicators of population change.
- (d)** Explain ONE reason why RNI in urban areas may vary significantly from RNI in rural areas in the same country.
- (e)** Explain why there are often differences in doubling times between less developed countries and more developed countries.

Question 1

(f) Explain ONE reason ethnonationalism might lead a government to promote pronatalist policies.

(g) Explain the degree to which a unitary government may be more effective than a federal government in enforcing antinatalist policies.

Solution 1

(a)

Mark scheme

- Define RNI (1 point) — accept any: the difference between the crude birth rate and crude death rate (optionally expressed as a percentage or per thousand of population); the number of live births minus deaths per thousand population; the difference between crude birth and death rates over a set period (e.g., a year); OR the annual percent change in population NOT including immigration or emigration.

Solution 1

(b)

Mark scheme

- Describe a negative RNI (1 point): a country has a negative RNI when the death rate is higher than the birth rate (i.e., the number of deaths exceeds the number of live births) in a given year.

Solution 1

(c) Mark scheme

- Compare RNI vs total fertility rate (1 point) — accept any: RNI is the annual percent growth rate of a population (excluding migration), while TFR estimates the number of children a woman of childbearing age (15–45) may have; RNI combines crude birth and death rates while TFR involves no mortality measure; RNI is an annual statistic for a specific year while TFR is a point-in-time estimate; an RNI of 0 is zero growth while a TFR of 2.1 is replacement level; RNI predicts growth via the demographic transition while TFR predicts growth by comparison to the replacement rate (2.1).

Solution 1

(d) Mark scheme

- Explain ONE reason urban RNI differs from rural RNI (1 point) — accept any well-explained reason, e.g.: urban families have fewer children due to reduced need for agricultural labor; higher urban cost of living (housing, schooling) incentivizes fewer children; greater urban access to health care, education, or family planning lowers fertility; urban women more often work outside the home; less urban living space; higher urban female education/political power/financial stability delays or reduces childbearing; lower urban infant/child mortality reduces the need for more children. Conversely, rural areas may lack access to contraception/family planning, hold traditional pronatalist values, need child labor for agriculture, or have poorer health care raising infant mortality — all raising rural RNI.

Solution 1

(e)

Mark scheme

- Explain differing doubling times LDCs vs MDCs (1 point): LDCs have higher RNI (higher birth/fertility rates from social/economic conditions such as agrarian economies, lower female status/education, early marriage, higher infant mortality, less family planning) → shorter doubling time; MDCs have lower RNI (service/technology economies, equitable female roles, later marriage, urbanization, low infant mortality, accessible family planning) → longer doubling time.

Solution 1

(f)

Mark scheme

- Explain ONE link from ethnonationalism to pronatalist policy (1 point) — accept any: children seen as a symbol of national pride / a centripetal (cohesion) force; a larger national/ethnic population improves social cohesion; higher birth rates support territorial expansion, economic growth, irredentism, or a larger military; a theocratic state promotes births on religious grounds; boosting the majority (dominant) group's numbers increases its political power over minorities; a state with restrictive immigration promotes births to reverse population decline.

Solution 1

(g) Mark scheme

- Explain the degree to which a unitary government is more effective at antinatalist enforcement (1 point). Must include a statement of degree AND a valid reason. Moderate/high degree: a unitary government can enact uniform countrywide family-planning laws with penalties/enforcement; may run a centralized national health/insurance system delivering family planning efficiently; can deliver incentives directly with fewer levels of governance to lose funds; a federal system's regional variation weakens enforcement. Low/moderate degree: little difference if the health-care/family-planning system is inadequate or inaccessible (or, conversely, if adequate), or if the government lacks enforcement or funding capacity — in which case governance type matters little.