

Past-paper walk-through

Women and Demographic Change ■ 2.8

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 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 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.