

# 2.2 Consequences of Population Distribution

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 10 marks

## Objective

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Build the skills to answer exam questions on the consequences of **population distribution** 人口分布 and **carrying capacity** 环境承载力.

You must be able to:

- define **carrying capacity** 环境承载力
- explain economic effects of dense or sparse population
- explain political effects (representation, services)
- explain social and environmental effects of clustering

## 1 Worked examples

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Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

### ■ Carrying capacity

**Carrying capacity** is the number of people an area can support with its resources. Exceeding it strains water, food, and the environment.

### ■ Economic and political effects

Dense areas concentrate labour, markets, and services but strain housing and transport. Distribution also shapes **political power** —where people live decides representation and where governments invest.

### ■ Social and environmental effects

Clustering raises pressure on land, water, and air, and can cause crowding —but also supports services (schools, hospitals) that need a large local population.

## 2 Practice

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2.1 Define carrying capacity.

[2]

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**2.2** State one economic advantage and one disadvantage of a densely populated area. [2]

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**2.3** A remote region has a very sparse population.

(a) State one difficulty of providing services there. [1]

(b) Explain why this region may have little political influence. [1]

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### 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** If a region's population exceeds what its resources can sustain, it has exceeded its [1]

- **A** arithmetic density
  - **B** carrying capacity
  - **C** dependency ratio
  - **D** sex ratio
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**3.2** A benefit of a concentrated population for public services is that [1]

- **A** services are cheaper to provide per person
  - **B** the environment is always protected
  - **C** carrying capacity rises automatically
  - **D** migration stops
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**3.3** A crowded coastal city keeps growing.

(a) State one environmental consequence of this concentration. [1]

(b) Explain one reason people still move there despite crowding. [1]

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### 4 Go further

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- work through the **2.2 Consequences of Population Distribution** lesson on the **Learn** page;

- read the **Population and Migration** section of the AP Human Geography handout on the **Know** page.

## Solutions

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**2.1** the maximum population an area's resources/environment can support sustainably.

**2.2** advantage: large labour force/market, services viable; disadvantage: strain on housing/transport/resources.

**2.3** (a) services (schools, hospitals) are costly per person / far apart. (b) few people means fewer representatives/votes, so less political weight.

**3.1 B.** the sustainable maximum is the carrying capacity.

**3.2 A.** concentration makes services viable at lower cost per person.

**3.3** (a) pressure on water/air/land, pollution, loss of green space. (b) jobs, services, and opportunities outweigh the crowding for migrants.