

## 2.2 Consequences of Population Distribution

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

Total: 10 marks

**KEY WORDS** carrying capacity 环境承载力 • arithmetic density 算术密度  
• population distribution 人口分布 • dependency ratio 抚养比 • migration 迁移

### 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 | B |
| C | D |

**A** arithmetic density

**B** carrying capacity

**C** dependency ratio

**D** sex ratio

**3.2** A benefit of a concentrated population for public services is that [1]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |

**A** services are cheaper to provide per person

**B** the environment is always protected

**C** carrying capacity rises automatically

**D** migration stops

**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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