

## 2.3 Population Composition

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

**Total: 10 marks**

**KEY WORDS** population pyramid 人口金字塔 • dependency ratio 抚养比 • sex ratio 性别比  
• population composition 人口构成 • arithmetic density 算术密度

### Objective

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Build the skills to answer exam questions on **population composition** 人口构成 and **population pyramids** 人口金字塔.

**You must be able to:**

- read a **population pyramid** 人口金字塔 (age and sex structure)
- define the **dependency ratio** 抚养比 and **sex ratio** 性别比
- link a pyramid's shape to a country's development stage
- explain what a wide base or narrow base means

### 1 Worked examples

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

#### ■ Reading a population pyramid

A **population pyramid** shows the share of each age group by sex. A **wide base** = many children (high fertility); a **narrow base** = low fertility; bulges show large cohorts.

#### ■ Dependency and sex ratios

**Dependency ratio** compares dependents (under 15 and over 64) to the working-age population. **Sex ratio** is the number of males per 100 females.

#### ■ Shape and development

A broad-based pyramid suggests a less developed, fast-growing population; a column/urn shape suggests a developed, aging one.

## 2 Practice

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**2.1** State what a wide base on a population pyramid indicates. [2]

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**2.2** Define the dependency ratio. [2]

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**2.3** A pyramid is narrow at the base and wide in the older groups.

(a) Describe this country's fertility. [1]

(b) State one challenge this age structure creates. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** A country with a broad-based population pyramid most likely has [1]

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

**A** low fertility and an aging population

**B** high fertility and rapid growth

**C** equal numbers in every age group

**D** more males than females at all ages

**3.2** The number of males per 100 females in a population is the [1]

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

**A** dependency ratio

**B** sex ratio

**C** arithmetic density

**D** rate of natural increase

**3.3** A country has a high youth dependency ratio.

(a) State which group makes the ratio high. [1]

(b) Explain one demand this places on the government. [1]

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