

2.9 Aging Populations

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 10 marks**

KEY WORDS dependency ratio 老年抚养比 • aging populations 老龄化人口 • migration 迁移
• pro-natalist 鼓励生育

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **aging populations** 老龄化人口.

You must be able to:

- explain why populations age (low fertility, longer life)
- define the elderly **dependency ratio** 老年抚养比
- state the economic challenges of an aging population
- give one policy response to aging

1 Worked examples

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

■ Why populations age

Populations age when **fertility falls** (fewer young) and **life expectancy rises** (more elderly), enlarging the older share of the population.

■ Elderly dependency

The **elderly dependency ratio** compares people over 64 to the working-age population. A high ratio means fewer workers support each retiree.

■ Challenges and responses

Aging strains **pensions and health care** and shrinks the workforce. Responses include raising the retirement age, encouraging immigration, or pro-natalist policies.

2 Practice

2.1 State two reasons a population ages. [2]

2.2 Explain one economic challenge of an aging population. [2]

2.3 A country's over-65 share is rising fast.

(a) Name the ratio that captures this burden. [1]

(b) State one government policy to ease it. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 An aging population is caused mainly by [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** high fertility and high mortality
B low fertility and rising life expectancy
C rapid immigration of youth
D a high infant mortality rate

3.2 A policy directly aimed at offsetting a shrinking workforce is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** banning immigration
B encouraging youth immigration
C lowering the retirement age
D raising infant mortality

3.3 An aging country debates raising its retirement age.

(a) Explain how this helps with the dependency ratio. [1]

(b) State one drawback of the policy. [1]
