

2 Population density and the demographic transition – Part 1 —Answers

Answers

Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

2.1 Arithmetic density divides by ALL land, including desert and mountain that cannot feed anyone, so a country with a large uninhabitable area looks uncrowded. Physiological density divides by arable land only, so it measures how many people each unit of food-producing land must support.

2.2 $(28 - 8) \div 10 = 2.0\%$ per year.

2.3 It is below the replacement level of about 2.1, so without net in-migration the population will eventually decline and age.

2.4 A wide base narrowing steeply upwards —many young children, far fewer old people —because the birth rate is high while life expectancy is still rising.

2.5 It is based on the experience of European countries and assumes every country follows the same sequence; many developing countries moved through stage 2 far faster, with the death rate falling because of imported medicine rather than internal development.