1.2 Population challenges, policies and migration

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS ageing population • demographic dividend • anti-natalist policy • pro-natalist policy • push factor • pull factor • refugee • remittance

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **challenges and opportunities** of population change: ageing and youthful populations, the demographic dividend, **pro-natalist** and **anti-natalist policies** / , sex ratios, and the causes and effects of **migration** .

You must be able to:

- explain the problems and opportunities of ageing and youthful populations
- explain the demographic dividend
- evaluate pro-natalist and anti-natalist policies with named examples
- explain push factors, pull factors and intervening obstacles
- distinguish refugees, internally displaced people and economic migrants
- explain the effects of migration on the place of origin and the destination

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Ageing and youthful populations

- **Ageing** : Japan had about 29 % of its people aged 65 and over in 2023. Problems: fewer workers, more spending on pensions and health care. Opportunities: grandparents give childcare, older people volunteer, "silver" industries grow.
- **Youthful** : needs schools and jobs; without jobs, young people may migrate or become frustrated.
- **Demographic dividend** : when birth rates fall, for some years there are many workers and few dependants, which can speed up growth (China from the 1980s; now ending).

exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

policy	aim	example
anti-natalist	fewer births	China's one-child policy, 1980–2015
pro-natalist	more births	China's two-child (2016) and three-child (2021) policies; France's family payments
ageing	support older people	China began slowly raising the retirement age in 2025

Birth policies work slowly: births kept falling after 2021 because housing, education and childcare are expensive and people marry later. China's **sex ratio at birth** was about 111 boys per 100 girls in the 2020 census (natural level about 105).

Migration

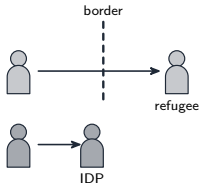
- **Push factors** drive people away (conflict, poverty, disaster); **pull factors** attract them (jobs, safety, family); **intervening obstacles** (cost, distance, borders) stop some.
- A **refugee** has crossed a border to escape war or persecution; an **internally displaced person** (IDP) has fled but stayed in their own country; an economic migrant moves mainly for work.
- About 280 million international migrants in 2020 (UN). China's 2020 census counted about 376 million people living away from where their **hukou** is registered.

	place of origin	destination
benefits	**remittances** ; less unemployment	workers; a younger population
problems	loss of young workers; children left with grandparents	pressure on housing and services; tension

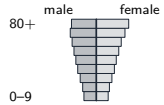
Worked example. *Evaluate a policy* in four moves: aim and date → what it did → evidence with a number → a judgement with a limit. China's one-child policy aimed to slow growth (1980); births fell; but the TFR had already fallen from about 6 in 1970 to under 3 by 1980, so the policy was not the only cause; it also raised the sex ratio and sped up ageing.

2 Practice

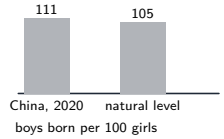
2.1 Distinguish between a **refugee** and an **internally displaced person** (IDP). [2]



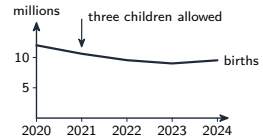
2.2 In 2023 about 29 % of Japan's people were aged 65 and over. Outline **two** problems and **one** opportunity of this ageing population. [3]



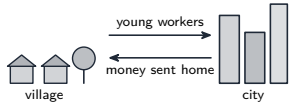
2.3 In 2020, about 111 boys were born in China for every 100 girls. The natural level is about 105. For every 1,000 girls born, calculate how many more boys were born than the natural level would give. [2]



2.4 China has allowed three children since 2021, but its births kept falling. Explain **three** reasons why the pro-natalist policy has had little effect so far. [3]



2.5 Explain **two** effects of rural–urban migration on the villages that migrants leave in China. [4]

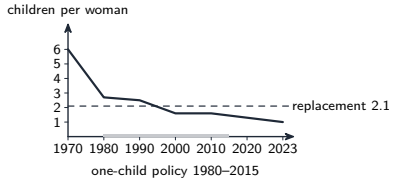


3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* The graph shows the approximate total fertility rate (TFR) in China.

(a) Describe the change in China's TFR from 1970 to 2023. Use data from the graph. [2]

(b) Explain why China's TFR fell during the 1970s, before the one-child policy began. [4]



exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

3.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of government policies that aim to change the birth rate. [10]

exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

a refugee has crossed an international border to escape war or persecution; an IDP has also been forced to flee but is still inside their own country

2.2

problems, any two: fewer people of working age / labour shortages; higher spending on pensions and health care, paid by fewer taxpayers; empty villages and closed schools in rural areas; opportunity: older people give childcare or volunteer / a "silver" market for health, leisure and care services

2.3

$1{,}000 \times \frac{111}{100} = 1{,}110$ boys, against $1{,}000 \times \frac{105}{100} = 1{,}050$; **60** more boys

2.4

any three: high costs of housing, education and childcare; people marry and have children later, or not at all; more women are educated and work, so the cost of leaving work is high; small families have become the normal choice after decades of the one-child policy; policies on births work slowly, so the effect may come later

2.5

any two, each explained: remittances pay for houses, school fees and farm inputs in the village; loss of young workers, so farmland is left unused or farmed by older people; "left-behind" children grow up with grandparents, which can affect their schooling and well-being; the village population ages, so schools close and care needs grow

3.1

(a) a large fall from about 6 in 1970 to about 1.0 in 2023; fastest in the 1970s, then slower; below the replacement level (2.1) since about 1990

(b) the "later, longer, fewer" campaign of the 1970s encouraged later marriage, longer gaps between births and fewer children; better health care meant more children survived, so families needed fewer births; more education and work for women, and contraception became available

3.2

Mark with the markbands: [9-10] focused on the command term, detailed and accurate knowledge, well-developed explanation, specific named examples (places, dates, numbers), balanced evaluation and a supported conclusion; [7-8] mostly focused, good knowledge and examples, some evaluation; [5-6] relevant knowledge and examples, explanation partly developed, little evaluation; [3-4] general knowledge, few examples, mostly description; [1-2] little that is relevant. Points that may be included: anti-natalist: China's one-child policy (1980–2015) prevented many births and slowed growth; but the TFR had already fallen to under 3 before 1980, so other factors (health, education, the 1970s campaign) did much of the work; side effects: a sex ratio of about 111 boys per 100 girls and faster ageing; pro-natalist: China's two-child (2016) and three-child (2021) policies: births still fell, to 9.54 million in 2024; costs of housing, education and childcare matter more than permission; France: family payments, tax benefits and cheap childcare; its fertility has been among the highest in the EU, though still below 2.1; pro-natalist policies seem to work best when they lower the real cost of children over many years; anti-natalist policies are easier to enforce than pro-natalist ones, because a government can limit births but cannot make people want more children; conclusion: policies can speed up or slow down change, but economic and social change explains most of it

exercises.lol exercises.com.cn