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).

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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

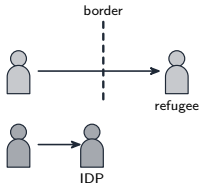
- **Push factors** drive people away (conflict, poverty, disaster); **pull factors** attract them (jobs, safety, family); **intervening obstacles** (cost, distance, borders) stop some.
- A **refugee** has crossed a border to escape war or persecution; an **internally displaced person** (IDP) has fled 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

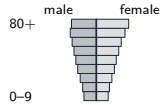
Worked example. *Evaluate a policy* in four moves: aim and date → what it did → evidence with a number → a judgement with a limit. China's one-child policy aimed to slow growth (1980); births fell; but the TFR had already fallen from about 6 in 1970 to under 3 by 1980, so the policy was not the only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

2 Practice

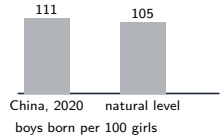
2.1 Distinguish between a **refugee** and an **internally displaced person** (IDP). [2]



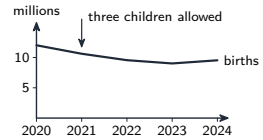
2.2 In 2023 about 29 % of Japan's people were aged 65 and over. Outline **two** problems and **one** opportunity of this ageing population. [3]



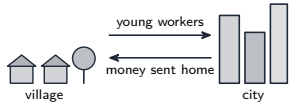
2.3 In 2020, about 111 boys were born in China for every 100 girls. The natural level is about 105. For every 1,000 girls born, calculate how many more boys were born than the natural level would give. [2]



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]

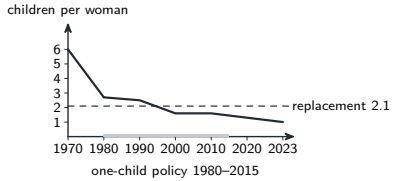


3 Exam-style questions

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]



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

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