Changing population

IB DP Geography SL core unit 1 full package (shared with HL)

1. Changing population at a glance

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IB Geography SL core unit 1 (shared with HL): population distribution and the changing population, from the measures of change through the demographic transition model, population structure and pyramids, to migration and population policy, framed by the geographic concepts power, process, possibility, scale and spatial interactions.

Must-know: CBR and CDR per 1000; NIR 18 - 9 = 0.9 percent, doubling about 78 years (rule of 70); DTM stages 1-5; pyramids expansive, stationary, constrictive; dependency ratio 90/210 = about 43; push, pull and barriers (Lee); refugees (1951 Convention) versus IDPs versus economic migrants; remittances; pro-natalist France and anti-natalist China 1979-2015.

2. Distribution and measures

Distribution and measures

Distribution follows the physical frame (climate, water, relief, soils), the economic frame (jobs, trade, cities) and history and politics. Density: arithmetic is population over area; physiological is population over arable area, exposing pressure on farmland. Sparse and dense are relative; the why carries the marks.

Measures: CBR is live births per 1000 per year, CDR deaths per 1000; natural increase is their difference (18 - 9 = 0.9 percent), doubling time about 70 over NIR percent; total change adds net migration - births minus deaths plus incomers minus outgoers.

3. Transition, structure, policy

Transition, structure, policy

The DTM: stage 1 high both; stage 2 deaths fall while births stay high (explosive growth); stage 3 births fall with education and urbanisation; stage 4 both low, near-zero growth; stage 5 births below deaths, decline. Limits: a European path, weak on migration, dated.

Pyramids: expansive (youthful, wide base), stationary, constrictive (ageing, narrow base). Dependency ratio (0-14 plus 65+) over 15-64: 90/210 = about 43. Ageing strains pensions and care; youthful strains schooling and jobs with a later dividend. Policy: pro-natalist France, anti-natalist China 1979-2015, and neutral paths through health, education and employment.

4. Migration and its impacts

Migration and its impacts

Migration is a year-plus move across a boundary: internal or international, voluntary or forced. Push factors drive out (conflict, unemployment, disaster), pull factors draw in (jobs, safety, family), and barriers (cost, distance, borders, language) moderate; Lee adds intervening obstacles and personal factors.

Refugees cross a border under the 1951 Convention; IDPs stay inside the state; economic migrants move by choice. Origins lose the young and gain remittances (a major GDP line for Nepal and the Philippines); destinations gain labour and youth and absorb integration costs. Internal migration drives urbanisation and megacity growth.

Check yourself

Check yourself

Distribution factors and the two densities; CBR/CDR units; NIR and doubling-time arithmetic.

DTM stages 1-5 with each stage logic and two model limitations.

Pyramid shapes with country profiles; dependency ratio 43; ageing versus youthful evaluated.

Push, pull and barriers; refugees versus IDPs versus economic migrants; remittances; the two policies and their trade-offs.