

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **The World Population**

#### **2MARKS**

**Question 1.**

**What was world's population at the beginning of the 21st century?**

**Answer:**

The world at the beginning of the 21st century recorded the presence of over 6 billion people.

**Question 2.**

**What did George B Cressey say about Asia's population distribution?**

**Answer:**

George B Cressey said that 'Asia has many places where people are few and few places where people are many'.

**Question 3.**

**60% of world's population is contributed by how many countries? How many of them are in Asia?**

**Answer:**

60% of world's population is contributed by 10 countries. 6 of them are in Asia.

**Question 4.**

**What is population density?**

**Answer:**

Population density is the ratio between the number of people and the size of the land.

**Question 5.**

**Which areas in the world have > 200 persons per sq. km?**

**Answer:**

NE USA, NW Europe, South, South east and East Asia.

**Question 6.**

**Name two areas with <1 person/sq. km.**

**Answer:**

North and South Poles and hot and cold deserts of the world.

**Question 7.**

**Name two countries with medium density of population.**

**Answer:**

Norway and Sweden.

**Question 8.**

**Why do people migrate?**

**Answer:**

People migrate for ^/better economic and social life.

**Question 9.**

**What was the population of the world around 8000 – 12000 years back?**

**Answer:**

Roughly 8 million was the population of the world around 8000-12000 years back.

**Question 10.**

**How long did the world take to increase its population from 5 billion to 6 billion?**

**Answer:**

It took 12 years to increase the world's population from 5 billion to 6 billion.

**Question 11.**

**What is population doubling time?**

**Answer:**

Time takes for a region to double it's population at the current growth rate.

**Question 12.**

**Which country has the highest and lowest growth rate of population respectively?**

**Answer:**

Liberia has the highest growth rate of population (8.2%).

Latvia has the lowest growth rate of population (-1.5%).

**Question 13.**

**What is the correlation between population growth and economic development?**

**Answer:**

There is a negative correlation between population growth and economic development.

**Question 14.**

**Which is the most serious problem of population growth?**

**Answer:**

Depletion of resources is the most serious problem of population growth.

**Question 15.**

**What is the world's and India's doubling time of population?**

**Answer:**

World : 37 Years and India : 36 years.

**Question 16.**

**Name a country each from the different stages of demographic transition.**

**Answer:**

1st stage : Bangladesh 2nd stage : Sri Lanka 3rd stage : USA

**Question 17.**

**What is meant by family planning?**

**Answer:**

Family planning is the spacing or preventing the birth of children.

**Question 18.**

**What do you mean by the term ‘population distribution’?**

**Answer:**

Population distribution refers to the way people are spaced over the earth’s surface. Patterns of population distribution and density help us to understand the demographic characteristics of any area.

**Question 19.**

**Mention the names of areas where density of population is very low.**

**Answer:**

- Hot Deserts — Sahara, Kalahari, Atacama and West Australia.
- Extremely Cold Areas—Northern Part of Canada, Greenland and Northern Part of Siberia.
- Cold Deserts — Areas of Central Asia.
- Equatorial Region — Amazon basin of South America and Zaire basin of Africa.

**Question 20.**

**What is the impact of migration?**

**Answer:**

Migration changes the size of population of an area by either addition (due to immigration) or subtraction (due to emigration) in the number of people.

## 5MARKS

### Question 1.

**What is population growth? What does population change indicate for an area?**

#### Answer:

Population growth or population change refers to the change in the number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time. It is an important indicator of economic development and historical and cultural background of the region.

### Question 2.

**What are the components of population change?**

#### Answer:

There are three components of population change: Births, deaths and migration. Population growth occurs not only by increasing birth rate but also due to decreasing death rate. Apart from these the population size is also affected by the movement of people from one place to another in pursuit of better living i.e. migration.

### Question 3.

**Distinguish between place of origin and place of destination.**

#### Answer:

Migration may be explained as a spontaneous effort to achieve a better balance between resources and population. When people move from one place to another, the place they move from is called the place of origin and the place they move to is called the place of destination.

### Question 4.

**How did science and technology help in population growth?**

#### Answer:

Steam engine replaced human and animal energy and also provided mechanized energy from other sources and helped in increasing agricultural and industrial production. Improvement in medical facilities, inoculation against epidemics and sanitation helped in the decline of death rate.

**Question 5.****What are the impacts of population change?****Answer:**

A small increase is beneficial for a growing economy. But growth beyond the carrying capacity of land create problems. Resource depletion is the most serious of all the problems. Population decline also indicate that the resources are insufficient to support the population of an area which it had done earlier.

**Question 6.****What was Thomas Malthus's theory?****Answer:**

Thomas Malthus in his theory (1793) stated that the number of people would increase faster than the food supply. Any further increase would result in population crash caused by disease, famine, and war. Preventive checks are better than physical checks. For future sustainability world population need to be controlled.

**Question 7.****Which areas of the world have high density of population?****Answer:**

Fertile plains with favorable climate and highly industrialized and urbanized areas are densely populated. There are four areas where density is more than 200 persons per sq. km. They are:

- East Asia (China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan).
- South and .South-east Asia (India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan).
- North-West Europe (UK, France and Germany).
- The Northeastern Coast of North America.

## 7MARKS

### Question 1.

**What is the trend in growth of population over the years in the world?**

#### Answer:

The world population attained its present strength over centuries. It grew very slowly in the early periods. About 8000 – 10000 years ago, after the introduction of agriculture the size of population was around 8 million.

In the 1st centuries it was below 300 million. The 16th and 17th centuries set the stage for growth of population with expanding trade. The 2nd most significant cultural change that impacted the growth of population came around the 1750 in the dawn of ‘Industrial Revolution’ with approx 550 million population. It exploded after the industrial revolution in the 18th century. The 3rd major cultural and technological change that influenced the population growth came in the 20th century through ‘Medical Revolution’ – which drastically brought down the ‘death rate’ with the introduction of several life saving drugs and improved medical facilities through better connectivity and paved the path for rapid population growth.

### Question 2.

**What is population change? What is the Spatial Rate of population change?**

#### Answer:

Difference in the birth, death and migration of an area between two points of time leads to the size of population thus resulting in change. Population growth is low in developed countries than the developing countries. Population growth and economic developments are negatively correlated. In a developing country with a large population, even a small annual growth rate will lead to a huge change in population. Even if the growth rate continues to decline, the total population grows each year.

Presently the population of the world is 7.033 billion and is increasing at an alarming rate with more than 8 crores being added every year. Though the developed nations have stabilized their growth, the developing nations are yet to reach that target. The population in the developing nations is bound to increase in the coming years as the proportion of their youthful population is high.

### **Question 3.**

**What is Demographic Transition? Explain the stages of demographic transition theory with examples.**

#### **Answer:**

The Demographic Transition Theory gives us the relationship between the level of economic development of a country and its demographic characteristics. It mentions the transition of a society from a phase of high fertility and mortality to a phase where both come down to low and the countries move from primitive agricultural, illiterate and rural economy to a modern industrial, literate and urban state. Initially, there were three stages of the theory—Underdeveloped stage, Developing stage and Developed stage.

Stage-1: Stage of slow population growth. This stage was marked by both high birth rate and high death rates. So population growth rate was very low. Agriculture oriented activities depended on the vagaries of nature leading to low productivity. Society was highly illiterate with poor technology. Large families with high birth rates were the norms as they had to compensate the high death rate. About a couple of centuries back all the economies were at this stage of demographic transition.

Stage-2: Stage of the beginning of Industrial Revolution. With betterment economic conditions and living standards, this stage started with improvement of medical facilities, sanitation and as a result death rate went down but birth rate remained high initially. This gave rise to a sudden increase in population which is common in a developing economy.



Though both of them were falling, the rate of fall in death rate was much faster than that of birth rate – creating a wide gap between them – which in turn gave rise to sharp increase in population, often termed as population explosion triggered by the better medical facilities and food supply. Stage-3: Stage of late Industrial Revolution and urban state.

Typically characterized by low and stable growth rate of population. This stage is marked with a decline in birth rate along with a steady decrease in death rate. The mortality rate gets very low and stabilizes. This Demographic Transition theory clearly shows how an economy changes from an agrarian, illiterate rural state with high birth rate, and Death rate to an industrial, literate and urban state with low Birth rate and Death rate through technological innovations and medical improvements.

#### **Question 4.**

**What are the repercussions of population increase? What are the population control measures?**

#### **Answer:**

A small increase in population is desirable in a growing economy but uncontrolled population growth leads to numerous problems mainly on the limited resources.

Thomas Malthus in his theory (1793) stated that the number of people would increase faster than the food supply. Any further increase would result in population crash caused by disease, famine and war. Preventive checks are better than physical checks. For future sustainability world population need to be controlled.

Access to family planning measures is an important factor in controlling population. Propaganda, creating awareness, free availability of contraceptives, tax disincentives for large families are some of the measures which can be adopted for controlling population.

### **Question 5.**

**“90 percent of the world population lives in about 10 percent of its total land area, whereas remaining 10 percent population resides in the 90 percent of its land area.” Support the statement with suitable examples.**

#### **Answer:**

The population of world is unevenly distributed due to:

- Availability of water like in river valleys
- Land forms e.g. plains are densely populated while hilly areas are sparsely populated. Deserts are also sparsely populated.
- Climate: Hot, cold and dry climates have sparse population e.g. tundra region, desert regions etc. Areas of moderate climate have dense population.
- Fertile soil regions are densely populated for the possibility of agriculture.
- Availability of minerals.
- Industrialisation.

## **Multiple Choice Questions**

### **Question 1.(i)**

**Which one of the following continents has the highest growth of population?**

- (a) Africa
- (b) South America
- (c) Asia
- (d) North America

#### **Answer:**

- (a) Africa

### **Question 1.(ii)**

**Which one of the following is not an area of sparse population?**

- (a) The Atacama
- (b) Equatorial region
- (c) South-east Asia

(d) Polar regions

**Answer:**

(c) South-east Asia

**Question 1(iii)**

**Which one of the following is not a push factor?**

(a) Water shortage

(b) Medical/educational facilities

(c) Unemployment

(d) Epidemics

**Answer:**

(d) Epidemics

**Question 1.(iv)**

**Which one of the following is not a fact?**

(a) Human population increased more than ten times during the past 500 years.

(b) It took 100 years for the population to rise from 5 billion to 6 billion

(c) Population growth is high in the first stage of demographic transition.

**Answer:**

(c) Population growth is high in the first stage of demographic transition.