

06. Population

EXERCISE –

01. Why is the rate of population growth in India declining since 1981?

Since 1981, the birth rates in India have started declining gradually resulting in a gradual decline in the rate of population growth. The three reasons are as follows:

- A downward trend of crude birth rate.
- An increase in the mean age of marriage.
- Improvement in the quality of life, particularly education of females in the country.

OR

- Availability of birth control measure.
- Awareness regarding population explosion has grown amongst people.
- Women are becoming careerists.
- Standard as well as cost of living has gone high.
- Nuclear family is one of the major reasons.

02. Define age structure.

Age structure is a summary of the number of individuals in the population. Age structure is useful in understanding and predicting population growth. The population of a nation is, generally, grouped into three broad categories:

- Children (Below 25 years)
- Working Age (15-59 years)
- Aged (above 59 years)

03. What are the major components of population growth?

The major components/features of population growth are -

- Birth rate: Birth rate is the number of live births per thousand (1000) persons in a year. It is a major component of population growth because in India birth rates have always been higher than death rates.
- Death rate: It is the number of deaths per thousand (1000) persons in a year. The main cause of rate of population growth of the Indian population has been a rapid decline in death rates.

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- Migration: Migration is the movement of people across regions and territories. Migration can be Internal (within the country) or International (across the countries).

04. "Migration is an important determinant of population change." Explain.

- [i] Migration is an important determinant of population change. It changes not only population size, but also the population composition of urban and rural populations in terms of age and sex composition.
- [ii] In India, the rural-urban migration has resulted in a steady increase in the percentage of population in cities and towns.
- [iii] The urban population has increased from 17.29% of total population in 1951 to 31.80% in 2011.
- [iv] There has been a significant increase in number of million plus cities from 35 to 53 within 10 years from 2001 to 2011.

INSIDE –

01. Define population.

Number of people living in a particular area during a specific period of time is known as population.

02. What is India's population size and distribution by numbers?

- India's population as on March 2011 stood at 1,210.6 million, which account for more the 17 per cent of the world's population. These 1.21 billion people are unevenly distributed over our country's vast area of 3.28 million square km.
- The 2011 Census data reveal that Uttar Pradesh with a population size of 199 million is the most populous state of India.
- Uttar Pradesh accounts for about 16 per cent of the country's population.
- On the other hand, the Himalayan state of Sikkim has a population of just about 0.6 million and Lakshadweep has only 64,429 people.
- Almost half of India's population lives in just five states. These are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.
- Rajasthan, the biggest state in terms of area, has only 5.5 per cent of the total population of India

03. What is India's population distribution by density?

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- Population density is calculated as the number of persons per unit area.
- The population density of India in the year 2011 was 382 persons per sq. km.
- Densities vary from 1,102 persons per sq. km in Bihar to only 17 persons per sq. km in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Assam and most of the Peninsular states have moderate population densities. Hilly, dissected and rocky nature of the terrain, moderate to low rainfall, shallow and less fertile soils have influenced population densities in these areas.

04. Why do we/you study about population?

Population is the point of reference from which all other elements are observed and from which they derive significance and meaning, 'Resources', 'Calamities', and 'Disasters', are all meaningful only in relation to human beings. Their numbers, distribution, growth and characteristics or qualities provide the basic background for understanding and appreciating all aspects of the environment.

OR

To understand –

- Population size and distribution.
- Population growth and process of population change.
- Characteristics or qualities of the population.

05. Define density of population.

Density of population means the number of persons living in per unit area off a place. It is calculated by dividing the total population by its total area.

$$\text{Formula} = \frac{\text{Total Population}}{\text{Total Area}}$$

06. Name the sparsely populated states and mention the reasons for it.

The states having density of population below 250 persons per sq. km. are – The Himalayan States, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Chhattisgarh, Nagaland and Meghalaya.

The reasons due to which they are sparsely populated are –

- Lack of availability of agricultural land
- Lack of employment opportunities

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- Rugged terrain (or uneven topography)
- Unfavourable climatic conditions

07. Name the moderately populated states and mention the reasons for it.

Assam and most of the Peninsular states have moderate population densities.

This is due to –

- Hilly, dissected and rocky nature of the terrain
- Moderate to low rainfall
- Shallow and less fertile soils

08. Name the states with high population densities and mention the reasons for it.

The Northern plains and Kerala in the south have high to very high population densities.

The reasons are –

- The flat plains with fertile soils
- Abundant rainfall
- Favourable climatic conditions

09. What is annual growth rate?

The rate or the pace of population increase is the other important aspect. It is studied in per cent per annum, e.g. a rate of increase of 2 per cent per annum means that in a given year, there was an increase of two persons for every 100 persons in the base population. This is referred to as the annual growth rate.

10. What are the types of processes of population change/growth?

There are three main processes of change of population: birth rates, death rates and migration.

11. What is Birth rate?

Birth rate is the number of live births per thousand persons in a year. It is a major component of growth because in India, birth rates have always been higher than death rates.

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12. What is Death rate?

Death rate is the number of deaths per thousand persons in a year. The main cause of the rate of growth of the Indian population has been the rapid decline in death rates.

13. What is Migration?

Migration is the movement of people across regions and territories. It is of four types:

- [i] Internal Migration – When migration takes place within a country it is known as internal migration. Internal migration does not change the size of population but influences the distribution and composition of population within the nation.
- [ii] International Migration – When migration takes place between the countries, it is called as international migration. This type of migration changes the size, distribution and composition of the population.
- [iii] Immigration – People moving in a place/country is called as immigration.
- [iv] Emigration – People moving out of a place/country is called as emigration.

14. Mention the main characteristic features of migration in India.

In India, most migrations have been from rural to urban areas because of the “push” factor in rural areas. These are adverse conditions of poverty and unemployment in the rural areas and the “pull” of the city in terms of increased employment opportunities and better living conditions.

15. Which age group belong to the adolescent population?

Adolescents are, generally, grouped in the age group of 10 to 19 years.

16. Mention the problems/challenges faced by adolescent population.

- It constitutes one-fifth of the total population of India.
- They are the most important resource for the future.
- Nutrition requirements of adolescents are higher than those of a normal child or adult.
- Poor nutrition can lead to deficiency and stunted growth.
- But in India, the diet available to adolescents is inadequate in all nutrients.
- A large number of adolescent girls suffer from anaemia.

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- Their problems have so far not received adequate attention in the process of development. The adolescent girls have to be sensitised to the problems they confront. Awareness among them can be improved through the spread of literacy and education.

17. Why is population important?

- [i] Population is important because human beings are the producers as well as the consumers of resources.
- [ii] People use natural resources and transform them into useful products with the help of technology.
- [iii] Human population plays a key role in the developing the economy and society.
- [iv] Social and Cultural environment are created and shaped by people.
- [v] Natural events like floods, earthquakes or tsunamis become disaster only when they affect human life.

18. Differentiate between population growth and population change.

Population Growth	Population Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It refers to the increase in population in a particular area during a specific period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It refers to the change in population size during a specific period of time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It shows only increase in population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It shows increase or decreases in population
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is mainly affected by birth rate and death rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is affected by birth rate, death rate and migration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a narrow concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a broader concept
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population always increases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population increase or decrease

Sources: NCERT Textbook – Contemporary India-I

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