

IGCSE Population Case Studies Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. Which factor can significantly influence the effectiveness of population policies?**
 - A. Economic resources**
 - B. Cultural attitudes**
 - C. Geographic location**
 - D. Government regulations**
- 2. What is often the relationship between economic development and birth rates?**
 - A. Birth rates increase as economies develop**
 - B. There is no connection between them**
 - C. As countries develop, birth rates tend to decline**
 - D. Higher income results in higher birth rates**
- 3. What does the ecological footprint measure in relation to population?**
 - A. The number of people in a given area**
 - B. The environmental impact based on resource consumption**
 - C. The financial wealth of a population**
 - D. The number of resources available in an ecosystem**
- 4. What is Australia's fertility rate?**
 - A. 2.1 children per woman**
 - B. 1.5 children per woman**
 - C. 1.74 children per woman**
 - D. 1.9 children per woman**
- 5. Which of the following best defines a megacity?**
 - A. A city with a population of over 1 million people**
 - B. A city with a population of over 5 million people**
 - C. A city with a population of over 10 million people**
 - D. A city that is the capital of a country**

- 6. What is the difference between voluntary and involuntary migration?**
- A. Voluntary migration is planned, involuntary is unplanned**
 - B. Voluntary migration involves financial incentives, involuntary does not**
 - C. Voluntary migration occurs by choice, involuntary migration is forced**
 - D. There is no significant difference between the two**
- 7. Which of the following best describes the accessibility of Western Australia?**
- A. Highly accessible due to urbanization**
 - B. Good accessibility with major highways**
 - C. Limited accessibility due to geographic factors**
 - D. Extremely accessible via public transport**
- 8. What does the dependency ratio measure?**
- A. The ratio of working-age individuals to job vacancies**
 - B. The balance between young, old, and working-age populations**
 - C. The rate of migration in and out of a region**
 - D. The proportion of employed individuals within a population**
- 9. What is the mean age of mothers at first birth in Bangladesh?**
- A. 16.5 years**
 - B. 18.6 years**
 - C. 20.2 years**
 - D. 22.0 years**
- 10. What demographic factors are likely to decrease birth rates?**
- A. Access to education and health care**
 - B. Past migration patterns**
 - C. A high number of migrants**
 - D. Higher urbanization rates with no change**

Answers

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1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. C
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. A

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Explanations

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1. Which factor can significantly influence the effectiveness of population policies?

- A. Economic resources**
- B. Cultural attitudes**
- C. Geographic location**
- D. Government regulations**

Cultural attitudes play a crucial role in shaping the effectiveness of population policies. When a population policy aligns with the beliefs, values, and norms of the community, it is more likely to be accepted and successfully implemented. For instance, if a government promotes family planning but the prevailing cultural attitude emphasizes large families, the policy may face resistance and be less effective. Understanding the cultural context helps policymakers tailor their approaches to ensure they resonate with the population. While factors such as economic resources, geographic location, and government regulations also influence population policies, they do so in a more indirect manner. Economic resources can affect the implementation of policies, geographic location can impact demographic factors, and government regulations provide a framework for population management. However, without the support and acceptance derived from cultural attitudes, even well-resourced and well-regulated policies could struggle to achieve their goals. Therefore, cultural attitudes are fundamental in determining how successfully population policies are received and followed within a society.

2. What is often the relationship between economic development and birth rates?

- A. Birth rates increase as economies develop**
- B. There is no connection between them**
- C. As countries develop, birth rates tend to decline**
- D. Higher income results in higher birth rates**

The relationship between economic development and birth rates is generally characterized by a trend where as countries develop economically, birth rates tend to decline. This phenomenon can be attributed to several factors associated with economic growth. As economies develop, there tends to be increased access to education and employment opportunities, particularly for women. Higher levels of education often lead to a greater understanding of family planning and reproductive health, which can result in smaller family sizes as individuals may choose to have fewer children. Additionally, as people move into urban areas for work, the cost of raising children can become a significant consideration, further encouraging families to limit their number of offspring. Moreover, improved healthcare and child survival rates contribute to a decline in birth rates. In economically developed countries, advancements in medical care mean that fewer children are likely to die in infancy or early childhood, which can also reduce the need for families to have more children as a form of security for old age or in case of child mortality. This declining trend in birth rates with economic development is supported by demographic transitions observed in various countries around the world, where nations move through stages from high birth and death rates to lower birth and death rates as they develop economically and socially.

3. What does the ecological footprint measure in relation to population?

- A. The number of people in a given area**
- B. The environmental impact based on resource consumption**
- C. The financial wealth of a population**
- D. The number of resources available in an ecosystem**

The ecological footprint specifically measures the environmental impact of a population in terms of resource consumption and the waste generated by that consumption. It quantifies how much land and water area is required to produce the resources consumed, as well as to absorb the waste produced, including carbon emissions. This metric provides important insight into the sustainability of a population's lifestyle and its effect on the planet's ecosystems. By understanding the ecological footprint, policymakers, researchers, and individuals can assess the balance—or imbalance—between the resources available on Earth and the demands placed upon them by human populations. This highlights the relationships between population growth, consumption patterns, and environmental sustainability, making it a critical tool in discussions about sustainable development and resource management. The other options do not connect as directly to the concept of ecological footprint as they pertain to aspects like population size, financial wealth, or the availability of resources without considering the direct environmental impact of consumption behaviors.

4. What is Australia's fertility rate?

- A. 2.1 children per woman**
- B. 1.5 children per woman**
- C. 1.74 children per woman**
- D. 1.9 children per woman**

The fertility rate of a country reflects the average number of children that would be born to a woman over her lifetime, based on current birth rates. Australia's fertility rate has been observed to be approximately 1.74 children per woman, which is a figure that aligns with recent demographic studies and census data. This rate is below the replacement level of 2.1, which is the average number needed to maintain a stable population without immigration. The choice reflecting 1.74 captures the current fertility trends seen in Australia, including factors such as social, economic, and cultural influences that have led to lower birth rates over the years. This understanding is critical for analyzing population dynamics, as it affects future population growth, workforce sustainability, and economic planning.

5. Which of the following best defines a megacity?

- A. A city with a population of over 1 million people**
- B. A city with a population of over 5 million people**
- C. A city with a population of over 10 million people**
- D. A city that is the capital of a country**

A megacity is specifically defined as a city that has a population of over 10 million people. This definition highlights the scale and urbanization complexity of such cities, as they typically face unique challenges associated with their large populations, such as transportation, housing, infrastructure, and providing services like healthcare and education. The concept of a megacity often relates to global trends in urbanization, where more people are moving to urban areas, leading to significant population growth in these sprawling metropolises. In contrast, the other answers describe cities that may be significant in size but do not meet the stringent criteria for being considered a megacity. For example, a population of over 1 million or even 5 million, while large, does not encapsulate the extensive dynamics and challenges that come with a population exceeding 10 million, which is relevant to megacities. Additionally, defining a city solely by its status as a national capital does not take population size into account, as there are many capital cities that do not fall into the megacity category.

6. What is the difference between voluntary and involuntary migration?

- A. Voluntary migration is planned, involuntary is unplanned**
- B. Voluntary migration involves financial incentives, involuntary does not**
- C. Voluntary migration occurs by choice, involuntary migration is forced**
- D. There is no significant difference between the two**

The distinction between voluntary and involuntary migration lies primarily in the choice and circumstances surrounding the movement of people. Voluntary migration is characterized by individuals making a conscious decision to move, often for reasons such as seeking better economic opportunities, personal advancements, or improved living conditions. This type of migration reflects personal agency and is typically associated with planned relocation, such as moving to another country for work or educational purposes. In contrast, involuntary migration occurs when individuals are compelled to leave their homes due to factors beyond their control, such as armed conflict, natural disasters, persecution, or systemic oppression. This type of migration is not a matter of choice; instead, it often involves a sense of urgency and necessity for survival or safety. The other options provide different perspectives that don't accurately address the core definition. While planned and unplanned movements may describe aspects of migration, they do not encapsulate the emotional and situational complexities that define voluntary and involuntary migration. Financial incentives are not a universal characteristic, as individuals may choose to migrate for various reasons unrelated to economics. Lastly, asserting that there is no significant difference overlooks the critical distinctions that influence the motivations and experiences of migrants.

7. Which of the following best describes the accessibility of Western Australia?

- A. Highly accessible due to urbanization**
- B. Good accessibility with major highways**
- C. Limited accessibility due to geographic factors**
- D. Extremely accessible via public transport**

The description of limited accessibility in Western Australia due to geographic factors is accurate because the region is characterized by vast, sparsely populated areas and significant stretches of uninhabited land. The topography, including deserts and rugged terrains, poses challenges for transport infrastructure, making it difficult to establish extensive road networks or public transportation systems. While urban areas might exhibit better accessibility, much of Western Australia consists of remote regions where access is limited. Furthermore, the distance between major population centers means that travel can often be time-consuming and reliant on private vehicles rather than public transport. Therefore, the geographic landscape plays a crucial role in defining the region's accessibility, leading to the conclusion that limited accessibility is the most fitting description.

8. What does the dependency ratio measure?

- A. The ratio of working-age individuals to job vacancies**
- B. The balance between young, old, and working-age populations**
- C. The rate of migration in and out of a region**
- D. The proportion of employed individuals within a population**

The dependency ratio is a demographic measure that evaluates the balance between two critical segments of the population: the working-age individuals (typically defined as those aged 15-64) and the dependents, which include the young population (usually those under 15) and the elderly (usually those aged 65 and over). This ratio quantifies the number of dependents for every 100 working-age individuals, providing insight into the economic burden placed on the productive population. By assessing this balance, the dependency ratio helps to understand the potential socioeconomic challenges a society might face, such as financing healthcare and education for the young and elderly, as well as how many workers are available to support the non-working segments of the population. A higher dependency ratio indicates a greater burden on the working-age population, which can lead to higher taxes and a strain on social services. In contrast, other options address different aspects of demographic or economic measures. For instance, evaluating job vacancies in relation to working-age individuals focuses more on employment dynamics rather than dependency. Measuring migration deals solely with demographic shifts and does not reflect the balance of dependent and working populations. Lastly, the proportion of employed individuals describes labor market conditions rather than the broader dependency concerns related to age structure. Hence, the measurement captured

9. What is the mean age of mothers at first birth in Bangladesh?

- A. 16.5 years
- B. 18.6 years**
- C. 20.2 years
- D. 22.0 years

The mean age of mothers at first birth in Bangladesh is 18.6 years. This figure reflects the cultural, social, and economic factors influencing family planning and childbearing practices in the country. In Bangladesh, early marriage is common, and as a result, many women have their first child shortly after marriage. However, various initiatives aimed at improving education and reproductive health have influenced this average age slightly upward over the years. Statistics indicate that 18.6 years captures the transitional phase where many women start to have children while also considering the impacts of education levels, access to contraceptive methods, and health services. This mean age can vary significantly based on different regions within the country, as well as the socioeconomic background of women, but the national average remains close to this figure. Factors such as increasing awareness of women's health rights and family planning are gradually affecting this trend, demonstrating a shift away from early motherhood.

10. What demographic factors are likely to decrease birth rates?

- A. Access to education and health care**
- B. Past migration patterns
- C. A high number of migrants
- D. Higher urbanization rates with no change

Access to education and health care significantly contributes to decreasing birth rates. When individuals, particularly women, have greater access to education, they tend to postpone marriage and childbirth to pursue personal and professional goals. Education empowers people with knowledge about family planning, reproductive health, and the socioeconomic implications of having children, often leading to more informed decisions about family size. Health care access, particularly reproductive health services, allows for better family planning methods. With effective contraception, families can control the number of children they have, which often results in fewer births. Furthermore, when the overall health of a population improves, infant mortality rates typically decrease, which can also influence families to have fewer children, as they feel more secure about the survival of their existing children. Considering the other options, past migration patterns may affect population dynamics but do not directly influence birth rates. A high number of migrants can contribute to population growth, as they might have higher fertility rates or bring different cultural practices regarding family size. Lastly, higher urbanization rates typically correlate with lower birth rates, but if there is no change in urbanization, it won't necessarily lead to a decrease in birth rates alone.