

Chapter 2

Population and Health

1. Why can population density (arithmetic density) be a misleading statistic?
2. What is physiologic density, and why is it a more useful statistic?
3. Why is a population dot map a good tool to better understand the population distribution at a variety of scales?
4. From a historical perspective what areas of Earth's surface supported large populations?
5. What are the four largest population clusters, and where and why within each cluster is the population most densely populated?
6. What is a census, and why do countries take them?
7. Who was Thomas Malthus and what was the main thesis of *An Essay in the Principles of Population*?
8. Even though Malthus's thesis has not come true, why are his ideas still considered important?
9. What is the equation for calculating the population change within a territory?
10. Population growth rates vary considerably in time and place. What is the major reason for this?
11. Summarize the population scenario for North Africa and Southwest Asia, South Asia, Japan, South America, Soviet Union, and world from 1900-2000.
12. What is the total fertility rate and how is it related to the dependency ratio?
13. What are some challenges of an aging population?
14. What are some challenges of a young population?
15. Why does the total population continue to grow even after a country has reached replacement level fertility?
16. What factors are contributing to a lengthening of the world's doubling time?
17. Where in India are the population growth rates high and low? What anti-natalist policies has the Indian government instituted since 1950?
18. What is the demographic transition, and describe in detail each stage of the model?
19. What is a population pyramid, and describe the shape for a poor and wealthy country?
20. How can a country analyze their population composition to prepare for the future?
21. What is the IMR, and why is it indicative of a country's level of development? Why does the United States have the highest IMR of the developed world?
22. Why does Japan have the world's longest life expectancy – what unique challenges does this cause for society?
23. What are expansive population policies (pro-natalist), and why would a country institute them? Give examples.
24. What are eugenic population policies (anti-natalist), and why would a country institute them? Give examples.
25. Describe some limitations and contradictions to various population policies.
26. Why (give facts) did China institute the one-child policy, and why are they now starting to relax the policy?