

Reasons for an increasing/decreasing population

Increasing (many LEDCs)	Decreasing (many MEDCs)
Religion	Wealth
Culture	Education
Healthcare	Culture
Wealth	Poverty
Immigration	War
Development	Famine/disaster
Government	

Demographic Transition Model

The DTM shows how the population changes as a country becomes more economically developed.

Four stages are identified, although there may be a fifth stage in some MEDCs,

- STAGE 1 - Birth rates (BR) and death rates (DR) are high because of lack of contraception and poor medical care etc..
- STAGE 2 - DR starts to fall due to more medical knowledge etc.
- STAGE 3 - BR starts to fall due to lower infant mortality rate and contraception
- STAGE 4 - BR and DR low
- Possible STAGE 5 - DR rises due to poor lifestyle in some MEDCs - drinking, smoking, eating wrong foods etc.

Population Pyramids

Population pyramids can be used to show what the population is like at a point in time. It is divided into male and female and into different age categories.

LEDCs have a more triangular pyramid due to a higher BR.

MEDCs have a straighter pyramid due to the population being more constant

Definitions

- Birth rate - number of births per thousand people.
- Death rate - number of deaths per thousand people.
- Infant mortality - number of deaths of babies under the age of 1 year per 1000 babies born.
- Fertility rate - average number of children born to a woman in her lifetime.
- Life expectancy - the average number of years a person can expect to live.
- Natural increase - the difference between the birth and death rate.

Population Change

How can population growth be controlled?

China - one child policy

Financial incentives if people only have one child. Led to many female babies being aborted or left at orphanage. People wanted boys to carry on family name and look after them when they get older.

Mauritius

Set up family planning clinics. Improved the status of women in society. Encouraged investment by transnational companies so more women would go out to work.

India

Tried to sterilise men who had three children. People voted against it so it didn't work.

Problems of a population growth

- Lack of clean water, food and firewood.
- Rural-urban migration (can't get work or food in the countryside)
- Pollution, congestion, poverty and unemployment.

Problems with an ageing population

- High levels of health care are needed.
- Facilities such as public transport and sheltered housing are required.
- Financial strain on the working population.
e.g.. Bournemouth, U.K.

Sparsely and densely populated areas.

Sparsely (few people)	Densely (many people)
Mountains	Flat land
Lack of rainfall	Reliable rainfall
Poor soils	Good soils
Poor water supplies	Clean drinking water
Lack of mineral wealth	Mineral wealth
Lack of investment	Investment

This module is about how population changes over time. It also looks at how people can control the population.