

Q1: Answer the following questions.

(i) Why are people considered a resource?

People can make the best use of nature to create more resources when they have the knowledge, skill and technology to do so. This is why human beings are considered a resource. It is the abilities of human beings which help in transferring a physical material into a valuable resource.

(ii) What are the causes for the uneven distribution of population in the world?

The distribution of population in the world is uneven—some areas are very crowded while some are sparsely populated. Geographical, social, cultural and economic factors affect the distribution of population. The flatness of land, moderate climatic conditions, fertility of soil, availability of fresh water, presence of mineral deposits are the geographical factors that affect the population distribution.

The presence of good housing, educational and health facilities; proximity to centres of religious or cultural significance, and the presence of employment opportunities are some of the socio-economic factors that influence how different regions are populated.

(iii) The world population has grown very rapidly. Why?

The world population has grown very rapidly because the death rate has gone down as a result of the growth of food supplies and the improvement of medical facilities. Also, unlike the death rate, the birth rate has remained quite high.

(iv) Discuss the role of any two factors influencing population change.

The birth rate and the death rate are two factors that influence population change. The birth rate is the number of live births per 1000 people while the death rate is the number of deaths per 1000 people. These are the natural causes of population change. When the birth rate is higher than the death rate, population increases. When the death rate is more than the birth rate, population decreases. When the two rates are equal, the population remains constant. Thus, the birth and death rates affect the balance of population.

(v) What is meant by population composition?

Population composition refers to the structure of the population of a particular region. The composition of a population helps us to know the number of males and females comprising the population, their age groups, educational and technological skills, occupations, income levels, health conditions, etc.

(vi) What are population pyramids? How do they help in understanding about the population of a country?

The population pyramid or the age–sex pyramid is a graphical illustration that is used for studying the population composition of a country. It shows the present number of males and females in a country along with their age groups. The age-group distribution of population tells us the number of dependents and the number of economically active individuals present in the population.

Q2. Tick the correct answer.

(i) Which does the term population distribution refer to?

(a) How population in a specified area changes over time.

(b) The number of people who die in relation to the number of people born in a specified area.

(c) The way in which people are spread across a given area. ✓

(ii) Which are three main factors that cause population change?

(a) Births, deaths and marriage

(b) Births, deaths and migration ✓

(c) Births, deaths and life expectancy

(iii) In 1999, the world population reached

(a) 1 billion

(b) 3 billion

(c) 6 billion ✓

(iv) What is a population pyramid?

(a) A graphical presentation of the age, sex composition of a population. ✓

(b) When the population density of an area is so high that people live in tall buildings.

(c) Pattern of population distribution in large urban areas.

Q3. Complete the sentences below using some of the following words.

When people are attracted to an area it becomes densely populated. Factors that influence this include favourable climate; good supplies of natural resources and fertile land.