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The World Population: Distribution, Density and Growth Important Extra Questions Long Answer Type

Question 1.

Describe the main facts about world's population. Describe the distribution of population on the earth. (Sample Paper 2018-19)

Or

Why the Monsoon Asia and N.W. Europe are two most densely populated parts of the world ?

Or

Why are the arid, frigid, humid and mountainous parts of the world sparsely populated ?

Or

"90 percent of the world population lives in about 10 percent of its total land area, whereas remaining 10 percent population resides in the 90 percent of its land areas". Support the statement with suitable examples. (C.B.S.E. Delhi 2017)

Answer:

Man is the pivotal point in Human Geography. So the distribution of population on the earth's surface is of special significance to geographers. The distribution of population is very uneven on the surface of the earth. The rapid growth of population is another striking feature. Some universal factors influence the pattern of distribution of population

Main Facts :

(i) The world population has increased fourteen-times i.e. from 50 crores in 1650 to 700 crores in 2000 during the period of 350 years.

(ii) At the present rate of growth, the present population will be 1000 crores by the year 2050.

(iii) It is estimated that about 700 crore people live on the earth's surface on an area of 14.5 crore sq. kms.

(iv) The average density of population is 48 persons per sq. km. for the whole world.

(v) Asia has the largest population of about 400 crores.

(vi) China is the largest populated country in the world. It has a population of 139 crores.

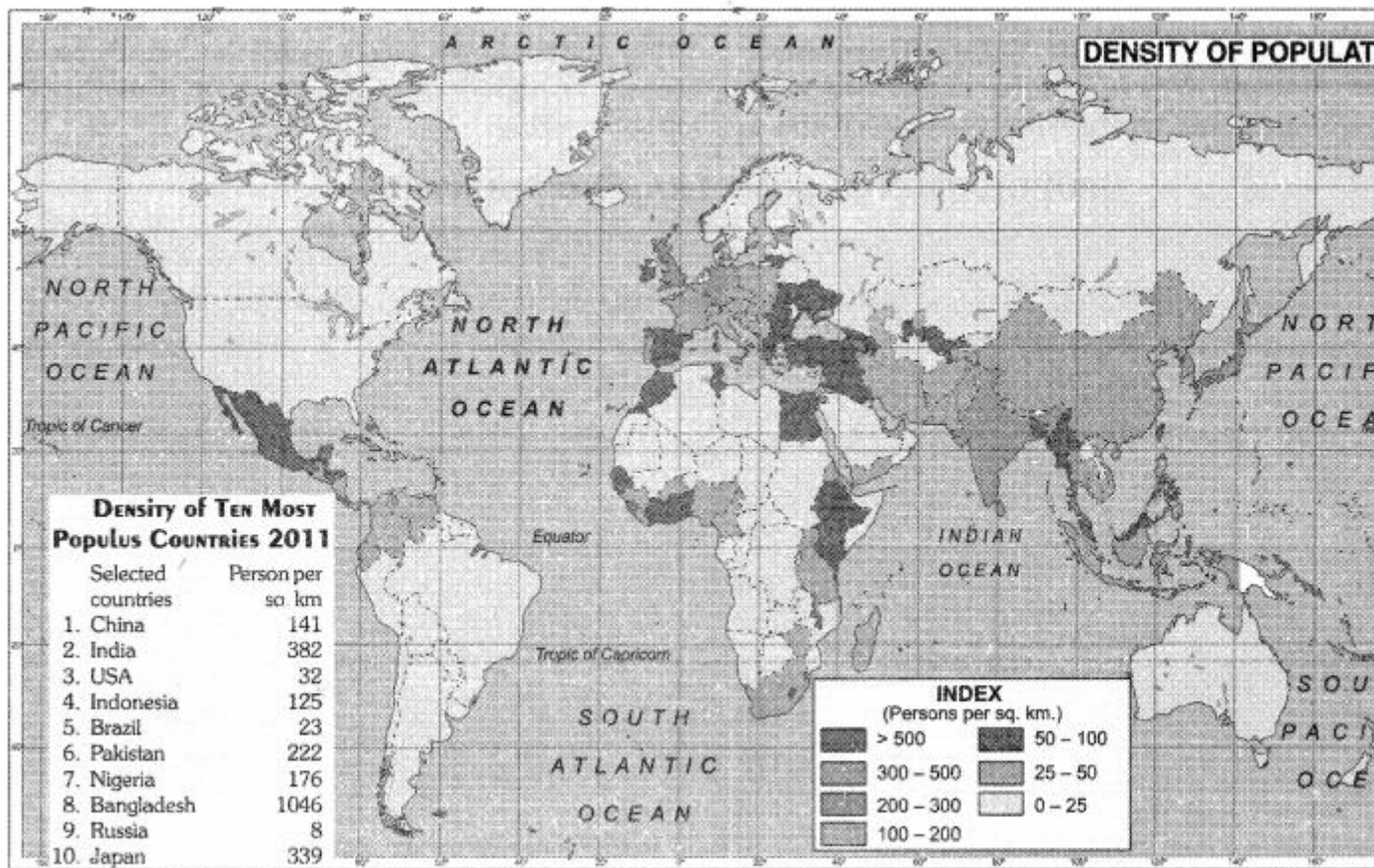
(vii) Bangladesh with 1203(2014) persons per sq. kilometre has the highest density of population of the world. Macau (China) has the highest density of population 22,134(2013) persons per sq. km.

(viii) About 90% of population occupies only 10% of the land.

(ix) The Northern continents have about 90% of population of the world. About 75% population is found between tropic of cancer and 70°N. The Southern hemisphere has only 10% population.

(x) About half of the population of the world is found in between 20°N and 40°N latitudes. About 4/5th population of the world is found between 20°N to 60°N latitudes.

Distribution of Population. The distribution of world's population is very irregular and ill balanced. Most of the areas are empty. Densely populated areas are few. About 50% of the population of the world lives on 5% land area of the world. While 50% land area is occupied by only 5% population.



World Density of Population 2001

World Population

Continent	Total Population (Millions) 2014	Density of Population, 2011 (per sq. km.)
Asia	4351	96.4
Europe	741	72.9
Africa	1136	36.7
South America	618	22.8
North America	353	22.9
Oceania	39	4.5
Antarctica	0.004	0.0003
World	7,238	53.7

1. Areas of High Density. These areas have a density of population of more than 200 persons per sq. kilometre. The high density of population is found in two areas :

- Agricultural Areas. Eastern and Southern Asia.
- Industrial Areas. North-West Europe and North-East U.S.A.

(A) Agricultural Monsoon Areas. Eastern Asia includes China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Taiwan. Southern Asia includes India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Bangladesh and Indonesia. Asia is the largest area of high population density. China has about 1/6 population of the world. The fertile valleys of

Hwang-Ho, Yangtze, Indo-Gangetic Plain, the rice- howl of Irrawaddy Delta, Kwanto plain and Volcanic islands of Java support almost half the human race. Factors favouring high density :

- Hot-wet monsoon climate.
- Two to three crops of rice a year.
- Fertile river-valleys and deltas.
- Irrigation facilities.
- Industrial development in Japan.
- Huge Mineral resources.

(B) North West Europe and North East U.S.A. In Western Europe dense population is found along 50°N latitudes, from English Channel to Ukraine region. 50°N latitude is known as the axis of population of Europe. Great Britain, Ruhr Valley (Germany), Po-Delta (Italy), Paris Basin (France) and Moscow-Ukraine regions are densely populated areas. In North America the Atlantic coast, St. Lawrence Valley and the Great Lakes region are densely populated areas. The high density of population is mainly due to manufacturing.

Population of Some Leading Countries

Country	Population (millions) (mid- 2014)	Density of Population per sq. km. (2013)
China	1364	145
India	1296	421
C.I.S.	275	13

U.S.A.	971	35
Japan	127	349
Brazil	203	24
Pakistan	194	236
Indonesia	251	138
Bangladesh	158	1203
Nigeria	177	191

Factors favouring high density :

- Industrial development.
- Cool-temperate climate.
- Development of trade and trade routes.
- Rich mineral resources.
- Coastal location.
- Mixed farming.
- Large scale urbanisation.
- High standard of living.

2. Areas of Moderate Density. These areas have a density of population between 25 to 200 persons per sq. kilometre.

- Prairies of North America.
- Western Africa
- Eastern Europe
- North-East Brazil and Central Chile.
- Deccan Plateau, Indo-China, Central China in Asia.
- Eastern Australia.

Factors favouring moderate density :

- These areas are found on the margins of densely populated areas.
- Large-scale commercial farming requires a few labourers in these areas.
- Some areas have developed mining and support moderate population.
- Some of the hilly areas don't support large population.
- In some sparsely populated areas, the plantation crops and dairy farming have been introduced. It has increased the density of population.

3. Areas of Low Density. These areas have a density less than 25 persons per sq. kilometre. About half the land area of the world has a density of only 2 to 3 persons per sq. kilometre. These are almost empty lands. These include high mountains, deserts, dense forests and polar areas.

- High Mountains. These include the Himalayas, the Rockies, the Andes, the Tibet Plateau and mountains of Central Asia.
- Deserts. These include the Sahara, Kalahari, Atacama, Gobi desert and Western Australia.
- Dense Forests. These include the equatorial forest of Amazon and Zaire basin.
- Polar Areas. These include Tundra, Alaska, Greenland and Antarctica.

Factors for low density. These areas have unfavourable conditions for human settlement. People have to face many hardships. These are called the regions of everlasting difficulties.

- Lack of level-land.
- Stony and sandy soils.
- Very cold climate.
- Short-growing season.
- Permanent frost in Polar areas.
- Lack of means of transportation.
- Lack of minerals and industries.
- Unhealthy climate due to fatal disease.

Question 2.

Describe the growth of world population, its determinants and spatial distribution of population growth in the world.

Answer:

Population Growth. Growth of population means change of size of population in a particular area during a given period. It can be positive as well as negative. Land resources cannot be increased much. So positive growth of population cannot go on for a long time. The main cause of population growth is that the birth rate is higher than death rate. It is also called natural growth of population. It is calculated on the basis of difference between birth rate and death rate. It is calculated with the help of following rule.

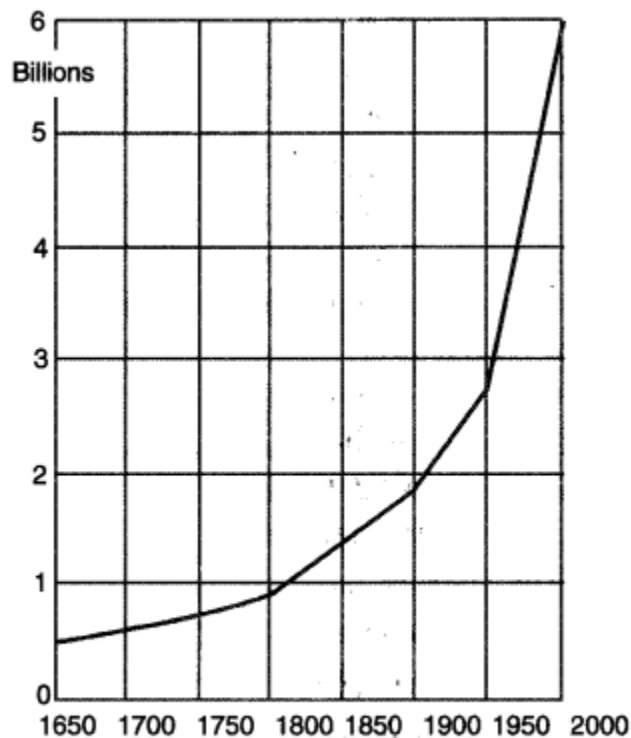
Population growth % = $\frac{\text{Natural increase (Births - Deaths)}}{\text{Average Population}} \times 100$

Determinants of Population Growth Rate.

The following are the three main determinants of population growth:

- (i) Birth-rate
- (ii) Death rate
- (iii) Mobility of population (Migration)

(i) Birth rate. In developing countries, there is high birth rate (Nearly 40 per 1000). So, these countries have a higher population growth rate than that of developed countries. On the other hand, due to low birth rate in developed countries, the rate of growth of population is low.



World Population Growth

(ii) Death rate. High death rate does not allow population to grow rapidly. When the birth rate is higher than death rate, the population growth rate is high. On the other hand, both birth rate and death rate are low, the population growth rate is low.

(iii) Mobility of population. The migration of population also effects growth rate. During 1880-1920, about 4 crore people settled in U.S.A. and Canada. It not only resulted in higher growth rate in U.S.A. and Canada; but also a lower growth rate in European countries.

Spatial distribution of population growth rate in world.

It has been estimated that in Pre-historic period (8000 B.C.E.), the total population was only 5 million. Large areas were uninhabited. Agricultural revolution led to growth of population upto 1000 million till Industrial revolution in 1850. The period was a slow long term increase in population. Faster population growth came with

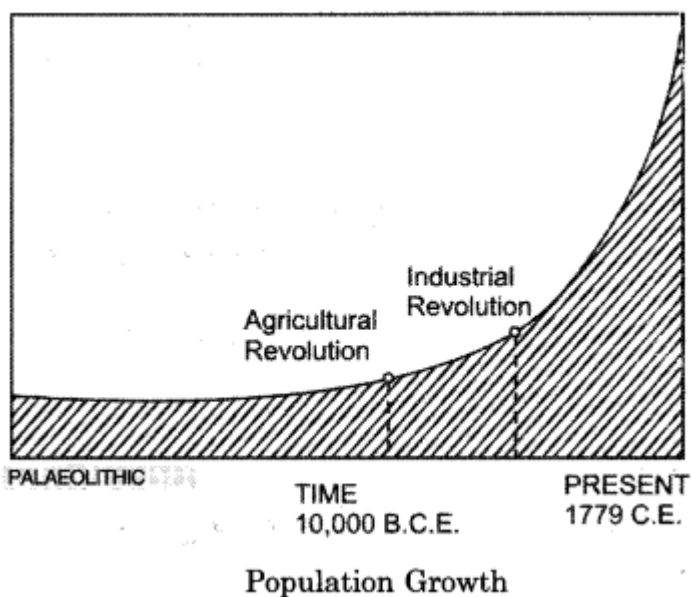
Industrial revolution. The urban population increased. The standard of living also increased.

It is clear that population growth rate is high in developing countries, while developed countries have a low population growth. Africa has the highest growth rate, while Europe is getting negative growth of population due to decrease in population.

The growth rate of population is not same in all the countries. These countries can be grouped into four divisions :

1. Regions with very high growth rate. This group includes continents where growth rate is about 3 per cent. It includes Africa, Central America, South and West Asia, South America.

2. Regions with high growth rate. This group includes areas where growth rate is 2 to 2.9 percent. It



includes some parts of South America, Eastern Asia, Australia.

3. Regions with moderate growth rate. This group includes countries where growth rate is between 1-1.9 per cent. It includes South America, Carribean Region, Asia.

4. Regions with low growth rate. This group includes countries where growth rate is less than 1 per cent. It includes North America, Europe, Russia, Japan and New Zealand.

Question 3.

Define migration. What are its causes ? What are its types ?

Answer:

Migration : Migration is the third component of population change. It is an effort to achieve better balance between population and resources. It is the permanent or semi-permanent change of a person's place of residence. Migration is probably a more important element in determining population structure and change in an area than fertility and mortality.

Types of migration. Pattern of migration may be rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to urban, interregional and international, etc.

(i) Seasonal migration. On a time scale, migration may be temporary or permanent. Temporary movement may take the form of seasonal migration. It may be of agricultural workers to meet a demand during labour-intensive agricultural seasons, migration which is a movement of people between places for a period of more than one season but less than a lifetime may be important.

(ii) International migration refer to movement of people between countries and continents. It plays an important role in changing population patterns over relatively short periods. In recent decades, international migration has again increased. For most of the people, voluntary migration offers improved economic or other opportunities.

A significant number of people, on the other hand, have to move to other countries as refugees due to civil war, political unrest or environmental degradation, which is less common. At the beginning of the 21st century, the UN estimated that about 120 million people world-wide, were living outside their native countries, including about 15 million refugees.

(iii) Internal migration is an even more widespread demographic process. It involves hundreds of millions of people leaving the countryside for cities, or from overcrowded to other regions offering better opportunities. The movement of rural population to the growing urban cities is caused by push and pull factors.

The adverse conditions operating in rural areas including poverty, unemployment, poor facilities of education, health, recreation and other services push the population to seek a living elsewhere while pull factors are the attractions of the city or destination areas. They include high wages, cheap land, better living conditions and opportunities for economic advancement. As a result, people migrate to the towns and cities, which in turn, have given rise to a large number of slums among them.

(iv) Rural migration. The movement of population also takes place between one rural tract and the other, particularly in the agricultural countries of the world. Such migration takes from crowded areas of low per capita agricultural productivity to areas of new developments.

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