

Multiple-Choice Answers

1. (B)

Containing India and China, Asia is the world's most populated region. Africa and Latin America are also both experiencing high population growth rates.

2. (E)

East Asia has the highest concentration of people. South Korea is in East Asia, as is China, Taiwan, North Korea, and Japan, to name a few. The second-largest concentration on the earth is found in South Asia, composed of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

3. (E)

Agricultural density is the number of farmers per unit area of farmland. (E) is the best choice because Egypt has a limited amount of farmland near the fertile Nile River; the rest of the country is desert-like. All of Egypt's many farmers crowd near the Nile, packing it densely. (A), (B), and (D) have lower agricultural densities because their farms are more technologically well developed, allowing fewer farmers to farm larger areas and thus decreasing the number of farmers in their economies. (C) has more farmland per person than does Egypt, thereby reducing its agricultural density.

4. (D)

Carrying capacity is like the fire capacity of a theater, which indicates the number of people who can safely sit in the theater and exit in an emergency. Carrying capacity is the number of people who can be sustained in a given region, such as a country. When a country exceeds its carrying capacity, it is considered overpopulated (B). (A) is an integral part of a region's carrying capacity, because the infrastructure is its support network of transportation, health care, communication, and so forth. (C) is the number of people divided by the amount of farmland in a region, and (E) is a demographic tool showing the size of cohorts (age groups) divided by gender in a given country or region.

5. (E)

Population pyramids show the age and sex ratios of a population. They can be useful to geographers in identifying trends in a country's population as well as pointing to potential future problems, such as a growing dependency ratio. (C) is incorrect because population pyramids do not consider income. (D) Although population pyramids can show the effects of disease on a population, they cannot specifically prove a cause. Loss of population through war, disease, migration, or famine would all appear the same on a pyramid.

6. (B)

Italy is experiencing a graying population with its lower birth rates and increasing death rates (because the older generation is larger than the younger generation). Algeria, on the other hand, has not yet moved into stage 4 of the demographic transition model and is still experiencing natural population growth. (A) is not true because the percentages of men and

women are nearly equal in both countries. (C) is untrue because life expectancy is higher in Italy as a result of its more equally distributed and more well-developed health care practices. (D) is untrue and reversed, because more people are subsistence, rural farmers in Algeria than in Italy. (E) is false for the same reason (B) is true.

7. **(B)**

Karl Marx argued that a “surplus population,” when there are unemployed workers, is only a manifestation of the unequal distribution of resources causing some economic classes and areas to have more resources than others. (A) is the philosophy of Thomas Malthus, who believed that overpopulation results when the birth rate grows faster than the food supply, which leads to famine and chaos. (C) was a belief held by Ester Boserup in the 1960s. Marx would not have agreed with (D) because he did see surplus populations occurring in capitalistic societies. (E) would indicate population reduction, which Marx would not have advocated in any instance.

8. **(B)**

In sub-Saharan Africa, life expectancy is projected to drop nearly 10 years, on average, by 2015. Namibia alone is projected to lose 26 years. These drops are primarily attributed to HIV/AIDS infections. (C) would have been the next-best choice because of Russia’s struggling economy and rising HIV/AIDS rates, but sub-Saharan Africa has higher loss of life expectancy years. (A) and (D) are both in more-developed regions, and (E) is improving as a result of improved health technology.

9. **(A)**

RNI data only include fertility and mortality rates and therefore do not give a complete picture for a region. Although U.S. fertility rates may be moving toward replacement level, the amount of immigration to the U.S. is increasing the size of the overall U.S. population. However, immigration is not accounted for in the RNI. (B) is more applicable to the CBR rather than the RNI. (C) refers to the birth rate, not the RNI. (D) is true in regions acutely hit by HIV/AIDS, but that does not make the RNI less comprehensive in its use. (E) is also a true statement but is not a cause of the RNI’s limited picture.

10. **(A)**

Pronatalist laws encourage people to have babies, whereas antinatalist policies discourage people from having babies. Cash rewards in the form of tax breaks would encourage people to have more children. (B), (C), and (D) are antinatalist policies discouraging families from having babies, whereas (E) is neither. Some might argue that (E) promotes child birth, but (A) is more clearly encouraging higher birth rates, while (E) is simply supporting new parents.

11. **(E)**

The status of women was emphasized at the 2004 U.N. conference. Leaders discussed the crucial relationship between opportunities for women beyond reproductive roles and global population control. (A) is related but recognized at earlier conferences; (B) was on focus in the

1970s during the cold war; (C) was a focus in the 1980s, during the Green Revolution; and (D), though a factor discussed, this has not been considered critical to controlling growth because it reduces population growth.

12. **(D)**

China's growth rate was drastically controlled through its one-child policy in the 1980s, forcing its population to reach (or very nearly reach) replacement-level fertility. However, India's drastic growth was not as forcibly controlled, in part because India is a democracy and not a totalitarian state. Therefore, India's growth rate continues to increase, and through hidden momentum, its population will continue to grow for many years to come.

13. **(B)**

The medical revolution occurs in stage 2 and is the cause of lowering death rates. At that point, birth rates remain high, which accounts for the rapidly increasing population. (A) is a time of high birth and death rates, (C) is a time of low death rates and falling birth rates, (D) is the time of low birth and death rates, and (E) is the theoretical time when deaths overtake births because of an aging population.

14. **(C)**

North Africans are streaming into many western European countries to fill the job vacancies created by the graying population and shrinking birth rates. Although China (B) may be a tempting choice because of its size, the country limits its emigration. A large number of immigrants into the United States come from Latin America (A), but migration to Europe is too long and difficult for many in Latin America compared with the nearer opportunity offered by the United States.

15. **(D)**

In Ravenstein's time, England was industrializing, and most migrants moved only small distances. However, those who went long distances moved to cities in search of opportunities, making (D) correct and (A) incorrect. (B) is incorrect because most migrants were young adults. (C) is incorrect because most migration streams tend to produce smaller counterstreams in the opposite direction. (E) is incorrect because Ravenstein noticed the opposite trend, that rural dwellers were more migratory than urban dwellers because rural dwellers were moving into cities.