

2.8 Women and Demographic Change

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS education 教育 • status of women 妇女地位

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the link between the **status of women** 妇女地位 and fertility.

You must be able to:

- explain how female **education** 教育 lowers fertility
- explain how female employment lowers fertility
- link women's access to health care to lower infant mortality
- connect these changes to the DTM

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Education and fertility

As girls stay in school longer, they marry later, gain knowledge of **family planning**, and choose smaller families — so fertility falls.

■ Employment and health

Paid work raises the **opportunity cost** of many children, and better health care and contraception cut both fertility and **infant mortality**.

■ Link to the DTM

Rising female status is a key driver of the fertility decline seen in Stages 3-4 of the DTM.

2 Practice

2.1 Explain how educating girls tends to lower a country's fertility rate. [2]

2.2 State how women's employment affects family size. [2]

2.3 A country expands female education and access to clinics.

(a) Predict the effect on the total fertility rate. [1]

(b) Predict the effect on the infant mortality rate. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Which change is most strongly associated with falling fertility? [1]

- **A** lower female literacy
- **B** rising female education and employment
- **C** banning contraception
- **D** younger marriage

3.2 Rising female status usually moves a country toward DTM [1]

- **A** Stage 1
- **B** Stages 3-4 (lower fertility)
- **C** higher death rates
- **D** Stage 2 growth

3.3 Two regions differ sharply in female education.

(a) Which region likely has the higher TFR — more or less educated? [1]

(b) Explain the link. [1]

Solutions

2.1 educated women marry later and know about family planning; they choose smaller families / careers, so fertility falls.

2.2 paid work raises the opportunity cost of children/time; families tend to be smaller.

2.3 (a) TFR falls. (b) IMR falls (better maternal/infant health).

3.1 B. female education and employment strongly lower fertility.

3.2 B. lower fertility shifts a country into Stages 3-4.

3.3 (a) the less-educated region. (b) less schooling → earlier marriage, less family planning, larger families.