

2 Population density and the demographic transition – Part 1 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

2.1 Arithmetic density divides by ALL land, including desert and mountain that cannot feed anyone, so a country with a large uninhabitable area looks uncrowded. Physiological density divides by arable land only, so it measures how many people each unit of food-producing land must support.

2.2 $(28 - 8) \div 10 = 2.0\%$ per year.

2.3 It is below the replacement level of about 2.1, so without net in-migration the population will eventually decline and age.

2.4 A wide base narrowing steeply upwards — many young children, far fewer old people — because the birth rate is high while life expectancy is still rising.

2.5 It is based on the experience of European countries and assumes every country follows the same sequence; many developing countries moved through stage 2 far faster, with the death rate falling because of imported medicine rather than internal development.