

2 Malthus, policy and migration — Part 2 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

2.6 That population grows geometrically while food supply grows only arithmetically, so population will outrun the food available and be checked by famine, disease or war.

2.7 Agricultural technology — mechanisation, fertilisers, high-yield varieties — raised food output far faster than he assumed. (Also accepted: fertility fell as countries developed, so population did not grow geometrically.)

2.8 Both have been forced to flee, but a refugee has crossed an international border while an internally displaced person remains within their own country, and so has no protection under refugee law.

2.9 Intervening obstacle: a closed border, a desert, or the cost of the journey. Intervening opportunity: a job found in a nearer city, which ends the migration before the intended destination.

2.10 It produces an ageing population with a shrinking working-age group, so the dependency ratio rises and fewer workers support more retired people. (Also accepted: a skewed sex ratio where sons are culturally preferred.)