Past-paper walk-through

Population ▪ 5.3

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 0455/11 N25 Q26 ▪ 1 mark
- 0455/12 N25 Q26 ▪ 1 mark
- 0455/13 N25 Q25 ▪ 1 mark
- 0455/23 N25 Q5 ▪ 20 marks
- 0455/11 J25 Q26 ▪ 1 mark
- 0455/13 J25 Q26 ▪ 1 mark
- 0455/21 J25 Q4 ▪ 20 marks
- 0455/12 M25 Q26 ▪ 1 mark
- 0455/12 N24 Q25 ▪ 1 mark

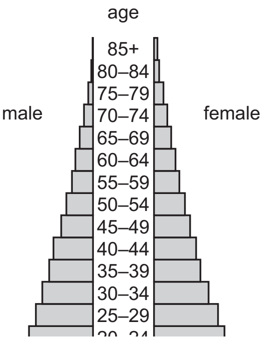
Reading the mark scheme

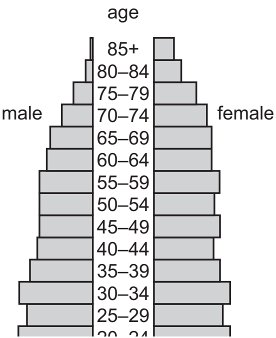
- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- // separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = "or words to that effect" – the wording need not match.

Question 26

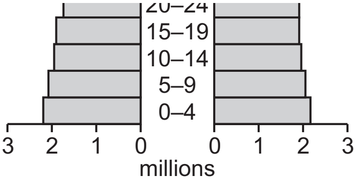
0455/11 N25 ▪ Q26 ▪ 1 mark

26 The charts show the population structure of a country in year X and year X + 50.

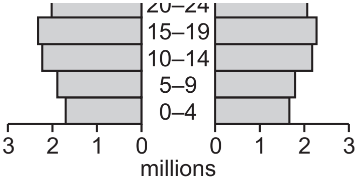




Question 26



year X



year X + 50

During this period, how did birth and death rates change?

Question 26

	birth rates	death rates
A	fell	fell
B	fell	no change
C	rose	fell
D	rose	no change

Solution 26

Answer: **A**

Why

- Compare the shape of the two population pyramids.
- A narrowing base means the birth rate has fallen.
- A wider top means longer life expectancy – so the population is ageing.

Question 26

0455/12 N25 ▪ Q26 ▪ 1 mark

26 A country has a falling birth rate and a rising death rate, while an increasing number of its working age adults (16–60 years) are seeking employment abroad.

How is this likely to affect the numbers in the different age groups in the country?

	under 16 years	16–60 years	over 60 years
A	fall	fall	fall
B	fall	rise	rise
C	rise	fall	rise
D	rise	rise	fall

Solution 26

Answer: **A**

Why

- A falling birth rate and a rising death rate both shrink the population over time.
- More working-age adults seeking work raises the labour supply now.
- But the population is ageing, so the dependency ratio will rise in the longer run.

Question 25

0455/13 N25 ▪ Q25 ▪ 1 mark

25 The population sizes of four countries, **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**, are all equal.

Which country is most likely to have the highest population growth, given the changes in the table?

	birth rate	death rate	net migration
A	decreasing	increasing	unchanged
B	increasing	decreasing	increasing
C	increasing	increasing	decreasing
D	unchanged	increasing	decreasing

Solution 25

Answer: **B**

Why

- Population growth is births minus deaths, plus net migration.
- With equal populations, compare those three figures for each country.
- The highest growth combines a high birth rate, a low death rate and net immigration.

Question 5

0455/23 N25 ▪ Q5 ▪ 20 marks

5 In 2023, the Canadian Prime Minister said that his country's aim was to increase immigration to half a million a year. This was because the country was experiencing labour shortages and an increase in life expectancy. More workers in Canada would increase the tax revenue available to spend on pensions, and more workers would also increase consumer spending. An increase in the immigration of both skilled and unskilled workers might affect the country's car industry.

(a) Identify two causes of an increase in life expectancy. [2]

(b) Explain two ways a firm could attract skilled workers from another country. [4]

(c) Analyse how an increase in consumer spending could increase economic growth. [6]

(d) Discuss whether or not the wages of workers employed by car firms will increase in the future.

[8]

Question 5

(a) (a) Identify two causes of an increase in life expectancy. [2] **[2]**

(b) (b) Explain two ways a firm could attract skilled workers from another country. [4] **[4]**

(c) (c) Analyse how an increase in consumer spending could increase economic growth. [6] **[6]**

(d) (d) Discuss whether or not the wages of workers employed by car firms will increase in the future. [8] **[8]**

Solution 5

(a) Mark scheme

- Identify two causes of an increase in life expectancy.
- Two causes from:
- ▪
- falling death rate / more / better healthcare / healthier
- lifestyles
- ▪
- better education
- ▪

Solution 5

- higher (disposable) income
- improvement in nutrition
- more / better housing / living standards
- better environment / less pollution
- better working conditions

Solution 5

- less child poverty
- ▪
- ending of a war / famine / natural disaster.
- 2 If more than two causes are given, consider the first three.
- There may be other relevant causes. These are the most
- common ones.
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Solution 5

(b) Mark scheme

- Explain two ways a firm could attract skilled workers
- from another country.
- Logical explanation which might include:
- ▪
- offer higher wages / prospects of promotion (1) enabling
- the workers to enjoy high living standards 1
- ▪
- offer better working conditions (1) e.g. regular breaks 1

Solution 5

- ▪
- offer fringe benefits (1) e.g. good pension scheme 1
- ▪
- offer training (1) increase chance of a good job in home
- country later 1
- ▪
- strong / targeted marketing overseas (1) highlighting
- benefits of job 1
- ▪
- meet relocation costs (1) removes geographical barrier 1

Solution 5

- ▪
- reputation (1) e.g. good employer / outstanding
- product/service (1).
- 4 One mark each for two ways identified and one mark each
- for two explanations.
- If more than two ways are given, consider the first three.
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Solution 5

(c) Mark scheme

- Analyse how an increase in consumer spending could
- increase economic growth.
- Coherent analysis which might include an increase in
- consumer spending may:
- ▪
- increase total demand (1) this may increase confidence
- (1) may encourage firms to increase their output 1
- firms' revenue / profits increase (1) leads to more

Solution 5

- investment / innovation (1) new firms may start up 1
- raise GDP 1
- ▪
- increase output, firms may buy capital goods / invest 1
- this will increase productive capacity 1
- ▪
- increase output, more workers may be employed 1
- this will reduce unemployment (1) increase incomes 1
- increase consumer spending further 1
- ▪

Solution 5

- increase (indirect) tax revenue (1) which can be spent
- on e.g. infrastructure / education / healthcare (1) leading
- to further increase in productive capacity / GDP (1).
- 6 Only reward increasing productive capacity and raising GDP
- once.
- Reward but do not expect reference to the multiplier effect.
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- October/November 2025
- Guidance

Solution 5

(d) Mark scheme

- Discuss whether or not the wages of workers employed
- by car firms will increase in the future.
- In assessing each answer, use the table opposite.
- Why they might:
- ▪
- demand for cars might rise
- ▪
- revenue / profit may increase, enabling firms to pay

Solution 5

- more
- ▪
- car workers may become more skilled / more productive
- ▪
- bargaining strength to car workers may increase / their
- trade unions may become more powerful / inflation rate
- may increase causing higher wage demands
- ▪
- governments may subsidise car production.
- Why they might not:

Solution 5

- ▪
- advances in technology may reduce the need for car
- workers
- ▪
- rise in unemployment will increase competition among
- workers for jobs
- ▪
- increased immigration may increase the supply of car
- workers
- ▪

Solution 5

- demand for cars may fall if public (mass) transport
- improves
- ▪
- inflation may reduce real wages.
- 8
- Level
- Description
- 3
- A reasoned discussion which accurately
- examines both sides of the economic

Solution 5

- argument, making use of economic
- information and clear and logical analysis
- to evaluate economic issues and
- situations. One side of the argument may
- have more depth than the other, but
- overall, both sides of the argument are
- considered and developed.
- There is thoughtful evaluation of
- economic concepts, terminology,
- information and/or data appropriate to

Solution 5

- the question. The discussion may also
- point out the possible uncertainties of
- alternative decisions and outcomes.
- 6–8
- 2
- A reasoned discussion which makes use
- of economic information and clear
- analysis to evaluate economic issues
- and situations. The answer may lack
- some depth and development may be

Solution 5

- one-sided. There is relevant use of
- economic concepts, terminology,
- information and data appropriate to the
- question.
- 3–5
- 0455/23
- October/November 2025
- Guidance
- Level
- Description

Solution 5

- 1
- There is a simple attempt at using
- economic definitions and terminology.
- Some reference may be made to
- economic theory, with occasional
- understanding.
- 1–2
- 0
- A mark of zero should be awarded for no
- creditable content.

Solution 5

- 0
- L1 and up to 2 marks for understanding of wages, firms and
- employment.

Question 26

0455/11 J25 ▪ Q26 ▪ 1 mark

26 Which combination of statistics is used to calculate the natural population growth of a country?

	1^{st} statistic	2^{nd} statistic
A	birth rate	net immigration
B	death rate	birth rate
C	emigration	death rate
D	immigration	emigration

Solution 26

Answer: **B**

Why

- Natural population change is births minus deaths.
- Migration is *not* natural change – it is a separate component.
- So the two statistics needed are the birth rate and the death rate.

Question 26

0455/13 J25 ▪ Q26 ▪ 1 mark

26 What will increase a country's population, all other things being equal?

A a rise in emigration

B a rise in immigration

C death rates higher than birth rates

D decreased life expectancy

Solution 26

Answer: **B**

Why

- Population rises when births exceed deaths, or when immigration exceeds emigration.
- So a rise in immigration adds to the population.
- Emigration and a death rate above the birth rate would both reduce it.

Question 4

0455/21 J25 ▪ Q4 ▪ 20 marks

4 In 2023, India became the country with the largest population. This may affect the government's macroeconomic aims. In 2018, the Indian Government cut the country's corporation (corporate income) tax rate from 35% to 25%. Between 2019 and 2022, India's inflation rate averaged 6%. Some economists suggested that to achieve its central inflation rate target, the government should cut its spending.

(a) Identify two macroeconomic aims of government that may conflict. [2]

(b) Explain two reasons why a country may have a high population growth rate. [4]

(c) Analyse how a cut in the corporation (corporate income) tax rate can increase economic growth. [6]

(d) Discuss whether or not a decrease in government spending will reduce inflation. [8]

(a) (a) Identify two macroeconomic aims of government that may conflict. [2] **[2]**

Question 4

(b) (b) Explain two reasons why a country may have a high population growth rate. [4] **[4]**

(c) (c) Analyse how a cut in the corporation (corporate income) tax rate can increase economic growth. [6] **[6]**

(d) (d) Discuss whether or not a decrease in government spending will reduce inflation. [8] **[8]**

Solution 4

(a) Mark scheme

- Identify two macroeconomic aims of government that
- may conflict.
- ▪
- Full employment / low unemployment (1) and price
- stability (1).
- ▪
- Economic growth (1) current account balance (1).
- ▪

Solution 4

- Price stability (1) redistribution of income / poverty
- reduction (1).
- ▪
- Economic growth (1) economic sustainability (1).
- 2 If more than two macroeconomic aims given, consider the
- first three.
- Allow any macroeconomic aim.

Solution 4

(b) Mark scheme

- Explain two reasons why a country may have a high
- population growth rate.
- Logical explanation which might include:
- ▪
- High birth rate (1) due to e.g. low age of marriage / lack
- of education on birth control (1).
- ▪
- Low death rate / high life expectancy (1) due to e.g.

Solution 4

- good quality healthcare (1).
- ▪
- Immigration /net immigration (1) due to e.g. high
- incomes (1).
- ▪
- High fertility rates (1) due to e.g. young female
- population (1).
- ▪
- Birth rate higher than the death rate (1) results in higher
- natural growth rate (1).

Solution 4

- 4 One mark each for each of two reasons identified and one
- mark each for each of two explanations.
- If more than two reasons given, consider the first three.
- 0455/21
- May/June 2025
- Guidance

Solution 4

(c) Mark scheme

- Analyse how a cut in the corporation (corporate income)
- tax rate can increase economic growth.
- Coherent analysis which might include:
- ▪
- Cut in corporation (corporate income) tax will increase
- the amount of profits that can be kept by firms (1) may
- attract MNCs to country (1) this will increase the funds
- firms have to spend (1) on capital goods (1) and

Solution 4

- increase incentive to invest (1) more to spend on wages
- (1) may create job opportunities / reduce unemployment
- (1) raise consumer expenditure (1) firms grow faster (1).
- ▪
- Higher investment (1) will increase total demand (1). It
- may also increase the quality of capital goods (1) may
- introduce new technology (1) may increase productivity
- /productive capacity (1) increase output / GDP (1).
- ▪
- Provide an incentive to enterprise (1) as more profits

Solution 4

- can be retained / higher profits (1).
- 6 Do not credit answers that refer to income tax or any other
- tax than corporation tax.
- 0455/21
- May/June 2025
- Guidance

Solution 4

(d) Mark scheme

- Discuss whether or not a decrease in government
- spending will reduce inflation.
- In assessing each answer, use the table opposite.
- Why it might:
- ▪
- may reduce total demand
- ▪
- lower total demand may reduce demand-pull inflation

Solution 4

- ▪
- if near full employment, lower demand may have a
- significant impact on inflation
- ▪
- may reduce need for taxes, lower indirect taxes may
- reduce prices.
- Why it might not:
- ▪
- lower government subsidies may raise prices
- ▪

Solution 4

- lower government spending on education and training
- may reduce productivity and may increase cost of
- production
- ▪
- lower government spending on infrastructure could
- increase transport costs
- ▪
- higher costs of production may increase cost-push
- inflation
- ▪

Solution 4

- may be other causes of inflation e.g. rise in wages
- 8
- Level
- Description
- 3
- A reasoned discussion which accurately
- examines both sides of the economic
- argument, making use of economic
- information and clear and logical
- analysis to evaluate economic issues

Solution 4

- and situations. One side of the
- argument may have more depth than
- the other, but overall both sides of the
- argument are considered and
- developed. There is thoughtful
- evaluation of economic concepts,
- terminology, information and/or data
- appropriate to the question. The
- discussion may also point out the
- possible uncertainties of alternative

Solution 4

- decisions and outcomes.
- 6–8
- 2
- A reasoned discussion which makes
- use of economic information and clear
- analysis to evaluate economic issues
- and situations. The answer may lack
- some depth and development may be
- one-sided. There is relevant use of
- economic concepts, terminology,

Solution 4

- information and data appropriate to the
- question.
- 3–5
- 0455/21
- May/June 2025
- Guidance
- 8
- Level
- Description
- 1

Solution 4

- There is a simple attempt at using
- economic definitions and terminology.
- Some reference may be made to
- economic theory, with occasional
- understanding.
- 1–2
- 0
- A mark of zero should be awarded for
- no creditable content.
- 0

Solution 4

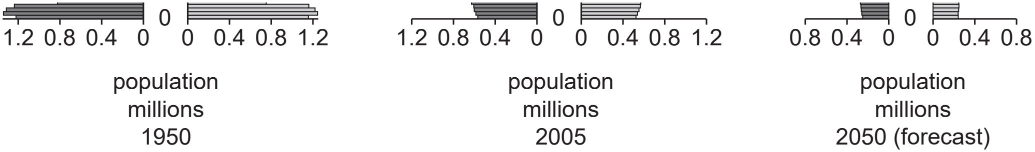
- 0455/21
- May/June 2025
- Guidance

Question 26

0455/12 M25 ▪ Q26 ▪ 1 mark

26 The diagram shows population data for a country for 1950, 2005 and 2050.

Question 26



What can be concluded from the diagram?

A Men outnumber women in each year.

B People are living longer over the period.

C The population has grown continuously.

D The workforce has grown continuously.

Solution 26

Answer: **B**

Why

- A population pyramid shows age groups stacked by sex.
- Compare the *shape* between the years: a narrowing base means falling birth rates.
- A widening top means people are living longer, so the population is ageing.

Question 25

0455/12 N24 ▪ Q25 ▪ 1 mark

25 The table contains details on birth rate, death rate and net migration for several countries in a year.

	birth rate	death rate	net migration
Australia	13	7	850 000
Brazil	14	6	30 000
Nigeria	39	12	–300 000
US	12	8	4 500 000

What can be concluded from the table?

A Only one country, Nigeria, had a decreasing population.

Question 25

B The country with the lowest birth rate had the lowest death rate.

C The country with the lowest death rate had the highest birth rate.

D The country with the lowest natural rate of increase in population was the US.

Solution 25

Answer: **D**

Why

- Population change is births minus deaths, plus net migration.
- So work out the natural change first, then add or subtract the migration figure.
- Watch the sign: net *emigration* reduces the population.