Study Questions—Population & Migration

1. Explain the difference between arithmetic growth and exponential growth.

2. What have been some of the trends in population growth and distribution since the First Agricultural Revolution?

3. What impact has the Industrial Revolution had on human geography? How have populations which have had such revolutions typically responded?

4. What is the relationship between population growth and distribution to natural hazards?

5. How does distance decay and intervening opportunity affect migration patterns?

6. What is the relationship between improvements in global health and the appearance of age-sex pyramids over the last century?

7. Population pyramids are used to analyze a country’s demographic characteristics and for government officials to plan for future needs.
   A) For each of the basic shapes of population pyramids (expanding, declining, and stable) discuss how the following terms/concepts are revealed in the shape of the pyramid:
      i. Birth rates.
      ii. Death rates.
      iii. Dependency ratio.
   B) For each of the basic shapes of population pyramids (expanding, declining, and stable) give an example of a country with each shape and discuss two geographic challenges they face in the future.
   C) What impact does the shape (expanding, declining, and stable) of a country’s population pyramid have on migration issues? Use specific examples in your response.

8. Why do fertility rates and mortality rates differ from region to region and sometimes even within regions?

9. What tools do demographers use to study population structures?

10. Population growth rates vary around the world. Given this fact, answer the following:
    A) Define Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Crude Death Rate (CDR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR), and Natural Increase Rate (NIR).
    B) Explain why population growth rates vary between countries with different levels of development.
    C) Name one developing country that has a population growth rate comparable to the industrialized world’s rates and explain how that country has accomplished this.

11. What contributions did John Snow, Thomas Malthus, and Ernst Ravenstein make to population geography?

12. What were Thomas Malthus’s views on population growth? What were some of his predictions? How have neo-Malthusians broadened Malthus’s theory? What are some criticisms of these theories? (give at least 3 criticisms)

13. Explain the demographic transition model. Why are some demographers suspect of its validity when applied to contemporary growth situations?

14. The demographic transition model has often been used to predict population change in regions experiencing economic development.
    A. Diagram and clearly label the classic demographic transition model.
    B. Summarize the main stages and the reasons why a society moves from one stage to another.
    C. Explain why this model might not be useful in predicting population change in some countries today.
    D. Some demographers argue for a Stage V. What characterizes Stage V, and what countries and/or regions are now in this stage? Why are they in this new stage?

15. What role does medical geography play within the realm of human geography?
16. Distinguish between each of these examples of human movement:
   - voluntary and forced migrations
   - cyclic and periodic movement
   - immigrant and emigrant
   - push and pull factors

17. How does fertility, mortality and migration influence the distribution of population?

18. What influences the drop in fertility rates in various parts of the world?

19. Explain historical and current migration trends around the world.

20. Overpopulation continues to concern many government officials around the world.
   A) Define the following terms:
      - i. Arithmetic density.
      - ii. Physiologic density.
      - iii. Agricultural density.
      - iv. Overpopulation.
      - v. Under-population.
   B) Name one country that is overpopulated and use the above terms to justify your response.
   C) Name one country that is under-populated and use the above terms to justify your response.
   D) Discuss two challenges of overpopulation for a developed and a developing country. Use specific examples.

21. Describe some of the pro- and anti-natalist policies practiced by nations in today’s world.

22. Population growth is an on-going concern for many countries in the world today. Two such countries are India and China. Both have attempted to control their growth rates through birth control policies.
   A. What were/are some of the family planning programs attempted by India (discuss at least 3 programs)?
      Has India been successful? Why or why not?
   B. What is China’s policy? Has China been successful? Why or why not?

23. Government policy experts from different countries look at population growth rates from a variety of perspectives. Choose one country from each list and discuss in detail their population policies and what prompted that government to take such a stance.
   A) Pro-natalist countries: Germany, France, Japan.
   B) Anti-natalist countries: China, India, Kenya.

24. How have population-control policies contributed to female infanticide and the abortion of female fetuses in India, China and other countries where tradition and economies threaten girls and women?

25. What is the role of women in various countries around the world?

26. People migrate for many different reasons
   A. List and explain the major push and pull factors in migration.
   B. Give one example within the US and Canada for each type of migration.
   C. Give one global example for each type of migration.

27. Define the two types of internal migration and then discuss the major intraregional and interregional migration patterns within the US in recent years. How do the intraregional migration trends differ in less developed countries?

28. Explain the guest worker program in Europe and the need for such program. Describe the similarities and differences between illegal immigrants to the US and guest workers in Europe.

29. Why do migrants face obstacles? Explain what an intervening obstacle is and give four examples of obstacles to human migration in the world.

30. Today the world is experiencing record rates of migration. Discuss in detail two push and pull factors for each of the following types of migration:
   A) International migration (Eastern to Western Hemisphere or Southern to Northern Hemisphere).
   B) Interregional migration (Northeast U.S. to Southeast U.S. or Central America to Mexico).
   C) Intraregional migration (rural to urban in China or urban to suburban in the U.S.).
31. Where are migrants distributed on a global scale? Where are the largest flows of migrants today? Why?

32. The Industrial Revolution, demographic transition and international migration are all connected. Answer the following questions using specific examples.
   A) What is the relationship between the Industrial Revolution and demographic transition? In other words, how did the Industrial Revolution contribute to massive population growth?
   B) How did the diffusion of the Industrial Revolution influence international migration streams in the 19th and early 20th centuries?
   C) Give two specific examples from the last thirty years of countries in Stage II of the demographic transition and how being in that stage contributed to international migration.

33. Define chain migration.
   A) Give two examples with regard to the impact chain migration has had on urban areas of the United States.
   B) Give two examples with regard to the impact chain migration has had on rural areas of the United States.

34. Both Thomas Malthus and the modern-day neo-Malthusians believe that the world will become overpopulated.
   A) Describe Malthus’s views on population growth and food production and his conclusions on the overpopulation of the world.
   B) Describe the views of the neo-Malthusian movement. In what ways do the views of Malthus and the neo-Malthusians differ?
   C) Describe Julian Simon’s or any neo-Malthusian critics’ views on overpopulation. How do they differ from the neo-Malthusian movement?

35. The nature of migrants to the United States has changed dramatically over the past 150 years.
   A) Identify the two regions where most migrants to the United States originated prior to 1930. Describe at least one push factor and one pull factor for migration at this time.
   B) Identify the two regions where most migrants to the United States originated after 1930. Describe at least one push factor and one pull factor for migration at this time.