

CBSE Class-12 Sociology Test Paper-02
Demographic structure of Indian society

General Instruction:

- Question 1-5 carries two marks each,
 - Question 6-8 carries four marks each.
 - Question 9-10 carries six marks each.
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1. What does demography studies?
2. What are demographic studies based on?
3. What were the different processes that took place in the Europe during the latter half of the eighteenth century?
4. How did the modern state begun to expand its role and functions?
5. Why is demographic data important?
6. Differentiate between formal and social demography?
7. Why was the Malthusian theory criticised?
8. Why is the second stage in the theory of demographic transition referred to as transition stage?
9. Explain the theory of demographic transition.
10. Describe about the size and growth of India's population.

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Demographic structure of Indian society

1. Demography studies the trends and processes associated with population including – changes in population size; patterns of births, deaths, and migration; and the structure and composition of the population, such as the relative proportions of women, men and different age groups.
2. All demographic studies are based on processes of counting or enumeration – such as the census or the survey – which involve the systematic collection of data on the people residing within a specified territory.
3. Two different processes happened to take place at roughly the same time in Europe during the latter half of the eighteenth century – the formation of nation-states as the principal form of political organisation, and the beginnings of the modern science of statistics.
4. The modern state had begun to expand its role and functions. It had, for instance, begun to take an active interest in the development of early forms of public health management, policing and maintenance of law and order, economic policies relating to agriculture and industry, taxation and revenue generation and the governance of cities.
5. Demographic data are important for the planning and implementation of state policies, especially those for economic development and general public welfare. When this first emerged, social statistics also provided a strong justification for the new discipline of sociology.
6. Distinction is made between formal demography and a broader field of population studies.

Formal demography is primarily concerned with the measurement and analysis of the components of population change. Its focus is on quantitative analysis for which it has a highly developed mathematical methodology suitable for forecasting population growth and changes in the composition of population.

Population studies or social demography, on the other hand, enquires into the wider causes and consequences of population structures and change. Social demographers believe that social processes and structures regulate demographic processes; like sociologists, they seek to trace the social reasons that account for population trends.

7. The most effective refutation of his theory was provided by the historical experience of

European countries. The pattern of population growth began to change in the latter half of nineteenth century, and by the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century these changes were quite dramatic.

Birth rates had declined, and outbreaks of epidemic diseases were being controlled.

Malthus's predictions were proved false because both food production and standards of living continued to rise despite the rapid growth of population.

Malthus was also criticised by liberal and Marxist scholars for asserting that poverty was caused by population growth. The critics argued that problems like poverty and starvation were caused by the unequal distribution of economic resources rather than by population growth.

An unjust social system allowed a wealthy and privileged minority to live in luxury while the vast majority of the people were forced to live in poverty.

8. The second stage in the theory of demographic transition is referred to as transition stage as society had moved from a backward to an advanced stage. This stage is characterised by very high rates of growth of population.

This 'population explosion' happens because death rates are brought down relatively quickly through advanced methods of disease control, public health, and better nutrition. However, it takes longer for society to adjust to change and alter its reproductive behaviour (which was evolved during the period of poverty and high death rates) to suit the new situation of relative prosperity and longer life spans.

More or less similar patterns are followed in the less developed countries that are struggling to reduce the birth rate in keeping with the falling mortality rate.

In India too, the demographic transition is not yet complete as the mortality rate has been reduced but the birth rate has not been brought down to the same extent.

9. The theory of demographic transition suggests that population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development and that every society follows a typical pattern of development- related population growth.

There are three basic phases of population growth:

The first stage is that of low population growth in a society that is underdeveloped and technologically backward. Growth rates are low because both the death rate and the birth rate are very high, so that the difference between the two (or the net growth rate) is low.

The second stage is characterised by very high rates of population growth. This stage is

considered to be a transitional stage where the society is moves from a backward to an advanced stage. This stage is referred to as “population explosion’ because there is rapid population growth due to low death rates and high birth rates. The death rates are brought down through advanced medical technology and better nutrition. However, the birth rate still remains high as society takes longer to alter its reproductive behaviour. The third (and last) stage is also one of low growth in a developed society where both death rate and birth rate have been reduced considerably and the difference between them is again small.

10. India is the second most populous country in the world after China, with a total population of 1.21 billion according to the provisional data of Census of India 2011.
 - i. The growth rate of India’s population has not always been very high. During 1901–1951 the average annual growth rate did not exceed 1.33%. It in fact had a negative growth rate of -0.03% during 1911 to 1921 due to the influenza epidemic during 1918–19 that killed several people.
 - ii. The growth rate of population substantially increased after independence and was up to 2.2% during 1961-1981. Although the annual growth rate has decreased it remains one of the highest in the developing world.
 - iii. Before 1931, both death rates and birth rates were high, whereas, after this transitional moment the death rates felled sharply but the birth rate only fell slightly.
 - iv. The relative contribution to population growth from different regional groupings of states varies due to a very wide variation in the fertility rates across the states of India. Some states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have managed to bring down their total fertility rates (TFR) where as states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh still have very high TFR.