

Oxford Revise | Geography | Answers

Chapter 23 How is the UK's population changing?

All exemplar answers given are worth full marks.

1

(a)

- (i) Late stage 2 or stage 3. Death rates will start to decline slowly due to the better medical facilities on offer. Birth rates will fall rapidly when the country reaches stage 3, because there will be better knowledge and use of contraception and women will want to have careers, rather than stay at home raising a family.
- (ii) Due to the low birth rate, the population will be ageing. This means there will be fewer people of working age who are able to pay taxes to the government. This is at a time when, because of the greater number of retired older people in the population, there is an increasing demand for medical and welfare facilities. The population may start to decline as women are having less than 2.1 children. This is the average number required to keep a constant population total. A declining population is not favourable for economic growth.
- (iii) A falling birth rate leads to more educated women following careers, so they marry later and practise family planning. There is no longer a need for high birth rates to compensate for high infant mortality, or for large numbers of children to contribute to family incomes. Children are not needed to support ageing relatives owing to widespread availability of pensions.

(iv) This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough knowledge, understanding or analysis of the issue, process or concept. • Uses well-developed ideas and line of reasoning is clear and logically structured. • Information presented is relevant and substantiated.
2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable knowledge, understanding or analysis of the issue, process or concept. • Uses developed ideas and line of reasoning with some structure. • Information presented is mostly relevant and supported by some evidence.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge, understanding or analysis of the issue, process or concept. • Uses simple ideas with no developed points made. • Information is basic, unstructured, and supported by limited evidence.
	0	No response or no response worth of credit.

Example answer: *As countries develop, their population characteristics change. The DTM shows these changes in population characteristics over time, as a country develops economically through five stages. It shows both birth and death rates changing but does not account for migration. Stage 1 works well with relatively primitive societies, with nature controlling high birth and death rates, and high population numbers periodically checked by epidemics of disease, famine, and war. Stage 2 shows*

the start of economic and social development. The population increases rapidly because of the high birth rates, but death rates start to decline as diets, health services, sanitation, and hygiene improve. Stage 3 shows death rates still falling, but more slowly as most major diseases are now controlled. Birth rates fall rapidly as family planning is practised. The population growth rate therefore slows down. Stage 4 has the population totals of 'developed' countries fluctuating around a high level as birth rates decline further but death rates remain low. For example, both Germany and Japan have ageing populations. Population totals are falling because birth rates have fallen below the death rates. The natural population decline can mean that net immigration is needed to supplement their declining workforces. It is felt that the DTM is a reliable indication of the stages western countries went through. Emerging countries may not go through all the stages and not necessarily in the same order.

(b) Until the 1990s most of the population growth in the UK was due to natural increase. In the 21st century the UK had low birth rates, low death rates, and a population of 59 million increasing steadily. This increase was almost entirely due to migration. The rate of increase subsequently rose because of the expansion of the European Union in 2004 and 2011, which led to increased migration from Eastern Europe. Following Brexit in 2016, it is difficult to judge how UK population numbers might change in future. However, illegal migration is still continuing and migrants from outside the EU are now the main contributors to the UK's population increase, as birth rates tend to be higher among the latest arrivals in the country.

(c)

(i) The number of males and females in a population, broken down into age groups

(ii) A – females live longer in an ageing population

B – narrowing base shows a falling birth rate because of more educated women having careers and marrying later

2

(a)

(i) Choropleth mapping

(ii) London

(iii) 1 Predominantly rural

2 Have a milder climate

(b)

(i) This question is level-marked:

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2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable knowledge, understanding or analysis of the issue, process or concept. • Uses developed ideas and line of reasoning with some structure. • Information presented is mostly relevant and supported by some evidence.

Level	Marks	Description
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge, understanding or analysis of the issue, process or concept. • Uses simple ideas with no developed points made. • Information is basic, unstructured, and supported by limited evidence.
	0	No response or no response worth of credit.

Example answer: *There are opportunities resulting from the UK's aging population. Elderly people can continue paying taxes by working part time. They can make huge contributions in voluntary work and child support. Richer elderly people have considerable spending power to boost local economies, and business opportunities targeting the elderly can thrive. With the lower birth rate, the government may not have to spend as much on educational facilities. However, there are challenges. The increasing dependency ratio means that there are fewer taxpayers. This increases the proportion of tax-funded state benefits going on pensions when the government is receiving less money from taxation. The ageing population also inevitably increases demand for NHS and social care services and puts pressure on younger relatives to provide home support. Older people need modifications to buildings and the transport infrastructure as many of them will be less mobile and can suffer some form of disability.*

(ii) The government has had to respond to challenges resulting from the UK's ageing population. There have been changes to the retirement age and so access to a state pension. Retirement age has been increased to 66 and will increase again in future. The increased health care demands of an ageing population mean that the government must increase NHS funding. Pensioners also receive additional financial support with 'free' prescriptions, bus passes, and winter fuel payments. These measures add further demands on the government's financial resources. The issue of Pensioner Bonds encourages elderly people to save more because there is an improved rate of interest.

(c) This question is level-marked:

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Example answer:

Boston, Lincolnshire, eastern England

In 2001, Boston had a population of around 56 000, with many people living there who had been born

overseas. Since 2001, its population structure and ethnic diversity have changed markedly due to several eastern European countries joining the European Union. This led to young adult immigrants from Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia moving to Boston to work in the thriving agriculture and food processing industries. By 2011, Boston had the highest population of Eastern European residents of anywhere in the UK. The town benefited from new shops, foods, and cultural traditions. It also now has a higher birth rate generating more population growth. From 2011 to 2021, Boston's population increased to 70 500. There has been social unrest because some of the locals believe the migrants are 'taking' low-paid jobs, leaving fewer for them. There has been additional pressure put on local public services, such as health care and schools. Since the Brexit vote, many immigrants have returned to their home countries and the county's major farms and food processing factories have struggled to recruit enough workers.

3

- (a)** 1 The population of the country is increasing.
2 Not enough houses are being built.
- (b)** There are Green Belts where building developments are not allowed. The planning process is slow and expensive. Local authorities are no longer building council houses.