

GEOG221 FINAL EXAM TOPICS

*** 'PAY ATTENTION' ***

WEEK 1 – POPULATION GEOGRAPHY – PAY ATTENTION

- **(Human) Carrying Capacity** – ‘the number of people that can be supported in an area given the available physical resources and way that people use them’
 - Populations did grow large enough to push the limits of the earth’s carrying capacity for their way of life
 - Because hunter gathers used resources extensively not intensively (meaning they used them over a large area of land).
 - Can apply to animal population

- **A declining rate of growth ≠ a decline population in absolute terms**
 - Decline in population growth rate from 1970 onwards = population growth is slowing down in percentage terms.
 - Population growth rates are slowing.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTENT

Demography is concerned with:

1. Population size
2. Population growth or decline
3. Population processes (fertility, mortality, migration)
4. Population distribution
5. Population structure
6. Population characteristics

➤ **Population Geography**

‘The study of the ways in which spatial variations in the distribution, composition, migration and growth of populations are related to the nature of places’

➤ **Population Geography involves:**

- Exploring trends in population over space or in particular places
- Influenced by critical theoretical perspectives (critical population geography)

➤ **Population Growth**

- 4 million people on Earth at beginning of Agricultural Revolution.
- Within 200 years, the number of people grew to more than 7 billion.
- Industrial revolution (1750): 1750 = 753 million, 1804 = 1 billion, 2012 = 7 billion.
- 1750AD: population = 753 million, average growth rate = 0.31, doubling time in years = 221.

- Between 1970 and 2017, world population growth rates almost halved: from 2.1% to 1.1% per annum.

WEEK 2 – LIMITS TO POPULATION GROWTH - PAY ATTENTION

- There would be a period of **food surplus when cultivation was growing faster than the population**, however, this would entail a food deficit when population growth increased.

Population growth = natural increase (births-deaths) + net overseas migration (in-migration-out-migration)

- **Malthus' Principle of Population**
 - Believed the 'human population was bound to crash'
 - Believed humans reproduce irrationally
 - Food deficit is reached = population crash
 - 'positive checks' (famine, war, violence, disease)
 - 'preventative checks' (religion, cultural norms)
 - Population explosions followed by population crashes
 - Malthus' conclusion was that poverty/starvation were inevitable results of population growth

