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WORKSHEET 17

School: Ba Sangam College

Name: _____

Subject: Geography

Year: 13

Strand	GEO 2 Human Geography
Sub strand	GEO 13.2.1 Population
Content Learning Outcome	Examine and justify the importance of population statistics in national planning and policy

CHAPTER 6: Population

Demography- is the study of people: where they live, what influences where they live, how many people there are in relation to the land area they live in and why they may move from one place to another.

-it is important to remember that human population is dynamic, not static. Population numbers, distributions, structures and movements constantly change in time, space and at different levels.

Population census

A census is an official and complete enumeration (counting) of the population with details such as sex, age, occupation etc.

The purpose of a census is to provide information on of the people who make up a population and identify where they live. Data from a census is required by various stakeholders for various reasons. For example,

- Governments require it for planning purposes and policy decisions on service provision such as education, health, utilities, employment, etc.
- Planners such as town planners might need to know so that they can factor it in their planning decisions.

Patterns and the Nature of Population Change

➤ **Population Distribution**

Population distribution means the pattern of where people live. Distribution describes the way in which people are spread out across the earth's surface.

➤ **Population density**

Is the ratio of a population to a given unit of area.

➤ **Optimum Population**

of an area is the number of people, when working with all the available resources, will produce the highest per capita economic return. That is the highest standard of living and quality of life.

- **Overpopulation**
occurs when there are too many people relative to the resources and technology available to maintain an 'adequate' standard of living.
- **Carrying Capacity**
is the largest population of humans that a particular area can support.
- **Underpopulation**
occurs when there are far more resources in an area that can be used by the number of people living there.

Population Census

A census is an official and complete enumeration (counting) of the population with details such as sex, age, occupation, etc. It is a specific count of the entire population in a given area/country at a specific time. (hence the definition of "population as the total number of people at a particular place at a specific time) In Zimbabwe, censuses are conducted at 10 year intervals. (1982, 1992, 2002 and 2012 were all census years. It involves the process of collecting population information as well as the processes of compiling and publishing that population data. A census is the most comprehensive and accurate method of compiling information. The basic unit for collecting information is a household. A household is made up of a person or persons who live and eat together. While a census questionnaire which contains a list of questions can be sent to each household, this is rarely done. In Zimbabwe, trained census officials go from household to household interviewing the head of each household and filling the questionnaire. The questions in the questionnaire cover the following areas: Demographic/population characteristics such as age, sex, fertility, mortality and migration.¹⁶⁵ Housing characteristics such as house and its location (rural/urban). Available services such as running water and electricity. A census might also cover areas such as income, availability of services such as TV, cars, etc.

(Source: <http://www.revision.co.zw/>)

1. Define the following terms: (3 marks)
- a. Census b. Demography c. Enumerator

3. A census questionnaire is rarely sent to households. Instead a count official conducts face-to-face interview. Describe a reason for this option. (2 marks)

4. State two examples to show that population is dynamic. (2 marks)

5. State two reasons for the compilation and publication of census figures. (3 marks)