LESSON NOTES & ACTIVITIES

Strand	Human Geography
Sub Strand	Population and Settlement
Key Learning Outcome	• Define terms/concepts related to population and demography. • Justify the need for population data in national development planning and policy making.

In DEMOGRAPHY, 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 Study and its Importance Population studies are the scientific study of human populations. It entails the study of concepts shown in the diagram below
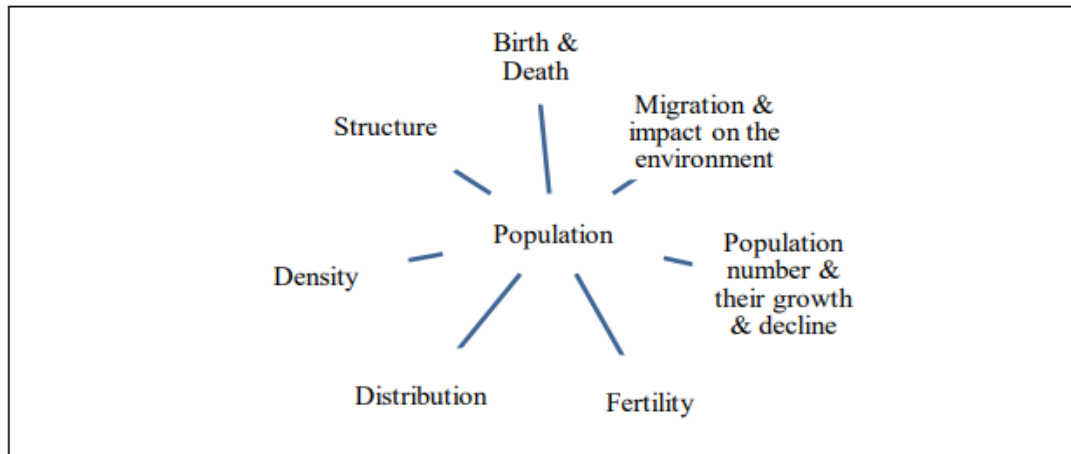
Population data such as age, sex, population size, and so on are obtained through a **census.**

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.

• Environmentalists are always considering the impact of people on the environment; the bigger the population the higher the pressure on resources such as firewood, timber, coal, the destruction of habitats, etc.

• Other groups and individuals interested in population data include: geographers, NonGovernment now known as the Civil Society Organisation, political parties and businesses.

Activity

1. Define the following terms:

a. Census

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b. Demography -

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c. Enumerator -

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2. Apart from governments, planners and environmentalists, other groups and individuals such as geographers, NGOs, political parties and businesses are interested in population data. Explain one reason for this interest by geographers, NGO such as Save the Children and political parties.

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

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4. State two examples to show that population is dynamic. 5. State two reasons for the compilation and publication of census figure.

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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.

World population distribution is uneven.

Places which are **densely** populated contain many people. These are habitable environments such as the Damodar Valley in India.

Sparsely populated places tend to be difficult places to live. They are usually places with hostile environments such as Antarctica.

Shown by a **Dot Map**; Each dot represents a given number of people.

Activity

One dot represents 100,000 people.
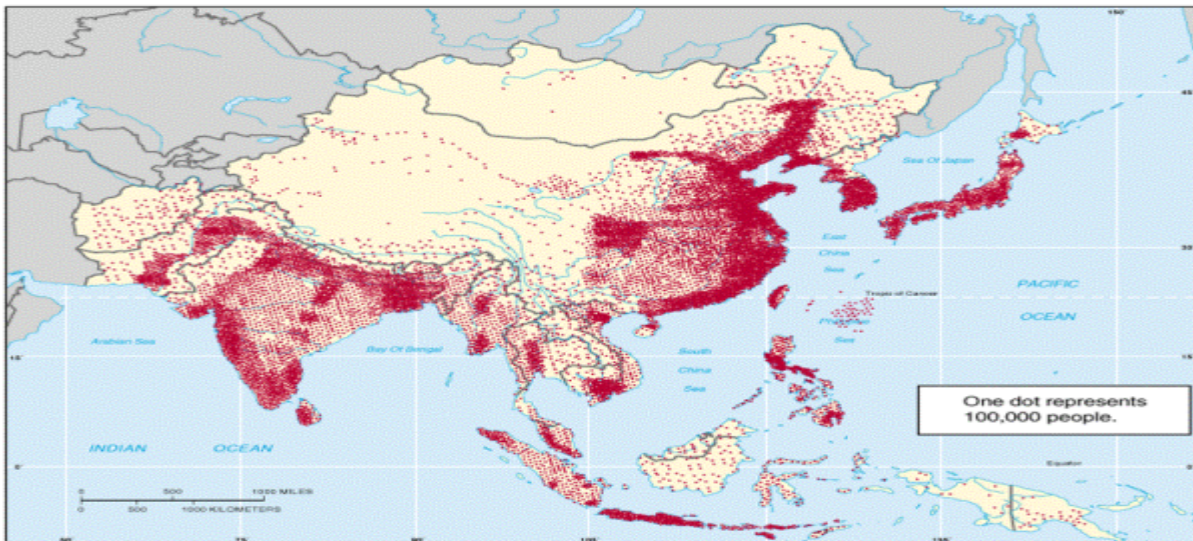
1. Identify three densely populated areas in the world.
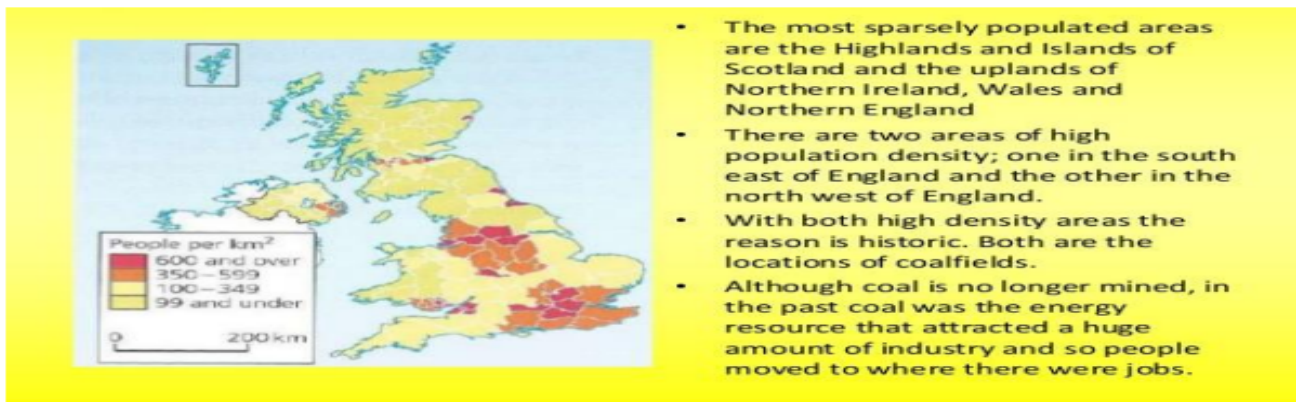
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2. Suggest two reasons for the dense population in areas mentioned in (1).

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3. Refer to Hokkaido in Japan. Explain two reasons for its sparse population compared to the rest of the country.

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Population Density

• Population Density is a measurement of the number of people in an area. It is an average number.

• It is calculated by dividing the number of people by area and is shown as the number of people per square kilometre.

Case Study : Population Distribution and Population Density in the UK

- The most sparsely populated areas are the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and the uplands of Northern Ireland, Wales and Northern England
- There are two areas of high population density; one in the south east of England and the other in the north west of England.
- With both high density areas the reason is historic. Both are the locations of coalfields.
- Although coal is no longer mined, in the past coal was the energy resource that attracted a huge amount of industry and so people moved to where there were jobs.

Source: https://www.slideshare.com

Factors Affecting Population Density

There are a range of human and natural factors that affect population density. The table below illustrate this.

Physical/Natural Factors	Low Density	High Density
Relief (shape and height of land)	Rugged mountains : very cold, high plateau(Tibet) and worn-down shield lands(Canadian Shield)	Flat, lowland plains are attractive to settlements(Bangladesh) and areas surrounding some volcanoes(Mt Etna)
Climate	Very low rainfall (Sahara), areas with a long seasonal drought & irregular rain(Sahel), high humidity(Amazon), very cold areas with a short growing season(Northern Canada)	Reliable rainfall and well-distributed throughout the year, no temperature extremes and lengthy growing season(NW Europe), where sunshine or snow is enough to attract tourists and areas with a monsoon climate(SE Asia)
Vegetation	Coniferous forests of Northern Canada & rainforests of the tropics	Grasslands
Soils	Frozen soils (Arctic), thin mountain soils, leached, severely-eroded soils like in the Amazon.	Deep, humus-filled soils and river-deposited silt (Ganges delta)
Water Supplies	Lack permanent supply of clean water due to climate or no money and technology to build reservoirs and wells or lay pipes. Contamination by sewage, nitrates and salt.	Reliable water supply.

Diseases and Pests	May harm the population and limit the # living there. Malaria in Central Africa, HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa.	Some areas were initially relatively disease-and-pest-free; others had the capital and medical expertise to eradicate those which were a problem, e.g. The former Pontine Marshes in Rome.
Resources	Areas devoid of minerals and easily obtainable sources of energy rarely attract people or industry (Tibet)	Large mineral deposits, now or before. These resources usually led to the development of large-scale industry.
Human Factors	Low Density	High Density
Communications	Areas where it is difficult to construct and maintain transport systems tend to be sparsely populated. E.g. mountains(Bolivia), desert(Sahara) and forests(Amazon Basin)	Areas where it is easier to build canals, railways, roads, and airports have attracted settlements. Large natural ports have been developed for trade(Singapore)
Economic	Limited job opportunities cause some areas to be sparsely populated such as the Amazon Rainforest.	Intense farming or industry can support large numbers of people on a small land area, good job opportunities.
Political	Areas where the state fails to invest sufficient money or to encourage development-either economically or socially. Unstable governments repel people, e.g. Afghanistan.	Stable governments such as Singapore. Decisions may affect population distribution e.g. By creating new cities by opening up 'pioneer' lands for development.

Activity

1. Define these terms:

a. choropleth map, -

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dot map -

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population distribution -

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 population density -

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2. Copy and complete the table below:

Factor	Ways it affects distribution & density
River	
Mineral deposits	
Rugged terrain	
Urban area	