Case Studies

Underpopulation: Australia

Question

1. Using an example of a place you have studied, describe the causes of underpopulation.
2. Using an example of a place you have studied, describe the effects of underpopulation.

Place Specifics

* Land mass 7.7 million km2
* Population: 22 million
* Population density: 3 people/km2
* 80% of people live near the coast
* Rich in resources
* Potential for renewable energy
* MEDC: GDP per capita of 60,443 US$ (2021)
* Relatively highly skilled population

Causes of underpopulation (q1)

* Most people live around the coast as there are more job opportunities there, so a lot of land remains unused.
* Women have access to good education which means that they focus more on their careers before having children.
* Low death rate due to very good healthcare

Effects of underpopulation (q2)

* Small businesses may have to shut down due to not having enough customers (Economic).
* Public services such as buses or trains are often suspended as there aren’t enough people using them (Economic).
* Australia often produces more goods than it needs, so it can export them, making its economy flourish (Economic).
* Australia has to attract migrants in order for the country to function properly (Social/Economic).

Overpopulation: Bangladesh

Question

1. Using an example of a place you have studied, describe the causes of overpopulation.
2. Using an example of a place you have studied, describe the effects of overpopulation.

Place specifics

* Land area: 148,460 km2
* Population: over 160 million
* Population density: 1062 people/km2
* Scarcity of natural resources
* 4/5ths of the population live in rural areas
* 40% of the population is underemployed, working a limited number of hours a week.
* LEDC: GDP per capita of 2,457 US$

Causes of Overpopulation (q1)

* Insurance policy for parents for their old age
* Having more children gives your family social status.
* Corruption in the government leads to it not investing in family planning clinics, pharmacies where you can buy contraception or good education for both men and women.
* Widespread rural poverty so poorer people have more children so they can generate more income.

Effects of overpopulation (q2)

* Competition for jobs as too many people apply for one job. This often leads to unemployment (Economic).
* Strain on the healthcare system as many people are looking for medical care but there aren’t enough hospitals for all of them (Social).
* The population is so dense that people live on the outer islands. However, these are extremely low lying and vulnerable to floods. People die from typhoons every year (Social).
* Towns lack access to clean water and are overcrowded, which often leads to the spread of diseases. Most people in these towns are underemployed and extremely poor (Social).

Youthful populations: The Gambia

Question

1. What are the causes of a youthful population?
2. What are the effects of having a youthful population?

Place specifics

* 1 in 10 children dies before the age of 1
* 45% of the population are children.
* Fertility rate: 4.7 births per woman (2020)
* LEDC: GDP per capita of 772 US$

Causes of a youthful population (q1)

* Lack of access to contraception (Social)
* Religious reasons: some religions invite people to have more children (Social)
* Lack of education for women so their only role is often to just be housewives and look after children. (Social)
* Many people live in extreme poverty, so parents have more children in order to generate more income (Economic).

Effects of a Youthful population (q2)

* A higher child dependency ratio, meaning that taxes have to be raised in order to support the high percentage of children in the country. This can also create social tension (Social/Economic)
* More strain on education as a lot of children have to attend schools which often become overcrowded (Social).
* Strain on the healthcare system as young children need medical care such as immunizations (Social).
* Opportunities: young children who didn’t receive a good education will often struggle to find job opportunities as adults and may get involved in crime (Social).

Ageing populations: Japan

Question

1. Using a place you have studied, describe the causes of having an ageing population
2. Using a place you have studied, describe the effects of having an ageing population

Place specifics

* MEDC: GDP per capita of 39,312.66 US$ (2021)
* 29.1% of the population are elderly
* Fertility rate: 1.34 children/woman
* Stage 5 of the DTM

Causes of an ageing population (q1)

* Good healthcare results in most people getting medical care if they need it. This means that more people are able to live longer.
* Japan is a highly developed country, providing both men and women with good education. Therefore, many women focus on their careers before having children, and as a result have less overall.

Effects of an ageing population (q2)

* Higher tax rates: there are more old dependents who don’t pay taxes, so more strain is put on working aged people to pay them. (Economical)
* Lower pension funds: the government has to reduce the amount of money they give to pensioners because of the sheer number of elderly people. (Economical)
* Pressure to raise retirement age, meaning people will have to work until they’re older so it’s easier to manage the number of pensioners there are. (Social)
* Social tensions between elderly people and working aged people as the latter have to pay more taxes in order to support the former. (Social)

Anti-natalist policies: China

Question

* Using an example of a place you have studied, describe the causes for having an anti-natalist policy.
* Using an example of a place you have studied, describe the effects of having an anti-natalist policy.

Place specifics

* Fertility rate: 1.6, below the replacement fertility rate of 2.1.
* GDP per capita: 12,556.33 US$ (2021)
* In 2000, 90% of all aborted fetuses in China were female.
* There are 30-60 million more men than women

Causes for an anti-natalist policy

* There was a baby boom after a famine between 1959-61 and Chinese Government realized it needed to control its population if it were to feed all its people. Therefore, they introduced the “one-child policy” in 1979.

Effects of having an anti-natalist policy

* As a result of the One Child Policy, many Chinese women were forced by the government to have forced abortions (Social).
* The birth rate since 1979 has decreased and the population growth rate is now 0.7%
* Many of the children are what has been nicknamed “Little Emperors”, only children who often lack social skills that are gained from other siblings (Social).
* Chinese society traditionally prefers boys, so many baby girls were abandoned or orphaned; most aborted fetuses were also female. This has resulted in an imbalance between men and women and many men often struggle to find a partner. This is known as the “missing women problem” (Social).
* By 2025, there are expected to be more elderly people than children, which is going to put a financial strain on the country’s healthcare system (Economic).

How was the Policy implemented?

* They increased the marriageable age of men to 22.
* To get married and to have a child, citizens had to apply to the government. o If you applied by these rules you were entitled to free education, healthcare, housing and given a job. (INCENTIVES)
* If you did not follow the rules, then benefits would be removed and females who were found to be pregnant were given forced abortions and even sterilized. (DISINCENTIVES)
* The government used a lot of PROPAGANDA in the form of leaflets and posters to encourage citizens to follow the policy.
* To enforce the policy the government relied on community enforcement. Often elderly residents who were trusted within the community were asked to inform, elderly female informants were nicknamed 'GRANNY POLICE'.

Pro-Natalist policies: Singapore

Question

* Using an example of a place you have studied, describe the successes of having a pro-natalist policy.
* Using an example of a place you have studied, describe the limitations of having a pro-natalist policy.

Place specifics

* Fertility rate: 3.04 (1972), 1.96 (1987), 1.1 (2020)
* GDP: 72,794 US$
* Anti-Natalist policy: 1972-1987
* Pro-Natalist policy: 1987 onwards

Causes of a pro-natalist policy

* In 1987, Singapore’s population had dropped dramatically due to the anti-natalist policy introduced in 1972. Therefore, the government decided to introduce a pro-natalist policy.

successes of having a pro-natalist policy

* Short-term, there was a slight increase in Singapore’s fertility rate, meaning women were having more children and this contributed to the population increasing.

Limitations of having a pro-natalist policy

* Changing people’s attitudes to family size is about “hearts and minds”, and financial benefits to having more children alone are usually insufficient.
* Long-term, Singapore’s fertility rate has actually gone down, from 1.43 in 1986 to 1.1 in 2020.
* In a mainly democratic HIC, it is impossible for the government to change people’s minds, and some people even found the government measures “controlling”.
* Small businesses not always supported the policies as they could not afford to have many employees absent because of maternity leave.

How was the policy implemented?

* The government has increased maternity leave by 50% to 12 weeks, and it will cover the cost of maternity leave (the cost to the parents' employers) for the first four babies.
* The government is also increasing child benefits paid to families. Tax incentives are given which increase with the number of children
* Propaganda is used to influence citizens to comply with the policy and establish a good work life balance.
* The government will pay money into a special bank account of up to nearly $1000 for six years.
* The Singapore government has also sponsored dating organizations to encourage people to get married earlier and start having children.

HIV/AIDs: Botswana

Question

* Explain, using examples, how incidences of disease can affect the population structure of a country.

Place specifics

* % of population infected by HIV: 5.8% (1994), 16% (2009)
* Life expectancy dipped to 50 years but rose to 68 recently
* Population growth rate went down to 1.4 but back up to 1.8
* GDP: 6,805.22US$

Impacts of HIV/Aids

* Decrease in life expectancy and overall population: HIV reduces life expectancy and people (if not treated with Antiretroviral drugs) die sooner, and as a result the total population of a country goes down.
* The virus impacts women more than men because they have less access to healthcare. Men also often have more than 1 female partner, which means that one man can potentially infect multiple women, Therefore, the infection rate for women is higher.
* The virus causes increased mortality rates in all age groups, but infant (below the age of 1) and child (below the age of 5) mortalities are the most common. This is because these are the most vulnerable age groups in the population, and maternal healthcare tends to be poor (i.e. access to pharmacies and hospitals is limited in Botswana).
* Botswana has a large population deficit due to the HIV epidemic, and its population pyramid, rather than pyramid-shaped, is more chimney-shaped

Migration: Syria to turkey

Place specifics

* Economic losses between 2011 and 2016: $226 billion
* 13 million displaced, 6 million people left the country, 3.6 million to Turkey (as of 2021)
* Turkish government has spent over $40 billion on refugees
* 670,000 Syrian children enrolled in Turkish schools as of 2020
* Start of Civil War: 2011

Push factors

* Conflict and violence: the Syrian Civil War has forced many people to either internally displace or leave the country entirely.
* Political Instability: The government is unable to provide protection from attacks on its citizens – there is also corruption.
* Economic hardship: The war has led to a collapse in Syrian economy, with high unemployment rates and many people seeking refuge elsewhere

Pull factors

* Safety
* Geographic proximity: the geographical proximity between Syria and Turkey makes the latter a very inviting destination because of cultural and linguistic similarities.
* Generous asylum policies: countries such as Turkey, Germany and Sweden have very generous asylum policies for Syrian refugees making them attractive destinations for refugees.
* Family reunification: many Syrians have family that already lives in other countries, so those countries are an attractive destination

Effects on Syria

* Brain Drain: large amounts of people have fled Syria, many of which are skilled which resulted in Syria having a less highly skilled population.
* Economic loss due to the Civil War and displacement of people. The country will not recover until 2035
* Social Disruption as families and communities have been torn apart and fractured, making it hard for people to carry out normal lives

Effects on Turkey

* Economic pressure: the Turkish government has been spending a lot of money on refugees
* Social tensions can develop as a result of competition for jobs between Syrian refugees and Turkish people. Discrimination and xenophobia (dislike of people from other countries) have also been reported against Syrian refugees.
* Increased government spending because the government has to spend on goods and services for most people such as education and healthcare for refugees and their children.

Tectonics

Earthquakes: Haiti

Place Specifics

* 7 on the Richter scale
* $2 billion worth of damage
* Government is one of the most corrupted in the world
* Many had to drink dirty water which spread Cholera.
* 320,000 people killed and 3 million injured
* 250,000 buildings damaged
* 1,000,000 displaced from their homes
* 98% of rubble still lies in the streets
* Aid services took up to 48h to get to where they needed to be.

What caused it?

* The earthquake was caused by the conservative plate boundary between the North American and Caribbean plates. At a conservative plate boundary, convection currents in the mantle move the plates, which slide past each other, and their jagged edges get stuck, which causes pressure to build up. Eventually all the pressure is released, which causes the rock to crack and seismic waves to be released in the crust. This causes the shaking of the ground which we call an earthquake.

Impacts on Haiti

* Over 320,000 people were killed and 1,000,000 made homeless. (Social)
* Fishing ports and irrigation infrastructure were destroyed which was a serious setback for food production. (Social)
* $2 billion worth of damage, which is relatively low, however most people lived in slums, which are poorly built and are prone to collapsing, something the government should have thought about before. The latter also did not clean up rubble in the streets which resulted in 98% of it still lying in the streets today. (Economic)
* Haiti was the 17th biggest clothing supplier sold in the USA in 2008, and the destruction of over 250,000 buildings was a severe setback for the economy of both countries, but particularly for Haiti, as it did not receive the revenue its already unstable economy needed. (Economic)
* Landslides and floods resulted in further death and blockage of streets.

Responses

* Planeloads of food, medicine, rescue equipment and tents arrived at the airport in Port-au-Prince.
* Emergency teams were flown in to help the estimated 3 million injured.
* The Dominican Republic sent help through the Red Cross which sent several trucks carrying aid including surgical teams and set up a 50-bed field hospital.
* Huge graves, some containing over 100 bodies, were dug and in the shantytown of Carrefour, near the capital, over 2,000 corpses were burned.
* 91 make shift hospitals were set up
* The USA sent ships and teams to help remove debris and to get the aiport open again

volcanoes: Eyjafjallajökull

Place specifics

* Composite volcano – height of 1651m, crater diameter 3/4km
* Constructive plate boundary between the North American and Eurasian plates
* The only known eruptions were in 920, 1612, 1823 and 2010.
* 140 million cubic meters of eruptive material had erupted
* The ice cap fills a land area of about 100 km2

What caused the 2010 eruption?

* In March 2010, Icelandic ice cap Eyjafjallajökull began erupting for the first time in over 180 years.
* The eruption was caused by the constructive plate boundary between the Eurasian and North American plates. The plates move apart, and magma fills the space between them, which fills the volcano’s magma chamber with magma that rises through the vent and then erupts as lava.

Why do people live in Iceland?

* Fertile soil for farmers: although there is a risk of lava running down farmland, which kills livestock and crops, lava leaves behind minerals and a nutrient-rich soil, which can be farmed productively and provides a source of food and income. Volcanic soils make up less than 1% of the Earth’s surface, however they support 1/10th of its total population.
* Geothermal energy is a huge source of renewable energy in volcanically active areas. The magma near the surface heats up steam which is harnessed by turbines. Iceland has exploited geothermal energy: 30% of its total energy is geothermal, and 85% of houses in Iceland are heated using geothermal energy.
* Volcanic areas are often rich in minerals, which creates thousands of jobs around not only in dormant and extinct volcanoes but also near active volcanoes. However, this can be very dangerous, as there are often toxic gases in mining areas, which can often kill workers who may not have enough money to buy protective gear.
* Tourism is a very prominent industry in Iceland as many come there to witness ongoing volcanic eruptions or to enjoy the views and the famous hot springs, which occur because of geothermically heated groundwater. More than 100 million people visit volcanic sites each year.

What were the primary impacts of the eruption?

* The eruption brought much of the European airspace to a halt and cost airlines millions of euros in delays. A no-fly zone was established across many parts of Europe, and airlines were losing around $130 million each day. Over 100,000 flights were disrupted and around 10 million passenger journeys. Hundreds of thousands were stranded in other countries. (Economical)
* Homes and roads were damaged, and crops were destroyed by ash. This not only meant that many people were no longer making any money as farming was their main source of income, but also that food shortages could take place. (Social)
* The ash from the eruption completely blocked the sky and was a danger to people. Around 500 people had to be evacuated, and rescuers had to wear face masks in order to not choke on the ash clouds. (Social)

What were the secondary impacts of the eruption?

* Iceland’s GDP sharply dropped during the eruption, causing an economical downfall for the country. This was because due to the ash cloud covering up the sky, many tourists could not reach the country, and since tourism was one of Iceland’s main income sources, the sudden lack of it was a serious hit for the country’s economy. However, Iceland has since recovered, and its GDP is now even higher than it was before the eruption. (Economical)
* Sporting events were cancelled due to the cancelled flights.
* Fresh food imports stopped, and local water supplies were contaminated with fluoride.
* Flooding was caused as the glacier situated above Eyjafjallajökull melted.

Coasts

Coastal management: Holderness coastline

Place specifics

* Coastline eroding at an average of 1.8 meters per year
* Bridlington protected by a 4.7 km long sea wall
* 100 chalets lost at the Golden Sands Holiday Park
* East coast of England. Fastest eroding coastline in Europe

Reasons for management

* Cliffs in the Holderness coastline is made of boulder clay which is a soft rock. This rock slumps when wet which contributes to faster erosion.
* The beaches along the coast are very narrow which means that there is less protection for the coast as the power of the waves isn’t absorbed/reduced.
* There is an extremely long fetch in the waves hitting the Holderness coastline, which means that they are very high-energy waves.

Management strategies

* A sea wall has been built in Bridlington to stop coastal erosion.
* Hornsea is protected by three different hard engineering strategies: a sea wall, groynes and rock armor.
* Groynes was built in Withersea to try to make the beach larger.
* Mappleton is protected by rock groynes
* Spurn Head is protected by two hard engineering strategies: groynes and rock armor.
* Mappleton saw a 2-million-pound coastal defense scheme in 1991.

Conflicts

* There has been an increase in erosion at Great Cowden. This is because of the groynes in Mappleton, which have blocked longshore drift, so that area is not getting sediment to build up the beach. Farms have been destroyed, along with chalets.
* Some people are not happy with where the defenses have been erected, as their communities aren’t protected.
* Some sea defenses impact tourism as they look unattractive and therefore reduce the amount of money coming into the area.

Tropical storms: Hurricane Katrina

Development

Tnc’s: Nike in China

Place specifics

* Around 146 factories in China
* Around 260,000 workers in China, of which 70% are women
* HQ in Beaverton, Oregon, USA employing around 5,500 people
* 5600-6000 Nike retail stores in China
* Nike was established in 1972.

Causes

* Governments offered high incentives and were encouraging companies to set up their factories in LEDC’s
* They would be able to receive high revenue for a low cost
* Labor in these LEDC’s was very cheap compared to labour in MEDC’s
* Raw materials could be found there
* The market was expanding exponentially
* Free trade was taking place between countries with no import or export duties

Effects

* In China Nike supplies many jobs and is a major investor in the China’s economy by driving an export biased economy. More rural areas also have the ability to become more developed and industrialized. (Economic)
* Working conditions: While Nike has standardized health and safety regulations in factories and other fields of work, since Nike is franchised, some factories do use unethical working techniques. (Social)
* Trade: Since China is a major global power having part of your company based in China allows many trading routes that are not seen from other parts of the world. This has allowed Nike to grow much more since they are able to trade on all parts of the world. (Economic)

Rivers

Flood management: Bangladesh

Place specifics

* LEDC with a GDP per capita of 2,457 US$
* It got flooded in 2007.
* Jamuna river.
* 9 million were made homeless.
* 1,000 people died from drowning and from waterborne diseases.

Causes

* Lots of low-lying land in Bangladesh so it takes very little rising of water for it to overflow. (Environmental)
* Melted ice from the Himalayas can reach the country and contribute to flooding. (Environmental)
* Heavy deforestation and less interception as a result. (Human)
* Cyclones pushing water onto the land and causing coastal flooding. (Environmental)

Effects

* Erosion of chars (islands) by flooding rivers causes landlessness amongst Bangladesh’s poor; these people end up in major cities such as Chittagong and Dhaka. (Social)
* The monsoon flooding killed over 1,100 people in Bangladesh, and according to Forbes over 2000 people were killed across the South Asia region. (Social)
* 2.2 million acres of damaged cropland. (Environmental)
* At least 10.5 million people were estimated to have been displaced or marooned by the floods. 30 million across the whole South Asia region. (Social)
* The main highway connecting Dhaka to the rest of the country was flooded isolating the capital (Economical)
* The Bangladeshi health Department said that the deaths were caused by Diarrhoea, drowning, landslides, snakebites, and respiratory diseases. (Social)

RESPONSES

* Food aid from the government and other countries to prevent food shortages and death from starvation. (Short-term)
* Water purification tablets were given to people as a lot of the water got contaminated by the floods, and purifying it helped prevent the spread of waterborne diseases such as Cholera. (Short-term)
* People repaired embankments – raised riverbanks – so that the water could be contained more easily. (Short-term)
* Free seed given to farmers: a lot of people in Bangladesh are farmers, and the floods destroyed many of their crops, as well as their and many others’ primary source of food; by giving these farmers free seed, they could help the country recover from the flood by stabilizing the food supply without the need of help from other countries. (Short-term)
* Embankments were built to prevent flooding from happening in the future. (Long-term)
* Raised flood shelters were built so that in the case of a future flood, people could go there. This would reduce the death toll from directly drowning in the flood. (Long-term)
* Flood warning systems were introduced so that people would know when a flood was coming. Unfortunately, due to the widespread rural poverty in Bangladesh, many people did not have the means to access the alerts, so this was only partially successful. (Long-term)
* Deforestation was reduced as a result of the flood to increase interception and so decrease the discharge of the river during the flood. (Long-term)

OPPORTUNITIES

* Improved soil fertility due to the deposition of alluvium and silt from the river’s flooding.
* Renewable energy opportunities by using hydroelectric power generators.
* Fisheries – flooded areas can create new habitats for fish, providing area for fish farming.
* The destruction of low-quality buildings can create the opportunity to improve the construction of buildings to make them more resilient.
* Increased Tourism
* Irrigation and agriculture
* Water supply for community (Brahmaputra provide water for 80 million people in Bangladesh)

TOURISM

Growth of tourism: Jamaica

Place specifics

* In 2018, 30% of Jamaica’s economy is in tourism
* One in four Jamaicans are employed in the tourism industry
* 4.3 million tourists visited Jamaica in 2017

Benefits

* Contributed $1.2 billion to the economy
* Indirect econom ic benefits are at almost $3.8 billion
* 92,000 people employed directly in tourism, reducing unemployment rates.
* Revenue from tourism helps the government fund healthcare and education
* Roads and airports have been improved
* Three National Parks set up- funded by tourist entry tickets to conserve wildlife

Problems

* 25% of tourist workers have no job from May-November in rainy season when there are less tourists
* There is a lot of traffic congestion and litter at popular destinations
* Water is often in short supply due to the heavy use from the tourist industry
* Clashes between tourists and locals