Unit 2 Cheat Sheet: Population and Migration

AP® Human Geography · Unit 2 Review · Topics 2.1 to 2.12

> **The big idea:** Unit 2 is about people: how many there are, where they live, how fast their numbers change, and why they move. It is about 12 to 17 percent of the multiple-choice section. Population pyramids, the demographic transition model (DTM), and push and pull factors are FRQ favorites.
>
> **How to use it:** Fill in the blank version from memory first, then check it here. Star anything you missed. Those are your review targets.

KEY TERMS

Where people live (Topics 2.1 and 2.2)

Population clusters	About two-thirds live in East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Europe; most live in mid-latitude lowlands near water.
Arithmetic density	Total population ÷ total land area. An average that hides where people live.
Physiological density	Total population ÷ arable (farmable) land. Shows pressure on farmland.
Agricultural density	Farmers ÷ arable land. Low: machines (more developed). High: small plots.
Carrying capacity	How many people an area can support without damaging its environment.
Consequences of distribution	Dense places need services and gain representatives, jobs, and pollution.

Population pyramids (Topic 2.3)

Expansive pyramid	Wide base, narrow top: high birth rate, young, fast growth (Niger, Stage 2).
Stationary pyramid	A column: low birth and death rates, slow growth (Iceland, Stage 4).
Constrictive pyramid	Base narrower than the middle: TFR below 2.1, aging (Japan, Stage 5).
Dependency ratio	Dependents (under 15 and 65 and older) per 100 people ages 15 to 64.

Population change and Malthus (Topics 2.4 and 2.6)

CBR and CDR	Crude birth and death rates: births or deaths per 1,000 people a year.
Rate of natural increase (NIR)	(CBR minus CDR) ÷ 10, as a percent; leaves out migration. Doubling time: about 70 ÷ NIR.
Total fertility rate (TFR)	Average children per woman in her lifetime. About 2.1 is replacement level.
Infant mortality rate (IMR)	Deaths under age 1 per 1,000 live births; a clue to health care and development.
Malthus (1798)	Population (geometric) outruns food (arithmetic) until famine and war. Wrong so far: Green Revolution, fewer births.
Boserup	Flipped Malthus: more people push farmers to invent and grow more food.
Neo-Malthusians	Malthus was early, not wrong: water, energy, climate limits (Ehrlich). But famines today: mostly war, poverty.

Policies, women, and aging (Topics 2.7 to 2.9)

Antinatalist policy	Discourages births: family planning, contraception, family-size limits (China).
Pronatalist policy	Encourages births: cash per child, paid leave, childcare (France, Sweden).
Immigration policy	Decides who can move in (quotas, visas).
Women and demographic change	More education, paid work, and family planning: women marry later and have fewer children (Uruguay).
Aging population	Raises the elderly dependency ratio: fewer workers support more retirees.

Why people move (Topic 2.10)

Push factor	Drives people out: no jobs (economic), war (political), drought (environmental).
Pull factor	Draws people in: jobs, family (cultural), an aging population (demographic).
Intervening obstacle	Blocks or slows the move (desert, ocean, border control, visa cost).
Intervening opportunity	A closer place meets the need first, so the journey ends early.
Ravenstein's laws (1885)	Most moves are short, often in steps; every flow has a counterflow; long-distance movers (then mostly men, now many women) go to big cities.
Zelinsky's migration transition	Emigration peaks in DTM Stage 2; later-stage, wealthier countries attract immigrants.

Migration types and effects (Topics 2.11 and 2.12)

Refugee	Crossed an international border; cannot return (persecution, war, violence).
Internally displaced person (IDP)	Forced from home but still inside their own country. IDPs outnumber refugees.
Asylum seeker	Crossed a border and asked for refugee protection; not decided yet.
Chain migration	Follows family or friends who moved earlier, so migrants cluster together.
Step migration	Moves in stages: village to town to city.
Remittances	Money migrants send home; can bring in more than foreign aid.
Brain drain	Loss of skilled workers (doctors, engineers) a country paid to train. Return migration can partly reverse it.

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DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION MODEL (DTM) AND EPIDEMIOLOGIC TRANSITION (TOPIC 2.5)

STAGE	BIRTH AND DEATH RATES	GROWTH	LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH
Stage 1 (high stationary)	High CBR and CDR	Very slow; no country today	Pestilence and famine
Stage 2 (early expanding)	CDR plunges (clean water, vaccines, food); CBR stays high	Fastest; expansive pyramid (Niger)	Receding pandemics
Stage 3 (late expanding)	CBR falls (cities, cost of children, women's school and jobs)	Slows but continues	Degenerative and human-created (heart disease, cancer)
Stage 4 (low stationary)	Low CBR and CDR	Near zero; aging (Iceland)	Delayed degenerative diseases
Stage 5 (declining, possible)	CBR falls below CDR	Shrinks; constrictive pyramid (Japan, Germany)	Infectious diseases may return (drug resistance, global travel)

DON'T CONFUSE THESE

Arithmetic vs. physiological density	Physiological divides by arable land only, so it is always at least as high: pressure on farmland.
CBR vs. TFR	CBR is births per 1,000 people in one year; TFR is children per woman over her lifetime. Replacement level (about 2.1) is a TFR.
Stage 2: deaths vs. births	The population explodes because death rates fall, not because birth rates rise.
Refugee vs. IDP vs. asylum seeker	The border decides. An IDP never crossed one; an asylum seeker crossed and is still waiting for a decision.
Obstacle vs. opportunity	An obstacle blocks the move; an opportunity ends it early (a closer place meets the need).
"Climate refugee" vs. environmentally displaced	"Climate refugee" is not a legal term: people forced out by floods, drought, or rising seas are environmentally displaced. People who move mainly for work are economic migrants.
Forced vs. voluntary migration	Voluntary is a choice, even a hard one (chain, step, guest worker, transnational, transhumance, internal, rural-to-urban). Forced takes it away (slavery, refugees, IDPs).

EXAMPLES TO KNOW COLD

Egypt and the Nile	Mostly desert, so its arithmetic density looks moderate, but nearly everyone lives along the Nile, so its physiological density is very high.
Kuwait's population pyramid	Many men migrate there as guest workers, so working ages have a high sex ratio (males per 100 females). The pyramid shows the pattern; migration explains it.
China's one-child policy	Antinatalist (1980 to 2015): it slowed growth but left a rapidly aging population and more men than women. China allowed two children in 2016 and three in 2021.
Japan	Constrictive pyramid, Stage 5. Aging brings labor shortages and higher pension costs, so Japan relies on older workers, robots, and more foreign workers.
Professionals leaving India	India loses skilled workers (brain drain) but gains remittances. The United States and Western Europe gain workers and new cultures but may face debates over jobs and identity.

FRQ: HOW UNIT 2 SHOWS UP

PROMPT SAYS	WHAT TO DO
Identify	Name it. No explanation needed.
Define	Give the meaning of the term.
Describe	Give its key features or details.
Explain	Say how or why, and connect the cause to the result ("because," "which leads to").
Compare	Give a similarity or a difference between two things.
Explain the degree to which	Pick low, moderate, or high, then explain why.

Likely Unit 2 FRQ angles

- Identify a trend in a data table, then describe the change.
- Describe an economic push factor or intervening obstacle.
- Explain an effect of migration or of an aging population.
- Explain the limits of a data table, or of the DTM (based on Europe's history; leaves out migration).
- Explain the degree to which policies shape migration flows.
- Identify a DTM stage from a pyramid or CBR and CDR; explain it.

> **FRQ rules:** Read, name, explain: read the pyramid or table, name the shape, stage, or migrant type, then explain a cause and an effect. Write in complete sentences. If a part asks for one example, only your first one is scored.

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