

3.9 Demographic Transition

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **demographic transition**.

You must be able to:

- describe the four stages of the **demographic transition** 人口转变
- link each stage to birth and death rates
- connect the model to development

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later —follow the steps and you can do the Practice and Exam-style questions yourself.

■ The four stages

The **demographic transition** describes how birth and death rates change as a country develops:

1. **Pre-industrial** —high birth **and** high death rates; slow growth.
2. **Transitional** —death rate **falls** (better food, health); high births; **rapid growth**.
3. **Industrial** —birth rate falls (education, family planning); growth slows.
4. **Post-industrial** —low birth and low death rates; population stable or declining.

■ Reading a country's stage

Match the country's birth and death rates to a stage. A country with rapidly falling deaths but high births is in **Stage 2** (fastest growth).

■ The link to development

As countries develop (industrialize, educate, urbanize), they move from Stage 1 toward Stage 4, and growth slows.

■ A worked identification

A wealthy country with low birth and death rates and a stable population is in **Stage 4**.

2 Practice

Now apply the methods above.

2.1 In Stage 1, what are the birth and death rates like? [1]

2.2 In which stage is population growth fastest? [1]

2.3 What happens to the birth rate in Stage 3? [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A country with low birth and low death rates and a stable population is in [1]

- **A** Stage 1
 - **B** Stage 2
 - **C** Stage 3
 - **D** Stage 4
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3.2 A developing country's death rate has dropped sharply, but its birth rate is still high.

(a) State the stage. [1]

(b) Explain why its population is growing rapidly. [2]

3.3 Explain how development (education and family planning) moves a country from Stage 2 to Stage 3. [2]

4 Go further

You are now ready for the real exam questions on this subtopic:

- work through the **3.9 Demographic Transition** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Demographic Transition** section of the AP Environmental Science hand-out on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 Both high.

2.2 Stage 2 (transitional).

2.3 It falls.

3.1 D —Stage 4.

3.2 (a) Stage 2. (b) Deaths have fallen but births remain high, so the gap between them is large and the population grows rapidly.

3.3 Education (especially of women) and access to family planning lower the birth rate, so the birth–death gap narrows and growth slows, moving the country into Stage 3.