2.9 Aging Populations

Name: ______________ Class: __________ Date: ____________ **Total: 10 marks**

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **aging populations** 老龄化人口.

You must be able to:

- explain why populations age (low fertility, longer life)
- define the elderly **dependency ratio** 老年抚养比
- state the economic challenges of an aging population
- give one policy response to aging

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Why populations age

Populations age when **fertility falls** (fewer young) and **life expectancy rises** (more elderly), enlarging the older share of the population.

■ Elderly dependency

The **elderly dependency ratio** compares people over 64 to the working-age population. A high ratio means fewer workers support each retiree.

■ Challenges and responses

Aging strains **pensions and health care** and shrinks the workforce. Responses include raising the retirement age, encouraging immigration, or pro-natalist policies.

2 Practice

2.1 State two reasons a population ages. [2]

2.2 Explain one economic challenge of an aging population. [2]

2.3 A country's over-65 share is rising fast.

(a) Name the ratio that captures this burden. [1]

(b) State one government policy to ease it. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 An aging population is caused mainly by [1]

- **A** high fertility and high mortality
- **B** low fertility and rising life expectancy
- **C** rapid immigration of youth
- **D** a high infant mortality rate

3.2 A policy directly aimed at offsetting a shrinking workforce is [1]

- **A** banning immigration
- **B** encouraging youth immigration
- **C** lowering the retirement age
- **D** raising infant mortality

3.3 An aging country debates raising its retirement age.

(a) Explain how this helps with the dependency ratio. [1]

(b) State one drawback of the policy. [1]

4 Go further

- work through the **2.9 Aging Populations** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Population and Migration** section of the AP Human Geography handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 falling fertility / fewer children; rising life expectancy / people living longer.

2.2 fewer workers support more retirees; higher pension and health-care costs / labour shortage.

2.3 (a) the elderly dependency ratio. (b) raise retirement age / encourage immigration / pro-natalist incentives.

3.1 B. fewer births plus longer lives age a population.

3.2 B. youth immigration adds workers to a shrinking labour force.

3.3 (a) it keeps more people in the workforce, lowering the dependency ratio. (b) older workers may be unable to work / it is politically unpopular.