Grade 12 Geography: Population & Settlement Study Guide

Grade 12 | Geography | Study Guide | 2024

Free Study Resources for South African Matric Learners

1. Population Dynamics

Natural increase:	Birth rate - Death rate
Birth rate:	Births per 1000 people per year
Death rate:	Deaths per 1000 people per year
Total growth rate:	Natural increase + Net migration
Net migration:	Immigration - Emigration
Total Fertility Rate:	Average children per woman in lifetime

2. Demographic Transition Model (DTM)

- Stage 1 - High Stationary: high BR, high DR, low population (pre-industrial)
- Stage 2 - Early Expanding: high BR, falling DR; population grows rapidly (developing)
- Stage 3 - Late Expanding: falling BR, low DR; growth slows (newly industrialised)
- Stage 4 - Low Stationary: low BR, low DR; stable population (developed)
- Stage 5: BR < DR; population declines (some European countries)

TIP SA is between Stage 2 and 3. HIV/AIDS has had a significant impact on death rates, slowing progression. High youth dependency ratio (large young population) puts pressure on education and health services.

3. Population Pyramids

- Broad base + narrow apex: high BR, high DR; young population (developing countries)
- Narrowing base + wider middle: BR falling; transitional stage
- Narrow base + wide middle/top: low BR, low DR; ageing population (developed)
- Bullet/barrel shape: impacts of war, disease, migration visible as indentations

4. Migration

Push and Pull Factors

- Push (from origin): poverty, unemployment, natural disasters, conflict, drought
- Pull (to destination): better wages, job opportunities, political stability, family
- Rural-to-urban migration: common in SA; urbanisation; growth of informal settlements
- Brain drain: skilled workers emigrating; SA loses doctors, engineers
- Refugees: flee persecution; different from economic migrants

5. Settlement Patterns

- Urban: cities and towns; commercial, industrial, service functions
- Rural: dispersed, nucleated, linear settlement patterns
- Urbanisation: increase in % of population living in urban areas
- SA: 67% urban (growing); Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban major metros
- Primate city: one city much larger than next (Cape Town/Joburg relationship)
- Central Place Theory: hierarchy of settlements based on functions and range of goods