

GRADE 11 STUDY GUIDE | 2025

Population and Settlement

Geography

1. World Population Distribution

- Ecumene: inhabited areas of the world
- Non-ecumene: areas too extreme to sustain permanent settlement (polar regions, deserts, high mountains)
- Densely populated areas: East Asia (China, Japan), South Asia (India), Western Europe, Eastern USA
- Factors favouring settlement: flat land, fertile soil, water supply, mild climate, coastal/river access, natural resources
- Factors discouraging settlement: extreme cold/heat, aridity, mountainous terrain, flooding, inaccessibility

2. Population Growth and Dynamics

Natural increase rate = Birth rate - Death rate (per 1000 per year)

Population growth = Natural increase + Net migration

- Demographic Transition Model (DTM): 4 stages showing how birth and death rates change with development
- Stage 1 (pre-industrial): high birth rate, high death rate, low/stable population
- Stage 2 (early industrial): birth rate high, death rate falls => rapid population GROWTH
- Stage 3 (industrial): birth rate falls as development increases; slower growth
- Stage 4 (post-industrial): both rates low => low/stable population; many developed countries
- Total Fertility Rate (TFR): average number of children per woman; replacement level = 2.1

3. Migration

Types of Migration

- International: between countries; legal or undocumented
- Internal: within a country (rural-urban, urban-urban, urban-rural)
- Voluntary: choice (economic opportunity, education)
- Forced: no choice (war, persecution, climate disaster); refugees and asylum seekers

Push and Pull Factors

- Push: unemployment, poverty, drought, conflict, political persecution, poor services
- Pull: job opportunities, higher wages, better services, political stability, family ties

4. Settlement Types and Patterns

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Rural settlements: dispersed (individual farms), linear (along roads/rivers), nucleated (clustered around resource)

- Urban settlements: cities and towns; classified by size (megacity > 10 million)
- Urbanisation: increasing proportion of population living in urban areas
- Urban hierarchy: village < town < city < primate city < megacity; each level has greater range of services
- Counter-urbanisation: movement from cities to rural/suburban areas; common in developed countries

5. Urban Issues in South Africa

- Rapid urbanisation since 1990s (influx control abolished)
- Informal settlements: lack basic services; health and safety risks
- Urban sprawl: cities expand outward; increases infrastructure costs; loss of agricultural land
- Urban renewal/gentrification: investment in older areas raises property values; displaces poorer residents
- Government responses: RDP housing, Breaking New Ground policy, N2 Gateway