

## Human Population Concept Questions

1. How can a population profile be useful and what kind of information can be learned from them? How can one be used to predict future populations? Describe the differences between population profiles for developed and developing nations.
2. How do the population profiles, fertility rates, and population projections of developed countries differ from those of developing countries?
3. How is the demographic transition of developing countries very different from the transition previously experienced by what are now the developed countries? How is this difference contributing to population growth?
4. How does a nation's affluence increase its demand for resources? What effect does affluence have on population?
5. Do humans need to control our population? Why or why not?
6. Why do the concepts of biotic potential and environmental resistance not apply to humans?
7. What factors limited growth for most of human history? What contributed to the rapid growth in recent history?
8. What type of growth pattern has the human population followed during the last 150 years? What do we know about that kind of growth curve that should be cause for alarm?
9. Why does the concept of carrying capacity not apply easily to the human population?
10. Are there any indications that the human population may already have exceeded the Earth's carrying capacity? If so, what are they?
11. How has the growing human population affected the carrying capacity for some other species?
12. How might future population goals of developed and developing countries contrast?
13. Why is population momentum a concern?
14. You overhear some people talking about how excess human population could be accommodated by building orbiting space stations that could house 10,000 people each. Each station would be able to produce its own food. Outline an argument for or against this idea. Suggest some policies that would have to be enforced on the space stations.
15. Some people argue that technology can provide solutions for environmental problems, while others believe that technology alone will not be sufficient. Outline an argument to support the position you take on the question. Can future sustainability be attained through development alone?
16. What conditions often result from people in developing nations seeking a better life by moving to urban areas?
17. Outline the social and environmental arguments for and against opening Canadian borders to migrants from developing countries. Give reasons for the position you support.