

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q8(a)

Discuss the contemporary population problems in the light of various socio-cultural demographic theories

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Anthropology GS 1 · 20 marks · Age, sex and population variation as genetic marker

9.6 Age, sex and population variation as genetic marker: ABO, Rh blood groups, HLA Hp, transferrin, Gm, blood enzymes. Physiological characteristics-Hb level, body fat, pulse rate, respiratory functions and sensory perceptions in different cultural and socio-economic groups.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the contemporary population problems in the light of various socio-cultural demographic theories
- Write about 250 words for 20 marks

Revision summary

Malthus and transition still frame public talk.

Caldwell links fertility fall to reversed wealth flows and schooling.

Boserup sees people as a force for agrarian intensification.

Son preference and sex ratio are socio-cultural, as **Sen** showed.

Ageing, migration, and slums are today's problems, not a single explosion.

Introduction

Contemporary population problems are not only too many births. They include ageing, migration, sex ratio, and urban crowding. Theories that ignore culture will misread all four.

Body

Older theories

- **Malthus** feared geometric mouths against arithmetic food. India's public debate still hears him, though Green Revolution and PDS changed the food term.
- **Marx** treated surplus people as a product of capitalist labour demand, not of nature.
- **Demographic transition** (Notestein and others) expected death rates to fall first, then births, after industrialisation.

Socio-cultural readings

- **Dumont** and Indian family studies linked fertility to joint household and son preference, not only to income.
- **Caldwell's** wealth-flow theory: births fall when children cost more than they return, a school-and-dowry story as much as a factory story.
- **Boserup** reversed **Malthus**: population can drive intensification. Indian irrigation and labour-intensive rice fit better than a famine script.

- **Sex-ratio problems, as in Amartya Sen's missing women, are cultural-technical:** ultrasound plus patriliney, not a Malthusian leftover.
- Ageing in Kerala and Europe is the late transition. Youth bulges and slum density are the middle.

Now

- Climate and displacement add a new Malthusian tone, but the mechanism is inequality of carbon and housing, which **Davis** on slums would stress.

Flow diagram

Malthus -> Scarcity anxiety
Transition -> Low death then low birth
Caldwell -> Wealth flow
Boserup -> Intensification
Sen -> Sex ratio

Conclusion

Read population through transition, wealth flows, **Boserup**, and gender. **Malthus** names anxiety. Culture and class name the actual Indian problems of sons, cities, and care of the old.

Facts & figures

Malthus

Essay on Population; checks of misery and vice unless moral restraint.

Caldwell

Fertility declines when net wealth flows from child to parent reverse.

Boserup

The Conditions of Agricultural Growth; population as a driver of technique.

Sen

Missing women: millions of females absent where gender bias meets medical technology.