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Q67

Consider the following countries : 1. Italy 2. Japan 3. Nigeria 4. South Korea 5. South Africa Which of the above countries are frequently mentioned in the media for their low birth rates, or ageing population of declining population ? (a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 1, 3 and 5 (c) 2 and 4 only (d) 3 and 5 only Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2024 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

Physical, Indian and world geography - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

1, 2 and 4. Italy, Japan and South Korea - low fertility / ageing.

(b)

1, 3 and 5. Nigeria and South Africa are not the usual ultra-low fertility set here.

(c)

2 and 4 only. Drops Italy, which is in the ageing group.

(d)

3 and 5 only. High-fertility / younger profiles, not the keyed set.

Summary

Official key is (a) 1, 2 and 4. Italy, Japan and South Korea are repeatedly in the news for very low birth rates and rapid ageing. Nigeria remains high-fertility; South Africa is not grouped with East-Asian / South-European ultra-low TFR in this paper. So 3 and 5 drop.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Total fertility rate

Average live births per woman over her childbearing years.

Ageing population

Rising share of 65+ when fertility stays below replacement (~2.1).

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