AP Human Geography
Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP® HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

8 points: (1 + 3 + 2 + 2)

A. Region Identification (1 point total)

Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Africa south of the Sahara, West Africa, Southern Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, or the Sahel, Sahelian

Do not accept: North Africa, South Africa

B. Explain three factors that contribute to high population growth rates

(1 point for each factor, 3 points total (1+1+1). Each category may be used only once.)

1.	Lack of access to medical care or contraceptives, or lack of information about family planning	7.	Low level of human development, low HDI, or low level of economic development, high rates of poverty
2.	High infant or child mortality rates, high incidence of disease or epidemics	8.	Primarily agrarian, rural or mainly small village communities
3.	Lack of educational access or opportunities for girls and women (Note: It is not about family planning)	9.	Early marriages; lack of laws (or lack of enforcement) that set a minimum age for marriage
4.	Traditional social practices that discourage women from working outside home	10.	Pronatalist government policies, government incentives for families with children, policies that restrict or prohibit family planning programs
5.	Children seen as laborers	11.	Results of wars, disasters, environmental crises
6.	Cultural or religious preference for male children or large families	12.	Decreasing death rates

C. One economic incentive to decrease population growth
(1 description + 1 impact = 2 points total)

Economic Incentives (1 pt.)
1. Increasing distribution, availability, or affordability of contraceptives to men and women
2. Promoting economic development, poverty reduction, sustainable development
3. Promoting female labor force participation or business ownership (e.g., microcredit, access to capital)
4. Offering incentives for smaller families or disincentives for having larger families
5. Implementing a government economic safety net to support the elderly

D. One social program to decrease population growth
(1 description + 1 impact = 2 points total)

Social Program or Policy (1 pt.)
1. Promoting family planning, or reproductive health education
2. Increasing education of girls, promoting higher education for women
3. Implementing antinatalist policies that limit the number of children
4. Improving healthcare for women, infants, and children
5. Producing media or ad campaigns showing benefits of family planning practices
6. Promoting urbanization
7. Changing, implementing, or enforcing laws about increasing the minimum age at marriage

Potential impact of the strategy

For Both Parts C and D:

Potential Impacts (1 pt.)
a. Reduced birth rates or fertility rates (lower population is not acceptable)
b. Move from stage two to stage three of the demographic transition
c. Fewer children lead to more resources for better education or health care
d. Improved gender equality or female empowerment
e. Conflicts between traditional social norms and new population programs
f. Increased social tension between men and women
g. Skewed gender ratio
h. Increased elderly dependency ratio; population aging; reduced youth dependency ratio

ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 2

A: The world region with the highest rate of natural increase is sub-saharan Africa, or mainly central Africa.

B: In sub-saharan Africa, one factor contributing to a high RNI is low levels of education. With low levels of education, women don't understand proper child care or birth control methods, which causes a high birth rate. Another contributing factor in a high RNI is increased demands for labor. In under-developed countries like those in Africa, the economy is very labor-intensive. This causes people to have large families for the children to be a part of the labor force and sustain the economy. A third contributing factor is high levels of infectious disease, especially in children. Because children die very often due to diseases like malaria and HIV, families tend to have a lot of children for a higher chance of one child surviving. This creates a peak in crude birth rates and an overall high rate of natural increase.

C: An economic incentive that a country could put in place is giving money to families who only

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have one or two children, rather than a lot of kids. This incentive would cause families to stop having kids and stop expanding, meaning a lower birth rate and a lower overall increase in population.

D: One policy that could be put in place is required education for women up until at least high school. If women and girls are able to learn about health, especially relating to children and preventative birth methods, the crude birth rate would decline. Education would also make women more able to work rather than only taking care of children. This can cause women to prolong starting a family in order to take advantage of other economic opportunities.

2) A. The world region on the map with the highest rates of natural increase, is Africa.

B. One of the three factors that contribute to high population growth rates in Africa is the high fertility rate. Women in Africa give birth to so many children because they need the kids to work the land. There is also a high child mortality rate, which means that lots of children die, so they have more kids because they don't know how many of them will survive. Another factor is that there are little use of contraceptives. They don't know how to protect themselves which leads to them giving birth, sometimes on accident. Africa is also many periphery countries. That means they are not very developed so they practice primary economic activities. Agricultural subsistence farming requires lots of people to work the land which means lots of kids.

C. A country with a high population growth rate could use microloans to decrease population growth. Microloans are small amounts of money given out to people who apply (mainly women) to start up small businesses. One potential impact of this is that women start creating businesses that make a profit. They would no longer need as many children because they wouldn't need to work in the fields on farms.

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D. A country with a high population growth rate could spread the awareness of contraceptives to decrease population growth. By spreading awareness, people could use contraceptives to stay protected and not have kids by accident. Educating the people on how to stay safe is one way to spread the knowledge and start a chain reaction.

The region with the highest rates of natural increase is sub-Saharan Africa.

Three factors that contribute to high rates of natural increase are poor economy, high birth rates, and low death rates.

One economic incentive could be tax breaks for any family with two or less children. This could encourage families to stay smaller and potentially slow the growth of the population.

One social program could be an increase in government-funded availability of contraceptives. That could lead to less pregnancies and therefore a smaller population.

AP® HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
2017 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

In unit II, Population and Migration, students learn "why the population is growing or declining" and relate those trends to fertility, mortality, and migration. They also analyze fertility rates and age–sex structures, and they "evaluate the role, strengths, and weaknesses of major population policies, which attempt to either promote or restrict population growth." As a response to this question, students were expected to demonstrate a grasp of the dynamics of population growth at the regional and national scales. Students were required to explain contemporary trends in population growth and know that (1) "social, cultural, political, and economic factors influence fertility," (2) "population policies include those that promote or restrict population growth (e.g., pronatalist, antinatalist)," and (3) "changing social values and access to education, employment, health care, and contraception have reduced fertility rates." (II B) It is also worth noting that, with only some exceptions (migration, epidemiological transition, and Malthus), students could draw from the full spectrum of Essential Knowledge presented in II B of the Course Description for the unit on Population and Migration.

Skills addressed in this question are (1) applying the concept of scale, (2) thinking critically about possible public policy options (I B), and (3) using maps. (I B) Students are required to think through various scales of inquiry. They are presented with a world map showing variation in rates of natural increase. (I C) From that map, students are required to apply geographic vocabulary on the regional scale by identifying the world region (I C) with the highest rates of natural increase (Parts A and B). Then students are required to think, on the national scale, by suggesting one program or policy that could be implemented by a country to decrease population growth (Parts C and D). Furthermore students are asked to examine geographical issues, including "planning and public policy decisions (e.g., pronatalist policies)." All of these skills are related to a single meta-skill: "use spatial thinking to analyze the human organization of space." (I C) In terms of map skills, students must be able to use the map key to read a map correctly, and they must use their geographical vocabulary to name Africa or one of the subregions of Africa where rates of natural increase are high.

Sample: 2A
Score: 8

This response earned full credit and demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the social and economic factors associated with high rates of natural increase. The response earned 1 point in part A for correctly identifying sub-Saharan Africa as the region on the map with the highest rates of natural increase. The response earned 1 point in part B for explaining the lack of information about family planning for women regarding birth control methods as a factor that contributes to high population growth rates. (B1) The response earned an additional 1 point in part B for explaining that children are seen as a source of labor, which results in large families and contributes to high population growth rates. (B5) The response earned an additional 1 point in part B for explaining that high child mortality, due to disease, leads to families having more children, which is a factor contributing to high population growth rates. (B2) The response earned 1 point in part C for describing an economic incentive to encourage smaller families. (C4) The response earned an additional 1 point in part C for identifying the potential impact of lower birth rates. (Ca) The response earned 1 point in part D for describing a social program promoting family planning education for women. (D1) The response earned an additional 1 point in part D for identifying the potential impact of a decline in the crude birth rate. (Da)

Sample: 2B
Score: 6

The response earned full credit in part A, full credit in part B, partial credit in part C, and partial credit in part D. The response earned 1 point in part A for correctly identifying Africa as the world region on the map with the highest rates of natural increase. The response earned 1 point in part B for explaining that children are seen as a source of labor, which results in higher fertility rates. (B5) The response earned an additional 1 point in part B for explaining that high child mortality leads to families having more children and is a factor contributing to high population growth rates. (B2) The response earned another 1 point in part B for explaining the lack of information for women regarding contraceptives as a factor that contributes to high population growth rates. (B1) The response earned 1 point in part C for describing the economic incentive of microloans, which promotes female business ownership. (C3) The response earned 1 point in part D for describing a social program to promote family planning and reproductive health education for women. (D1)

Sample: 2C
Score: 3

The response earned full credit in part A, no credit in part B, partial credit in part C, and partial credit in part D. The response earned 1 point in part A for correctly identifying sub-Saharan Africa as the world region on the map with the highest rates of natural increase. The response earned 1 point in part C for describing an economic incentive to encourage smaller families via tax breaks for having two or less children. (C4) The response earned 1 point in part D for describing a social program promoting family planning education through government programs. (D1)