

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Document Based Question: World Population

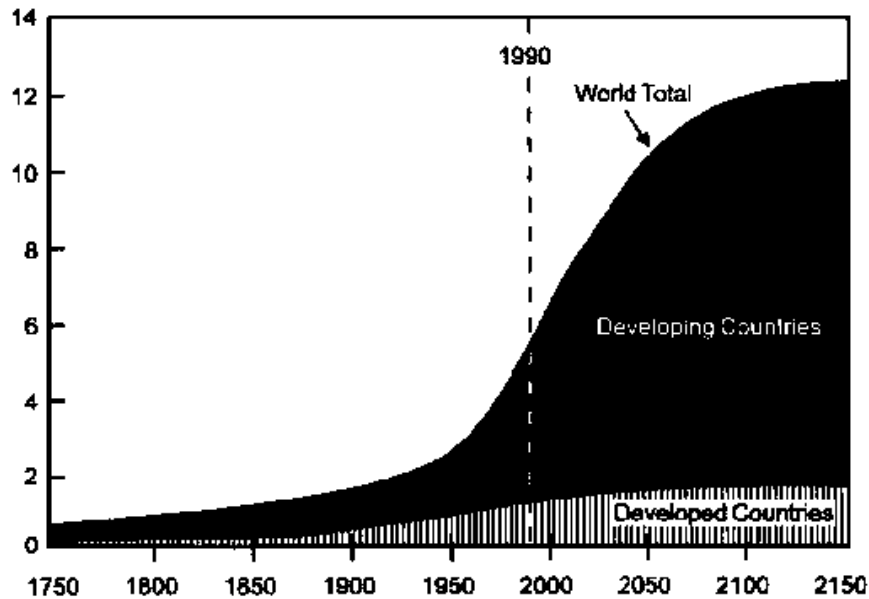
Document Based Questions, or DBQs, are a type of assignment that helps you develop your analyzing skills and your ability to use research as sources of evidence in supporting a written claim. As you read the documents and answer the questions, you are doing the research needed to then answer the big question in a written essay, using the documents as sources of evidence in your answer. Please read the documents, analyze them, and then answer the following questions. Remember, all answers must be in **COMPLETE SENTENCES!** Your essay will be in MLA format.

**Big Question:** What effects may our world see as a result of a continually growing population?

#### Document 1 - World Population Projection Graph

This graph shows scientist's best guess at what the world population will look like up to the year 2150. It shows total population broken between two groups; Developing Countries and Developed Countries. Developed Countries are modern countries that have good education, healthcare, and lots of technology. Developing Countries are those that are still trying to become modern. They usually do not have good education or access to much technology. Use the graph to answer the questions.

Billions



1. Based on the graph, what types of countries are going to see the most growth in population? Why do you think that might be?

2. After 2050, the total population begins to level off, meaning it does not increase as much anymore, why do you think that is? What kind of problems might a larger population encounter that would cause them to stop growing so quickly?

### **Document 2 – Research from the Negative Population Growth Organization**

The NPG researches the negative effects that a continually growing population may have on things like pollution, education, healthcare, and access to food. After reading the document, answer the associated questions.

Despite our best efforts, pollution remains a major threat to our general health and well-being. Continued population growth will only make these conditions worse. As population grows at a record pace, the threat to wildlife and their natural habitats remains a grave concern.

- Approximately 39% of our rivers, 46% of our lakes, and 51% of our estuaries are still too polluted for safe fishing or swimming.
- Every year more than 1.2 trillion gallons of untreated sewage, storm water and industrial waste are discharged into U.S. waters.
- The unprecedented rate at which the human population has grown since the beginning of the industrial revolution has had immeasurable impacts on the ability of non-human species to survive. More people using more resources results in less and less suitable habitat for wildlife, pushing many species to the brink of extinction. While extinction of species has been a normal phenomenon throughout history, today we are experiencing a mass extinction comparable to that of the dinosaurs where nearly 20 plant and animal species become extinct every hour.

3. Why do you think population growth has had a negative effect on water and wildlife?

4. If we accept that our population is going to continue to grow, what are some things we can do to prevent the continued pollution of our water and the extinction of animals in the future?

### Document 3 – Photo of Children in Africa

This photo demonstrates some of the problems places in the world have as a result of increased population sizes. As you analyze the photo answer the questions associated with it.



5. According to this picture, what kind of problems does it look like people are suffering from?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How do you think increased population may be a factor in these problems?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Every year countries around the world send loads of food, medicine, and money to African countries, yet it doesn't seem to help with Africa's problems. So what do you think we could try differently to help Africa?

#### **Document 4: The More the Merrier by Casey B. Mulligan**

In this excerpt from the article Mulligan discusses what some of the positive effects may be to a growing population. Read through the document and then answer the questions that follow.

The more people on earth, the greater the chance that one of them has an idea of how to improve alternative energies or to mitigate the climate effects of carbon emissions. It takes only one person to have an idea that can benefit many.

Plus, the more people on earth, the larger are the markets for new innovations.

Thus, even if the brilliant innovators would be born regardless of population control, their incentives to devote time toward finding new discoveries and bringing them to the marketplace depend on the size of that marketplace. And it's clear that incentives matter for inventive activity.

The value of the additional innovation stimulated by additional population may be significant. For example, a person who invents a new way of growing food will make more money if there are more people around to sell his idea and his product to.

The role of technical change has been repeatedly underestimated. For example, someone a century ago who claimed that the earth could have enough food to support nine billion people would have been considered crazy. But with today's technology it is easy to see how many billions can be fed. Some of the important solutions to climate change will also come from technological progress.

8. Why does the author of this article think that population growth is not a problem?

9. What does the author say are some positive results of a continually increasing population?

10. Can you think of any other positive effects that could result from an increasing population?

## **Essay Portion**

Now that you have read through and analyzed the different documents, you will take that information you have learned and use it to write a five paragraph essay answering the Big

Question: What effects may our world see as a result of a continually growing population? You will make three different claims about effects on our world from a growing population. For each claim you make you will defend it with evidence from the different documents in the DBQ. Before you write the essay you will organize your thoughts in an essay skeleton below.

### **Introduction Paragraph**

Thesis Statement:

What will your three claims be?

1:

2:

3:

### **Body Paragraph for Claim #1**

First Claim:

Evidence:

Evidence:

Why does this matter?

### **Body Paragraph for Claim #2**

Second Claim:

Evidence:

Evidence:

Why does this matter?

**Body Paragraph for Claim #3**

Third Claim:

Evidence:

Evidence:

Why does it matter?

**Conclusion Paragraph**

Restate Thesis Statement:

Overall, why does this all matter?

**Once you are done with the Skeleton:**

With your completed skeleton, you will now take your organized thoughts and write out an essay. Your essay should be five paragraphs long and should follow the same format as your essay skeleton. Be sure that for each of your claims that you are using evidence from the documents within the DBQ packet.