

Milestones in Demography

Demography · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Who is widely credited with publishing the first systematic study of population growth and its relationship to economic factors in his 1798 work, 'An Essay on the Principle of Population'?

- A) Adolphe Quetelet
- B) Thomas Malthus**
- C) John Graunt
- D) Auguste Comte

2. What was the groundbreaking contribution of John Graunt in the 17th century that laid the foundation for modern demography?

- A) Developing the first life table
- B) Introducing the concept of the demographic transition
- C) Analyzing London's Bills of Mortality to estimate population**
- D) Creating the first census methodology

3. The development of the 'life table', a statistical tool to estimate life expectancy and mortality rates, is most closely associated with the work of which early demographer?

- A) Edmund Halley**
- B) William Petty
- C) Jacques Bertillon
- D) Adolphe Quetelet

4. Which social reformer is recognized for pioneering the use of statistics in social inquiry, including population studies, and is often called the 'father of modern sociology'?

- A) Émile Durkheim
- B) Auguste Comte**
- C) Herbert Spencer
- D) Karl Marx

5. The concept of the 'demographic transition', describing the shift from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates as a country develops, was first systematically elaborated by which scholar?

- A) Warren Thompson**
- B) Frank Notestein
- C) Kingsley Davis
- D) Ansley Coale

6. The first official census in the United States, conducted for the purpose of apportionment of representatives, took place in which year?

- A) 1776
- B) 1789
- C) 1790**
- D) 1800

7. Who is credited with developing the 'index of dissimilarity', a measure used to quantify the degree of residential segregation between different population groups?

- A) Karl Marx
- B) Max Weber
- C) Stanley Lieberson**
- D) Otis Dudley Duncan

8. The seminal work 'The Population Bomb', published in 1968, is notable for popularizing concerns about overpopulation and its potential consequences. Who was its author?

- A) Paul Ehrlich**
- B) Garrett Hardin
- C) Julian Simon
- D) Ester Boserup

9. The first national population register system, a comprehensive database of citizens, was established in which country?

- A) Sweden**
- B) Germany
- C) China
- D) Japan

10. What statistical measure, crucial for demographic analysis, was first formalized by Adolphe Quetelet to describe the average characteristics of a population?

- A) Standard deviation
- B) Median
- C) Mode
- D) Mean**

11. The 'Coale-Demeny Model Life Tables', a foundational tool for estimating mortality patterns in populations with limited data, were developed by which two demographers?

- A) Ansley Coale and Paul Demeny**
- B) Warren Thompson and Frank Notestein
- C) Kingsley Davis and Ansley Coale
- D) John Graunt and Edmund Halley

12. The systematic collection of vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages) on a national level, as a government function, first gained significant traction in which historical period?

- A) Ancient Rome
- B) The Renaissance
- C) The mid-19th century**
- D) The early 20th century

13. Who is credited with pioneering the application of probability theory to social phenomena, significantly influencing the development of statistical methods in demography?

- A) Gregor Mendel
- B) Simeon Denis Poisson**
- C) Pierre-Simon Laplace
- D) Carl Friedrich Gauss

14. The introduction of the 'Total Fertility Rate' (TFR) as a key demographic indicator to measure the average number of children born to a woman is a relatively modern innovation, gaining widespread use in which period?

- A) Early 19th century
- B) Early 20th century
- C) Mid-20th century**
- D) Late 20th century

15. The first large-scale, systematic ethnographic study of a population group, which included detailed demographic observations, is often attributed to the work of which 19th-century explorer and scientist?

- A) Charles Darwin
- B) Alfred Russel Wallace
- C) Henry Walter Bates
- D) Alexander von Humboldt**