Milestones in Demographic History

Demography · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Who published 'Natural and Political Observations Made upon the Bills of Mortality' in 1662, marking the first modern statistical analysis of demographic data?

A) John Graunt
B) Edmund Halley
C) Thomas Malthus
D) William Petty

2. Which mathematician and astronomer constructed the first scientifically accurate life table based on data from the city of Breslau in 1693?

A) Abraham de Moivre
B) Edmund Halley
C) Leonhard Euler
D) Jacob Bernoulli

3. The term 'demography' was first coined and introduced into the scientific lexicon in 1855 by which French statistician?

A) Adolphe Quetelet
B) Louis-Adolphe Bertillon
C) Achille Guillard
D) Auguste Comte

4. Which country conducted the first modern, systematic census of a national population in 1790, which became the template for future decennial efforts?

A) United Kingdom
B) Sweden
C) United States
D) France

5. In 1798, Thomas Malthus published the first edition of which seminal work that established the 'Malthusian trap' theory regarding population growth and resource scarcity?

A) An Essay on the Principle of Population
B) The Wealth of Nations
C) Principles of Political Economy
D) The Population Bomb

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6. Who is credited with creating the first population pyramid, a visual invention that revolutionized the representation of age-sex distributions?

A) Francis Galton
B) Karl Pearson
C) Friedrich Ratzel
D) Francis Amasa Walker

7. The first official national registry of births, deaths, and marriages that required mandatory civil registration was established by which country in 1686?

A) Sweden
B) Denmark
C) Netherlands
D) Scotland

8. Which demographic concept, describing the historical shift from high birth/death rates to low birth/death rates, was first formally articulated by Warren Thompson in 1929?

A) Population Momentum
B) Demographic Transition
C) Replacement Level Fertility
D) Dependency Ratio

9. Who developed the 'stable population' theory in 1907, providing a mathematical framework to understand populations with constant age-specific fertility and mortality rates?

A) Alfred Lotka
B) Ronald Fisher
C) Sewall Wright
D) Vilfredo Pareto

10. The first standardized classification of causes of death, the predecessor to the modern ICD, was proposed by whom in 1893?

A) John Snow
B) Jacques Bertillon
C) Florence Nightingale
D) Rudolf Virchow

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11. Which early demographic researcher pioneered the use of the 'Lexis diagram' in 1875 to represent the relationship between age, time, and cohort?

A) Wilhelm Lexis

B) Gustav Sundbärg

C) Max Weber

D) Robert Kuczynski

12. What was the first major international organization to systematically collect and publish global demographic data, starting with its Statistical Yearbook in 1948?

A) League of Nations

B) United Nations

C) World Bank

D) International Labour Organization

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