

**ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 12**

# The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society

Sociology · Chapter 2 · Use this with the Board Paper · Companion to Quick Drill

**HOW TO USE**

Attempt the Board Paper first (closed-book, full time). Then come here. For 2-mark+ questions, compare your answer to the model. For 3-4 mark questions, also consult the **Topper Templates** below — these show the exact step-by-step structure that scores full marks per CBSE marking-scheme conventions.

**MODEL ANSWERS · BOARD PAPER****Section A — VSA (1 mark × 4)****Q1. Define sex ratio as used in the Indian census. [1 mark]****Ans:** The number of females per 1000 males in a population.**Q2. What is the replacement-level Total Fertility Rate? [1 mark]****Ans:** A TFR of 2.1, at which a population exactly replaces itself.**Q3. In which year did India launch its National Family Planning Programme? [1 mark]****Ans:** 1952 — the first state-sponsored family planning programme in the world.**Q4. Which Act bans prenatal sex determination in India? [1 mark]****Ans:** The PCPNDT Act, 1994 (Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act).**Section B — SA-I (3 marks × 2)****Q5. Explain the Malthusian theory of population and state one criticism of it. [3 marks]****Ans:** Thomas Robert Malthus (1798) argued that population, if unchecked, grows GEOMETRICALLY (2, 4, 8...) while food supply grows only ARITHMETICALLY (2, 3, 4...), so population must outrun food, bringing 'POSITIVE CHECKS' (famine, disease, war) to cut it back. He advised 'preventive checks' such as late marriage. CRITICISM: his pessimism was not borne out — food output grew far faster than he predicted (technology, the Green Revolution), and crucially PROSPERITY LOWERS fertility rather than raising it (the demographic transition), so development reduces population pressure rather than worsening it. (Marxist critics added that poverty, not over-fertility, is the real cause of misery.)**Q6. Distinguish between formal demography and social demography. [3 marks]****Ans:** FORMAL (or pure) DEMOGRAPHY is concerned with the MEASUREMENT and MATHEMATICAL MODELLING of population — its size, growth rate, age-sex composition, birth and death rates. It is largely quantitative and statistical. SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHY, by contrast, studies the SOCIAL, economic, and cultural CAUSES and CONSEQUENCES of population trends — for example, WHY fertility falls when female literacy rises, or what the social consequences of a youthful age structure are. Sociology engages mainly with social demography because it treats population as a SOCIAL PROCESS embedded in institutions like family, marriage, gender, and the economy — not merely as arithmetic.

**Q7. Explain the theory of demographic transition with its three stages, and state India's position. [5 marks]**

**Ans:** The THEORY OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION holds that population growth is linked to the level of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and that societies pass through a typical THREE-STAGE sequence as they modernise. STAGE 1 (LOW GROWTH): a pre-modern, underdeveloped society with BOTH high birth rates AND high death rates (famine, epidemics, poor medicine); the two roughly cancel, so population grows slowly. STAGE 2 (POPULATION EXPLOSION): DEATH rates FALL sharply due to better nutrition, sanitation, and modern medicine, but BIRTH rates remain HIGH because customs and attitudes change slowly; the widening gap produces RAPID population growth. STAGE 3 (LOW GROWTH AGAIN): BIRTH rates ALSO fall — driven by female education, urbanisation, family planning, the higher cost of raising children, and low infant mortality — so birth and death rates are both low and the population STABILISES. INDIA'S POSITION: India is in the TRANSITIONAL phase, between Stages 2 and 3 — death rates have fallen and birth rates are now falling too (TFR ≈ 2.0, near the 2.1 replacement level), so the growth RATE is decelerating even though the total population still rises from past momentum. SIGNIFICANCE: the theory also corrects Malthus, showing that development brings fertility DOWN, not catastrophe.

**Q8. Discuss the declining child sex ratio in India and its causes. [5 marks]**

**Ans:** SEX RATIO is the number of FEMALES per 1000 MALES; the CHILD SEX RATIO (0-6 years) is especially revealing because it is unaffected by migration and adult mortality. India's child sex ratio has DECLINED steadily — 945 (1991) → 927 (2001) → 919 (2011) — revealing a growing 'female deficit' that is SOCIAL, not biological. CAUSES: (1) SON PREFERENCE rooted in patriarchy — sons carry the family name, perform last rites, inherit property, and support parents in old age, while daughters are seen as a dowry burden ('paraya dhan'). (2) SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION — the spread of ultrasound and amniocentesis from the 1980s allowed families to determine foetal sex and abort female foetuses; significantly the ratio is WORST in the PROSPEROUS north-western states (Haryana, Punjab), showing prosperity and technology, not poverty, drive it. (3) NEGLECT of the GIRL CHILD in food, healthcare, and schooling, raising female child mortality; female infanticide persists in some areas. (4) ECONOMIC factors — the DOWRY system reinforces the view of daughters as liabilities. CONSEQUENCES: a 'marriage squeeze', bride trafficking, and rising violence against women. STATE RESPONSE: the PCPNDT Act (1994) bans prenatal sex determination, and 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' targets attitudes. CONCLUSION: the declining child sex ratio is a SOCIAL problem rooted in patriarchy, demanding changed attitudes alongside legal enforcement.

**Q9. What is the demographic dividend? Explain how India can benefit from it. [5 marks]**

**Ans:** The DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND is the boost to economic growth that becomes possible when a country has a large share of WORKING-AGE people (15-64) relative to dependent children and the elderly — that is, a LOW dependency ratio. With more earners and fewer dependents, savings, investment, and per-capita output can rise. INDIA'S POSITION: India is one of the youngest large economies — about half the population is under 25 and roughly two-thirds is of working age — and this favourable window is expected to last until about the 2040s. HOW INDIA CAN BENEFIT: the dividend is realised ONLY through investment in HUMAN CAPITAL — (1) quality EDUCATION; (2) SKILLING and vocational training matched to the job market; (3) HEALTH and nutrition for a productive workforce; (4) large-scale JOB CREATION to absorb the youth bulge; and (5) raising FEMALE labour-force participation. The East Asian 'Tigers' converted similar windows into rapid growth in exactly this way. THE RISK: the dividend is NOT automatic and is TIME-LIMITED — without skills and jobs the youth bulge becomes a demographic LIABILITY (unemployment, unrest), and after the 2040s India itself will begin to age. CONCLUSION: India must invest in education, skilling, health, and employment NOW to convert its young population into accelerated, lasting growth before the window closes.

## ★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'Explain the theory of demographic transition with its three stages.'

Annual

<b>Step 1</b> [1 mark]	<b>Define</b>	The THEORY OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION holds that population growth is LINKED TO THE OVERALL LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, and that every society follows a typical sequence of growth stages as it modernises — moving from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates.
<b>Step 2</b> [1.5 marks]	<b>Stage 1 and Stage 2</b>	STAGE 1 (low growth) — an underdeveloped, pre-modern society with BOTH high birth rates AND high death rates (famine, disease, poor medicine). The two roughly cancel out, so population grows slowly. STAGE 2 (population explosion) — death rates FALL sharply due to better nutrition, public health, and medicine, but birth rates STAY HIGH because attitudes and customs change slowly. The gap produces RAPID population growth — the 'demographic explosion'.
<b>Step 3</b> [1.5 marks]	<b>Stage 3 + India's position</b>	STAGE 3 (low growth again) — a developed society where BIRTH RATES ALSO FALL (female education, urbanisation, family planning, higher cost of raising children, lower infant mortality), so birth and death rates are both low and population stabilises. INDIA is in the TRANSITIONAL stage — death rates have fallen and birth rates are now falling too (TFR $\approx$ 2.0, near replacement), so India's growth rate is decelerating.
<b>Step 4</b> [1 mark]	<b>Significance</b>	The theory explains why the rich world's population stabilised and predicts that developing societies will follow. It also corrects MALTHUS — prosperity LOWERS fertility rather than causing catastrophe. It frames India's current 'demographic dividend' window between the explosion and stabilisation phases.

**COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:**

- Naming only two stages.
- Reversing which rate falls first (death rate falls before birth rate).
- Not stating India's transitional position.
- Confusing it with Malthusian theory.

## ★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'Discuss the declining child sex ratio in India and its causes.'

Annual

<b>Step 1</b> [1 mark]	<b>Define + the trend</b>	SEX RATIO = the number of FEMALES per 1000 MALES. The CHILD SEX RATIO (0-6 years) is especially revealing because it is unaffected by migration and adult mortality. India's child sex ratio FELL from 945 (1991) to 927 (2001) to 919 (2011) — an alarming, persistent decline, worst in prosperous north-western states (Haryana, Punjab).
<b>Step 2</b> [1 mark]	<b>Cause 1 — son preference</b>	SON PREFERENCE: deep cultural, economic, and religious value placed on sons — sons carry the family name, perform last rites, inherit property, and support parents in old age, while daughters are seen as 'paraya dhan' and a dowry burden. This is the root attitude behind the deficit.
<b>Step 3</b> [1 mark]	<b>Cause 2 — sex-selective abortion + technology</b>	SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION: the spread of ultrasound and amniocentesis from the 1980s let families determine foetal sex and abort female foetuses. Significantly, the ratio is WORST in the RICHEST states, showing this is not about poverty but about prosperous families using technology to act on son preference. (The PCPNDT Act, 1994, bans prenatal sex determination.)
<b>Step 4</b> [1 mark]	<b>Causes 3-4 — neglect + dowry/economics</b>	NEGLECT OF THE GIRL CHILD: even after birth, girls receive less food, healthcare, and schooling, raising female child mortality. ECONOMIC factors: the dowry system and the perception of daughters as economic liabilities reinforce the bias. Female infanticide persists in some areas.
<b>Step 5</b> [1 mark]	<b>Consequences + conclusion</b>	CONSEQUENCES: a 'marriage squeeze', trafficking of brides, and rising violence against women. STATE RESPONSE: the PCPNDT Act (1994) and the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign. CONCLUSION: the declining child sex ratio is a SOCIAL problem rooted in patriarchy, not a biological one — it demands changing attitudes alongside legal enforcement.

**COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:**

- Defining sex ratio backwards (males per 1000 females).
- Claiming poverty is the cause (it is worst in rich states).
- Missing the role of ultrasound technology / PCPNDT Act.
- Listing causes without the trend numbers (945→927→919).

**★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'What is the demographic dividend and how can India benefit from it?'**

Most years

<b>Step 1</b> [1 mark]	<b>Define</b>	The DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND is the economic growth potential that arises when a country has a LARGE SHARE of WORKING-AGE people (15-64) relative to dependents (children and the elderly) — i.e., a LOW dependency ratio. With more earners and fewer dependents, savings, investment, and output can rise.
<b>Step 2</b> [1 mark]	<b>India's position</b>	India is currently the world's youngest large economy: about HALF the population is under 25 and around two-thirds is of working age. India's dividend WINDOW is open now and is expected to last until roughly the 2040s, after which the population will begin to age.
<b>Step 3</b> [1.5 marks]	<b>How to benefit</b>	The dividend is realised ONLY through INVESTMENT in human capital: (1) EDUCATION — quality schooling and higher education; (2) SKILLING — vocational training matching the job market; (3) HEALTH — nutrition and healthcare for a productive workforce; (4) JOB CREATION — enough decent jobs to absorb the youth bulge; (5) gender — bringing more WOMEN into the workforce. East Asia ('Asian Tigers') turned a similar window into rapid growth this way.
<b>Step 4</b> [1.5 marks]	<b>The risk + conclusion</b>	The dividend is NOT automatic and is TIME-LIMITED. If skills and jobs are not provided, the youth bulge becomes a demographic LIABILITY — unemployment, frustration, and unrest. CONCLUSION: India must invest now in education, skilling, health, and employment to convert its young population into accelerated growth before the window closes.

**COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:**

- Treating the dividend as automatic / guaranteed.
- Not mentioning the dependency-ratio basis.
- Omitting that it is time-limited.
- No mention of the investments (education/skilling/jobs) needed.

**MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES**

- Sex ratio MUST be defined as females per 1000 males — the reverse loses the mark.
- Demographic transition: award marks only if all three stages are named and the death-rate-falls-first ordering is correct.
- Demographic dividend: full marks require both the dependency-ratio basis AND the 'not automatic / time-limited' caveat with named investments.
- Specific figures (945→927→919, TFR 2.1, NPP 2000, Family Planning 1952, PCPNDT 1994) carry marks.
- Declining sex ratio: the 'worst in prosperous states' point distinguishes top answers.
- 5-marker conclusions earn the final mark.