



English

Class: 12th

Subject: English

Lesson 9: HUNGER AND POPULATION EXPLOSION

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❖ **Exercise Short Questions:**

1. What does hunger mean on a large scale as viewed by the author?

Ans: Hunger is not just missing a single meal; it means never having enough to eat.

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- On a large scale, it occurs when a whole population or large groups of people do not get sufficient food regularly.
 - People affected by hunger often live in constant uncertainty about where their next meal will come from.
 - **Example given by the author:** Starving children in Kenya who are extremely thin, weak, and do not laugh or cry.
 - **It is chronic hunger**, not temporary hunger after exercise or busy activity.

2. Describe some great famines of the past.

Ans:

- **Ancient Egypt:** The Pharaoh recorded a famine of seven years due to Nile not flooding, leading to scarcity of food.
- **Famine in the time of Joseph (Bible):** Seven years of famine were experienced in Egypt and surrounding regions; Egypt survived due to stored food.
- **Europe:** From the birth of Christ to 1800, there were 350 famines, about one famine every five years. In England, at least one major famine every ten years.
- **China:** 90 major famines occurred in one century. One famine killed 9.5 million people in North China.
- **Russia (1921-22):** Several million people died.
- **Bengal famine (1969-70):** Around 10 million deaths.
- **India (1942, Bombay):** One million deaths due to rice crop failure.

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- **India (1964–65):** Worst famine due to monsoon failure; imported food could not solve the problem due to transport and port issues.

3. How do famines occur?

Ans:

Natural causes:

- Crop failure due to drought, floods, or disease.
- Lack of rain or monsoon failure.

Human causes:

- High population exceeding food availability.
- Poor transportation or inability to distribute food efficiently.
- Political mismanagement or lack of preparation.

Combined effect: Millions can die when natural and human factors together reduce food availability.

4. What is the main reason for population increase today?

Ans: Population grows because the number of births is greater than the number of deaths.

Improvements in healthcare, medicine, and living conditions have reduced death rates.

Example: In the U.K. in 1963, birth rate = 18.2 per 1,000, death rate = 11.6 per 1,000 → population grew at 6.6 per 1,000.

Overall, the world population is increasing rapidly, sometimes called a population explosion.

5. What is meant by birth-rate and death-rate and how do they affect the population of a country?

Ans:

- **Birth-rate:** Number of babies born per 1,000 people in a year.
- **Death-rate:** Number of deaths per 1,000 people in a year.

Effect on population:

- If birth-rate > death-rate, population increases.
- If birth-rate = death-rate, population remains stable.
- If birth-rate < death-rate, population decreases.

Example: U.K. 1963 → birth rate 18.2, death rate 11.6 → population grows by 6.6 per 1,000.

6. What have public-health measures to do with increase in population?

Ans:

Public health improvements reduce death rate. Examples:

- Modern medicine controlling diseases.
- Epidemic control (malaria reduction using DDT in Ceylon).
- Treatment of diseases like yaws using penicillin injections.

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- With fewer deaths, more babies survive to adulthood, increasing overall population.
 - Industrial countries now see smaller families but population still grows due to low death rates.

7. Account for the high birth-rate in under-developed countries.

Ans:

- Poverty and lack of awareness → families have many children.
- High infant mortality → families have more children to ensure some survive.
- Lack of family planning education and medical facilities.
- Children are considered as future labor to help in farms or family income.
- Religious or cultural beliefs may encourage large families.

8. Why is birth rate not so high in the more advanced countries?

Ans:

- **Better healthcare:** Fewer child deaths → families do not need many children.
- **Education and awareness:** People are aware of family planning.
- **Urban lifestyle:** Living costs and lifestyle encourage smaller families.
- **Economic reasons:** Raising many children is expensive.

Example: In industrial countries, one couple needs just over 2 children to replace themselves.

9. Give a brief account of the poor economic conditions prevailing in under-developed countries.

Ans:

Poverty: Many people live on bare subsistence, beggars in cities, villages struggling.

Lack of industry: Few factories and poor infrastructure.

Poor transportation: Roads and railways are few and inadequate.

Health and education: Few hospitals, schools, colleges; high illiteracy rates.

Exports: Mainly raw materials subject to price fluctuations → economic instability.

Result: Large gaps between rich and poor; population struggles with unnecessary deaths, poor living standards, and lack of resources.

❖ **Important Short Questions:**

1. Define real hunger as explained in the passage.

Ans:

- Real hunger means never having enough to eat.
- It is not missing just one meal; it is a continuous lack of food.

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- People affected are always wondering about the next meal.

2. How is hunger after playing games different from true hunger?

Ans:

- Hunger after games is temporary.
- It disappears after eating a small snack, like bread and butter.
- True hunger is chronic and severe, affecting survival.

3. Describe the physical condition of starving children in Kenya according to Arthur Hopcraft.

Ans:

- Eyes stare as if blind.
- Arms and legs are like sticks of liquorice (very thin).
- They neither cry nor laugh.
- Children weigh only 10 lb at age two.

4. Since when has famine been a problem for humans?

Ans:

- Famine has existed since the beginning of time.
- Early humans, like hunters, faced food shortages, especially in winter.

5. How did early hunters suffer from starvation?

Ans:

- Winter months caused grave shortages of food.

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- Hunting and gathering were not always sufficient, leading to starvation for them and their families.

6. Which Egyptian Pharaoh recorded famine and what was its main cause?

Ans:

- An Egyptian's Pharaoh carved a record in granite.
- Famine was caused because the Nile did not flood for seven years, making corn scarce.
- People suffered and food bins were empty.

7. How did Joseph prevent famine in Egypt?

Ans:

- Stored food during plentiful harvests.
- Managed the national storage system efficiently.
- Ensured Egypt had enough food for seven years of famine.
- People from surrounding countries, like his brothers from Palestine, came to buy grain.

8. How frequent were famines in Europe between the birth of Christ and 1800?

Ans:

- Europe had famines in 350 years from the birth of Christ to 1800.
- One famine every five years on average.
- In England, at least one major famine every ten years.

9. Mention three major famines outside Europe and their effects.

Ans:

China: 90 major famines in one century; one killed 9.5 million people.

Russia (1921–22): Several million deaths.

Bengal (1969–70): About 10 million people died.

India (1942, Bombay): One million died due to rice crop failure.

10. Why was imported food not sufficient to solve India's famine in 1964-65?

Ans:

- Ports could not handle all incoming food shipments.
- Transport problems made it impossible to deliver food to isolated areas.
- Even if food was available, distribution was a major challenge.

11. What are the main causes of famine today?

Ans:

- High population exceeding food availability.
- Crop failure due to disease.
- Lack of rain causing drought.
- Combination of natural and human factors leads to millions starving.

12. How is world population increasing, according to the passage?

Ans:

- Population grows like a “gigantic snowball” – increasing and accelerating.
- Each year more people are born than die.
- Rapid growth rate could the population in 40 years.

13. Give a brief account of world population growth from half a million years ago to the present.

Ans:

- Half a million years ago → very small population.
- At the birth of Christ → 200–300 million.
 - By 1650 → doubled.
 - By 1850 → 1,000 million.
 - Now → over 3,000 million.

14. What is meant by “population explosion”?

Ans:

- Rapid and continuous increase in population.
- Occurs when births far exceed deaths.
- May lead to overcrowding and resource shortages in future.

15. Explain the difference between birth-rate and death-rate with an example.

Ans:

Birth-rate: Number of births per 1,000 population in a year.

Death-rate: Number of deaths per 1,000 population in a year.

Example: U.K. 1963 → birth-rate 18.2, death-rate 11.6 → population growth = 6.6 per 1,000.

16. How has industrialization in Western countries affected population growth?

Ans: Death rate declined due to better healthcare and living standards.

- Birth rate decreased later, slowing growth.
- Population still grows moderately due to low death rate.

Example: U.S.A. → each woman has on average three children.

17. How has modern medicine and epidemic control reduced the death rate in Asia and the Far East?

Ans: Use of vaccines and modern medicine reduced deaths from epidemics.

Example: Ceylon → death rate reduced one third in two years by controlling malaria with DDT.

- Mass health programs decreased mortality and increased survival of children.

18. What is yaws and how has it been controlled?

Ans:

Yaws: disease starting as hard pimples → forms ulcers, damages muscles and bones, makes sufferer ill.

- Controlled with penicillin injection(s).
- Many countries ran massive programs to cure yaws → reduced death rate.

19. Why is limiting family size considered important and difficult?

Ans:

Important: prevents overpopulation, ensures families can support children.

Difficult: requires individual desire, cultural, social, and religious factors may resist.

Even with awareness, behavioral change takes time.

20. Describe the main features of under-developed countries that affect population growth and economy.

Ans:

- **Poverty:** people live on bare subsistence.
- **Lack of industry and infrastructure:** few factories, poor roads, inadequate power supply.
- **Low literacy:** few schools, hospitals, colleges.
- **Exports mostly raw materials:** vulnerable to price fluctuations.

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- **High birth rate:** families have more children to compensate for high child mortality.
 - These factors increase population growth but hinder economic development.

Note:

This chapter is designed to provide a solid foundation of knowledge, with the goal of deepening understanding and encouraging further exploration of the subject. The content has been carefully selected to support effective learning and inspire students to engage with the topic more deeply.

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Purpose: To contribute to education by offering insightful, valuable content that enhances learning and understanding.

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