

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO DEMOGRAPHY

Answer Sheet for Teachers

Activity 3 – What is “Demography”?

Answers for Group 1:

What is demography? What does demography research? How is a population composed?

- Demography researches and describes the size and composition of the population.
- It analyses the age structure, the geographic distribution and the size of the human population.
- The foundational aspects of demography are fertility, mortality and migration (emigration and immigration).
- Demography works with the factors that influence population change.
- Demography is determined through factors like age and gender, but also through the number of marriages, family status, health status, level of education, type of households and the employment rate.

Answers for Group 2

How do demographers acquire the information and data they need?

- In Germany, it is legally required for births, deaths and marriages to be reported to the registration office.
- This leads to registration offices being an important source of data for researchers.
- Emigration and immigration are also recorded by these offices (both internal and from third countries).
- Researchers acquire most of their information from censuses, which are carried out and publicised by statistical agencies, and from surveys.
- Researchers can also obtain individual data (microdata) that can help them study more specific topics.

Answers for Group 3:

What is understood as the theory of “Demographic Transition”? What are the differences between the five phases of the “Demographic Transition”?

- The so-called “Demographic Transition Theory” tries to cover as many countries as possible under one theoretical framework.
- It describes how the birth and mortality rates have changed during transition situations.
- This is divided into 5 stages:
 - First stage: High birth and death rates / no population growth
 - Second stage: Decrease in mortality / through scientific advancements, the population’s mortality rate declines, especially in the early life years / the birth rate remains high and the population increases in size.
 - Third stage: Birth rate begins to decline.
 - Fourth stage: Both the birth rate and the mortality rates are low and population growth is small.
 - Fifth stage: Birth rate begins to slowly increase, but does not reach the same level as before. The population either grows very slowly or stays at zero.
- The length of the “Demographic Transition” is different in each country.