**POPULATION**

Question 1.
Describe the basic factors affecting the population of India.
Answer:
The basic factors affecting the population of India are as under :

* Birth Rate: It is the number of live births per 1,000 individuals of a population per annum. It increases both population size and population density.
* Death or Mortality Rate: It is expressed as the number of death per 1,000 individuals of a population per year. It decreases both population size and population density.
* Migration: Migration is the movement of the people across regions and territories. Migration can be internal or international.

Question 2.
What is meant by population growth and how do you calculate it?
Answer:
Growth of population refers to the change in the number of inhabitants of a country/territory during a specific period or time as an instance, during the last 10 years. Such a change can be expressed in two ways: in terms of absolute numbers and in terms of percentage change per year.

It is obtained by simply subtracting the earlier population from the later population. It is referred to as absolute increase.

Question 3.
Distinguish between Total Population and Average Density of Population.
Answer:

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| **Total Population** | **Average Density of Population** |
| (i) It is the number of people actually existing in the area. | (i) It is the number of people in a unit area after the distribution of the total population uniformly. |
| (ii) Its unit of measurement is number of people. | (ii) Its unit of measurement is the number of people per unit area. |
| (iii) Its value depends on the number of people only. | (iii) Its value depends on both the number of people as well as the total area. |

Question 4.

What are the factors that influence the population distribution in India?
Answer:
Factors that influence the population distribution are :

* Type of Climate: Areas having moderate climate have more population than the areas having extreme climatic conditions. Leh and Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir and western Rajasthan have extreme type of climate. Therefore, these regions have less or sparse population.
* Type of Soil: India’s northern plains and coastal plains are made up of alluvial soil which is very fertile. So, these areas are densely populated. On the other hand, hilly areas and deserts are thinly populated.
* Opportunity for Jobs: The areas which have more opportunities of jobs are thickly populated, whereas areas which do not provide people with job opportunities are sparsely populated. Urban areas are thickly populated because of this factor.
* Religious and Historical Places like Allahabad, Varanasi, Rameshwaram, Agra etc. are also thickly populated.

Question 5.
Write a short note on adolescent population.
Answer:
The most significant feature of the Indian population is the size of its adolescent population. It constitutes one-fifth of the total population of India. Adolescents are generally, grouped in the age-group of 10 to 19 years. They are the most important resource for the future. Nutrition requirements of adolescents are higher than those of a normal child or adult. Poor nutrition can lead to deficiency and stunted growth. But in India, the diet available to adolescents is inadequate in all nutrients. A large number of adolescent girls suffer from anaemia. Their problems have so far not received adequate attention in the process of development. The adolescent girls have to be sensitised to the problems they confront. Their awareness can be improved through the spread of literacy and education among them.

Question 6.
What are the three main determinants of the density of population in India?
Answer:
There are several factors responsible for fluctuating the density of population. Out of them, following are the major three factors attributing to variation at large :

(i) Physical Factors: The areas uninhabitable to human beings are responsible for lowering down the density of population thereon, e.g., hot tropical deserts like the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, the tropical rain forests and rugged mountains of north-east India. In these are&s, there is low density of population. Contrary to it, coastal lands, river valleys and fertile soil lands have high density of population, e.g., Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal.

(ii) Human Factors: Human factors include the establishment of manufacturing industries, excavation of mines, etc. These attract the people to come and settle there and thus, the population density of that industrial area spurts, e.g., Delhi, Mumbai, Jharkhand, etc. The density of population is high in these regions because of a number of manufacturing industries established there.

(iii) Cultural Factors: The cultural factor is also responsible for the fluctuation in density of population. We see that low density of population is found in areas where primitive people are engaged in primary activities like pastoral nomadism, food gathering and fishing, etc.