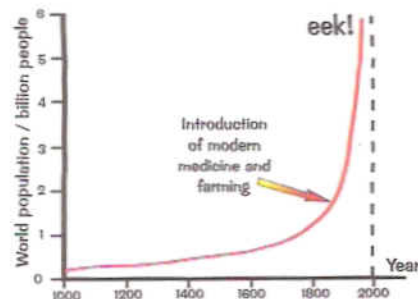


Population Growth

There's one born every minute

- 1) The population of the world is currently rising at an alarming rate as the graph shows.
- 2) This is mostly due to modern medicine which has greatly reduced death from disease.
- 3) It's also due to modern farming methods which can now provide the food needed for so many hungry mouths.
- 4) The death rate is now much lower than the birth rate in many less economically developed countries. In other words there are lots more babies being born than people dying.
- 5) This creates big problems for those countries trying to cope with all those extra people.
- 6) Even providing basic health care and education is difficult, never mind finding them places to live, and food to eat.



Increasing living standards add even more pressure

The rapidly increasing population is not the only pressure on the environment. The increasing standard of living in all countries also demands more from the environment. These two factors mean that:

- 1) Raw materials, including nonrenewable energy resources, are rapidly being used up.
- 2) More and more waste is being produced.
- 3) Unless waste is properly handled, more pollution will be caused.

When the Earth's population was much smaller, the effects of human activity were usually small and local — but an increasing world population has a much larger, more global effect on the environment.

More people means less land for plants and animals

There are four main ways that humans reduce the amount of land available for other animals and plants.

1) Building



2) Farming



3) Dumping waste



4) Quarrying



More people means more environmental damage



Human activity can pollute all three parts of the environment:

- 1) Water — with sewage, fertilizer, and toxic chemicals.
- 2) Air — with smoke and gases such as sulfur dioxide.
- 3) Land — with toxic chemicals, such as pesticides and herbicides.
These may then be washed from the land into water.

Learn the facts first — then you can build your rocket...

It's real scary — the way that graph of world population seems to be pointing nearly vertically upwards... Anyway, you just worry about your Regents exams instead, and make sure you learn all the grim facts. Four sections — mini-essays for each, until you know it all.