

FOUNDATION YEAR

READING TEST

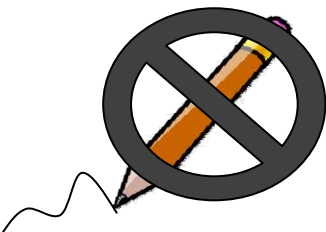
TITLE: **Reassessing the Earth's Population**

LEVEL: Final Exam

WHAT: **Practice Reading Exam including:**
Text
Worksheets
Answer Key

WHY: To give practice in multiple choice exam format similar to the Foundation Year Reading Exam

HOW: Read the text and answer the questions.
Check your answers in the Answer Key.
If your answer doesn't match the Answer Key, refer to the script.



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE ON THE PACKAGE

IF ANYTHING MISSING/DAMAGED, PLEASE CONTACT THE LSU STAFF

PRACTICE EXAMINATION - READING TEST

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

The questions in this section relate to the reading text: **REASSESSING THE EARTH'S POPULATION**

There are **7** parts in the reading section of the test:

Part 1: Purpose and Skimming	(20 marks)
Part 2: Scanning and Close Reading	(20 marks)
Part 3: Reference Words	(10 marks)
Part 4: Vocabulary	(10 marks)
Part 5: Connectors	(10 marks)
Part 6: Author's Attitude	(20 marks)
Part 7: University Word List	(10 marks)

Time approximately: 60 minutes

Reassessing the Earth's Population

by **Lester R. Brown**

1. With fishers and farmers no longer able to expand output fast enough to keep up with population growth, it is time to **reassess** the population policy. New information on the carrying capacity of both land and oceanic food systems argues for a basic rethinking of national population policies, an accelerated international response to fill unmet family planning needs, and a recasting of development strategies to address the underlying causes of high fertility.

Facing the Limits

2. **As** national demands cross the sustainable-yield thresholds of local fisheries, rangelands, and aquifers, the resource base itself is being consumed. In some situations, the question may not be what rate of population growth is sustainable but whether growth can continue without reducing living standards and **jeopardizing** the prospects of future generations.
3. The seafood catch is unlikely to expand beyond the recent level of 100 million tons, so the seafood supply per person will decline for as long as population grows. A decade hence, the same amount of fish that is caught today will be shared among an additional 900 million people; prices will be far higher and on average each of us will eat much less seafood. Similarly, it is now difficult to see how farmers can keep up with population growth as projected. The bottom line is that achieving a humane balance between people and food supplies may now depend far more on family planners than on fishers and farmers.
4. A world grain harvest of 2.1 billion tons in 2030 could satisfy populations of different sizes, depending on consumption levels. At the U.S. consumption level of 800 kilograms per person per year, it would sustain

roughly 2.5 billion people. At the Italian consumption level of 400 kilograms, it would support just over 5 billion, roughly the 1990 world population. And at the Indian level of 200 kilograms, a harvest of 2.1 billion tons would support just over 10 billion people. Although many people aspire to the U.S. diet, population growth has foreclosed that option for much of humanity for the foreseeable future.

5. At its peak of 346 kilograms in 1984, world grain output per person was well above China's 1994 average of roughly 303 kilograms and was climbing toward Italy's 400 kilograms. But that trend has been reversed. In 1993, the average was down to 303 kilograms. The projected harvest in 2030 would provide 240 kilograms for each of the 8.9 billion people projected for that year - some 29 percent below the 1984 historical high. Stated otherwise, average grain consumption per person for 2030 would be well below that of China today and would be approaching that of India.
6. Coming at a time when U.N. estimates show nearly 900 million people in developing countries already failing to get enough calories to maintain normal levels of physical activity and when 36 percent of preschool children in developing countries are below weight for their age, this projected decline is not a pleasant prospect.
7. In a world where per capita supplies of both seafood and grain are falling, the need for rethinking population policy is obvious. Even now, the food needs of the 90 million added this year can be satisfied only by reducing consumption among those already here.

Shaping Population Policies

8. Concern about the effects of continuing rapid population growth has spread beyond the population, development and environmental communities to much of the scientific community. During the last two years or so, the international scientific community has issued several warnings of the potential dangers that lie ahead if rapid population growth continues.
9. In November 1993 an international conference of representatives of national science academies gathered in New Delhi at their first ever summit conference. They considered the population threat in its many dimensions, and they were concerned about the effect of continuing population growth on human welfare. The delegates concluded that the only sensible population policy for the world was population stabilization and argued that this should be achieved during the lifetimes of their children, which would be around 2040.
10. The statement issued at the end of the conference, which was endorsed by fifty-six science academies, urged governments to adopt an "integrated policy on population and sustainable development." It pointed out that reducing fertility rates was not simply a matter of providing more contraceptives, but that family planning had to be part of broader reproductive health services for women, along with efforts to meet other basic needs, such as the provision of clean water.
11. In April 1994, the United Nations Population Fund, the U.N. agency responsible for population and family planning, put forth a proposal to stabilize world population at 7.8 billion by the year 2050. Among other things, the plan calls for quadrupling funding for international family planning assistance programs, pushing the total to

\$4.4 billion by 2000. The broad-based program involves changes in the role of women and the expansion of family planning services to include both the 120 million couples who want to use family planning services but cannot get them and an additional 230 million couples who would need to plan their families if population is to stabilize at the 7.8 billion level.

12. The Population Fund plan calls for providing universal primary education for both girls and boys and making secondary education available to at least half of all girls. It is also designed to reduce infant mortality in developing countries from 69 deaths for every 1,000 births to 12, the current rate in the industrial world. If implemented, this program would move the world onto a low-growth path where population would rise from today's 5.5 billion to 7.27 billion in 2015 and stabilize at 7.8 billion in 2050.
13. Given the limits to the carrying capacity of each country's land and water resources, every national government now needs a carefully articulated and adequately supported population policy, one that takes into account the country's carrying capacity at whatever consumption level citizens decide on. As Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson observed in his landmark book *The Diversity of Life*, "Every nation has an economic policy and a foreign policy. The time has come to speak more openly of a population policy. By this I mean not just the capping of growth when the population hits the wall, as in China and India, but a policy based on a rational solution of this problem; what, in the judgment of its informed citizenry, is the ideal population?"

Assessing Carrying Capacity

14. In addition to recognising the basic right to control fertility and the benefits of family planning to health and well-being, governments need to integrate food carrying capacity into population policy. Few national political leaders even use the term "carrying capacity," much less incorporate the concept into policy making. The potential social costs of carrying-capacity excesses should inform policy-making and could be cited to help mobilize public support for improving access to high-quality reproductive health and family planning services and for encouraging smaller families.
15. As a starting point, governments can calculate their population-carrying capacity by estimating the land available for crops, the amount of water that will be available for irrigation over the long term, and the yield of crops based on what the most advanced countries with similar growing conditions have achieved. Without such a calculation, governments are simply flying blind into the future, drifting into a world in which population growth and environmental degradation lead to social disintegration. Once projections of future food supplies are completed, then societies can consider what policies relating to population size and consumption levels are appropriate.
16. Governments of countries where the carrying capacity assessments show growing grain deficits may assume they can cover these with imports. But the projected growth in national grain deficits collectively dwarfs that of grain surpluses. Indeed, the world's leading grain exporter, the United States, has actually experienced a decline in its exportable surplus in the last decade.

The Education Challenge

17. Closely associated with the calculations of population-carrying capacity at various levels of consumption is the need for a public education effort to acquaint people with all the benefits of family planning and small families. Simply filling the family planning gap would markedly reduce the average family size in many developing countries. Beyond this, population experts believe that improved family planning services together with educational and health programs focused on women can eventually stabilize population through delays in childbearing and choices for small families.
18. People need to know the long-term consequences of having an average of, say, six children, four children, or two children. Couples who have this information may realize that the key question is no longer "How many children should I have for my old age security?" but "How will the number of children I have affect their lives and the world in which they will live?" Since people everywhere care deeply about their children, answering this question can help spawn an important shift in thinking, one with a potentially profound effect on family size decisions. If population policy does not include public discussion of these options, it is less likely to succeed.
19. Some twenty-five countries, with 700 million people, have essentially stabilized their population size. This group, home to one-eighth of the world's population, has done what many other countries may decide they also must do as they analyze their population-carrying capacity.
20. As the gravity of the food situation begins to unfold, what may be emerging is greater emphasis on reproductive responsibilities relative to traditional reproductive rights in terms of couples being able to have as many children as they want. In addition to individual couples asking whether they can afford more than two children, an increasingly relevant question may be whether local fisheries, rangelands, and croplands can support more than two children per couple. In June 1994, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences released a study on population that recognized that it is "unthinkable to sustain indefinitely a birth rate that notably exceeds the level of two children per couple." At issue is how to balance the reproductive rights of the current generation with the survival rights of the next generation.
21. Many societies may realize that they are in a new situation in which they need to stabilize population size quickly. In countries that now have stable populations, this process was spread over many decades, if not a century or two. Societies facing food scarcity may realize the importance of slowing population growth quickly by shifting to smaller families before nature assumes the responsibility for doing so. This will take many governments into new territory.

Filling the Family Planning Gap

22. The obvious first step is to fill the family planning gap, to make certain that the 120 million or more women who already want to limit the size of their families but are unable to do so are given access to family planning services: The Rockefeller Foundation has made this the principal goal of its population program.

23. In 1994 the total fertility rate for the world was roughly four children per couple. In a set of conservative calculations, Steve Sinding of the Rockefeller Foundation estimates that filling the family planning gap would reduce **this** to three, **thus** cutting in half the gap between 1994 fertility and replacement-level fertility.
24. In February 1994, the U.S. Department of State announced that the United States was committed to making sure that by the end of the 1990s no woman who wanted family planning services was denied access to them. The U.S. government has committed itself to increasing funding from \$585 million in 1994 to \$1.2 billion in the year 2000. **This** is a major step forward and an example of the importance of U.S. leadership. It is likely that Japan and other governments will lend their support to this goal.

Addressing the Causes

25. **Even as** the family planning gap is being filled, there is a need to deal with the underlying social causes of high fertility. Improved literacy plays an important role, for example, not only because among females it **correlates** closely with reducing fertility but also because for farmers it is often the key to the adoption of more sophisticated agricultural management practices. At a time when some planners are already worrying about computer literacy in the Third World, hundreds of millions of people still lack basic reading skills.
26. A United Nations-led effort to achieve universal literacy, patterned after its highly successful effort to promote childhood immunizations, could appeal to the ideals and energy of young people throughout the world. Equally urgent is the need to improve the status of women, particularly in developing countries, where females suffer discrimination from birth. In addition, any strategy that reduces poverty sets the stage for a shift to small families.
27. Apart from what individual countries decide about their population /resource balances, we now know from the global data that the world is facing a difficult situation. It is time for world leaders - the heads of international institutions and national governments - to speak out.
28. If the world were to collectively address the population issue on a scale **commensurate with** the human suffering that is almost inevitable if rapid population growth continues, population-related issues would be addressed regularly at national cabinet meetings and at sessions of the U.N. General Assembly. World leaders would ensure universal access to family planning and reproductive health care and would urge people to have small families. In discussions among political leaders, changes in birth rates would get at least as much attention as changes in employment or interest rates. Gains in female literacy would rank in importance with gains in savings rates.
29. Unabated rapid population growth, which once slowed the rise in living standards, is now lowering living standards for large segments of humanity. Unfortunately, there is as yet little recognition in political discourse that the nature of the population threat has changed dramatically in recent years - that the population growth that once slowed progress is now reversing it for much of humanity.

QUESTIONS

PART 1: SKIMMING

20 MARKS

1. The main purpose of the article is to:
 - a) analyse world food production and population growth
 - b) argue for the need to stabilise world population growth
 - c) describe developments in assessing the world's population
 - d) explain the growth in world population
2. In the introduction, the author states that it is necessary to reassess population policy because:
 - a) fishing output cannot put up with population growth
 - b) fishers and farmers no longer want to work as hard
 - c) population growth is exceeding the output of farmers and fishers
3. The author claims in the conclusion that:
 - a) living standards are largely being lowered because of unabated population growth
 - b) living standards are not rising as quickly because of rapid population growth
 - c) population growth has had little recognition in world politics
 - d) recently population growth has changed dramatically
4. The sub-heading "The Education Challenge" refers to:
 - a) educating women
 - b) family planning education
 - c) stabilising population growth
 - d) the impact of food shortages on family size
5. The main point of the section titled "Facing the Limits" is:
 - a) declining seafood catches
 - b) levels of grain harvests throughout the world
 - c) the consumption of the resource base
 - d) the need to reassess population in terms of world consumption

PART 2: SCANNING AND CLOSE READING

20 MARKS

6. The purpose of paragraphs 4 and 5 is to:
 - a) analyse world grain harvests in terms of consumption and population levels in 2030
 - b) argue for the need to reduce world levels of grain consumption to those of India
 - c) compare the different levels of grain consumption in different countries
7. The main point of paragraphs 8 and 9 is that:
 - a) an international conference of scientists was held in New Delhi in 1993
 - b) delegates at the New Delhi conference decided that world population stabilisation was essential
 - c) scientists have warned of potential dangers if the population of the world continues to increase
 - d) the international scientific community is concerned about population growth

8. In paragraph 10, it is stated that:

- a) all governments have adopted an integrated policy on population and sustainable development
- b) family planning needs to be provided for women
- c) in order to reduce fertility rates, it is necessary to provide more contraceptives
- d) the provision of clean water is part of family planning

9. In paragraph 11 it is suggested that:

- a) 120 million couples will be given \$4.4 billion for family planning
- b) the population of the world should stabilise at 7.8 billion in 2050
- c) 230 million couples want family planning services but cannot get them
- d) world population will reach 7.8 billion in 2050

10. "Carrying capacity" in paragraphs 14-16 refers to:

- a) how many people a country can support in terms of food and other resources
- b) how much food a country can produce
- c) projections of future food supplies

11. The main point of paragraph 16 is that:

- a) countries with grain deficits may import grain from the US
- b) even the United States will experience grain shortages in the next decade
- c) in the near future, grain deficits will be greater than grain surpluses

12. In paragraph 20, the author is suggesting that:

- a) couples should be able to have as many children as they want
- b) future birthrates should not exceed two children per couple
- c) individual couples cannot afford more than two children
- d) the current generation needs to reproduce to allow the next generation to survive

13. The sub-heading "filling the family planning gap" refers to:

- a) providing family planning services for women who want to limit the size of their families
- b) the gap between estimated fertility rates and replacement-level fertility
- c) the principal goal of the Rockefeller Foundation

14. In paragraph 25, what is seen as the main way to reduce high fertility?

- a) adoption of sophisticated agricultural management practices
- b) computer literacy
- c) filling the family planning gap
- d) improved literacy

15. In paragraph 26, the author claims that:

- a) females suffer from birth
- b) improving the status of women is more important than universal literacy
- c) there should be a United Nations-led effort to achieve universal literacy
- d) The United Nations should promote childhood immunisation

PART 3: REFERENCE WORDS	10 MARKS
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N.B. All those words referred to in this part are underlined in bold in your reading text.

16. **these** (paragraph 16) refers to:

- a) carrying capacity assessments
- b) governments of countries
- c) grain surpluses
- d) growing grain deficits

17. **this** (paragraph 17) refers to:

- a) filling the family planning gap
- b) population-carrying capacity
- c) reducing the family size in many developing countries
- d) the need for a public education effort

18. **one** (paragraph 18) refers to

- a) an important shift in thinking
- b) this information
- c) this question

19. **so** (paragraph 21) refers to:

- a) facing food scarcity
- b) shifting to smaller families
- c) stabilising population size quickly
- d) slowing population growth quickly

20. **it** (paragraph 25) refers to:

- a) an important role
- b) filling the family planning gap
- c) high fertility
- d) improved literacy

PART 4: VOCABULARY	10 MARKS
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N.B. all vocabulary items in this part are underlined in bold in your reading text.

21. **jeopardizing** (paragraph 2) means:

- a) altering
- b) destroying
- c) endangering
- d) improving

22. **Capping** (paragraph 13) means:

- a) increasing
- b) reducing
- c) stopping
- d) topping

23. **spawn** (paragraph 18) means:

- a) create
- b) prevent
- c) teach
- d) understand

24. **gravity** (paragraph 20) means:

- a) heaviness
- b) lightness
- c) pull
- d) seriousness

commensurate with (paragraph 28) means:

- e) equal to
- f) greater than
- g) less than

PART 5: CONNECTORS	10 MARKS
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N.B. all connectors in this part are underlined in bold in your reading text.

25. **As** (paragraph 2) shows:

- a) cause
- b) comparison
- c) time

26. **if** (paragraph 11) shows:

- a) cause
- b) condition
- c) contrast
- d) time

27. Since (paragraph 18) could best be replaced by:

- a) although
- b) because
- c) if
- d) while

28. thus (paragraph 23) could best be replaced by:

- a) because of
- b) furthermore
- c) instead of
- d) so

29. Even as (paragraph 25) could best be replaced by:

- a) although
- b) at the same time as
- c) because
- d) unless

PART 6: AUTHOR'S ATTITUDE	20 MARKS
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30. From your reading of the whole text, which of the following statements best expresses the author's attitude to the issue of world population growth?

- a) Although he believes that population growth is an important issue, the author is more concerned with world politics.
- b) He is completely objective and is only presenting the facts.
- c) He is trying to convince all people to practise family planning.
- d) He is trying to persuade the reader that population growth is a serious issue.

31. The author's profession is most probably in:

- a) politics
- b) religion
- c) social science
- d) science

32. In paragraph 29, the author is:

- a) recommending future directions for politicians
- b) suggesting ways of dealing with population growth
- c) warning of the need to recognise the seriousness of population growth

33. The author's main intention in this text is to:

- a) complain about the lack of planning for the future

- b) criticise present population policies
- c) describe the dangers of uncontrolled population growth
- d) recommend ways of stabilising world population growth

34. The best alternative title for this text is:

- a) Solutions to the World Population Problem
- b) The Dangers of World Population Explosion
- c) The Failure Of World Family Planning

PART 7: UNIVERSITY WORD LIST	10 MARKS
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N.B.:all words in this part are underlined in bold in your reading text:

35. reassess (paragraph 1) means:

- a) abandon
- b) change
- c) look at again
- d) redesign

36. aspire to (paragraph 4) means:

- a) aim at
- b) imitate
- c) look at
- d) reject

37. projected (paragraph 6) means:

- a) current
- b) expected
- c) researched
- d) serious

38. integrated (paragraph 10) means:

- a) combined
- b) complicated
- c) integral
- d) world-wide

39. indefinitely (paragraph 20) means:

- a) endlessly
- b) indirectly
- c) uncertainly
- d) unclearly

40. indefinitely (paragraph 20) means:

- a) endlessly
- b) indirectly
- c) uncertainly
- d) unclearly

ANSWER KEY

PART 1: SKIMMING

20 MARKS

1.b 2.c 3.a 4.b 5.d

PART 2: SCANNING AND CLOSE READING

20 MARKS

6.a 7.b 8.b 9.b 10.a 11.c 12.b 13.a 14.d 15.c

PART 3: REFERENCE WORDS

10 MARKS

16.d 17.a 18.a 19.d 20.d

PART 4: VOCABULARY

10 MARKS

21.c 22.c 23.a 24.d 25.a

PART 5: CONNECTORS

10 MARKS

26.c 27.b 28.b 29.d 30.b

PART 6: AUTHOR'S ATTITUDE

20 MARKS

31.d 32.c 33.c 34.d 35.a

PART 7: UNIVERSITY WORD LIST

10 MARKS

36.c 37.a 38.b 39.a 40.a