

# Human Population | Sample answer

## One Cause and One Effect Of Overpopulation

Overpopulation occurs when the number of people in a region is too large to be supported by the available natural resources. Overpopulation can be caused by the depletion of resources. East Africa suffered from two consecutive failed rainy Seasons in 2010 and 2011. This drought was the worst in 60 years. As a result the water and food resources are severely depleted. Livestock began to die and trees and bushes began to die. These failed crops lead to a 300% rise in food prices. The majority of the population is poor and could not afford these prices. Most farmers depend on subsistence agriculture which is where they produce just enough to survive and have no food in reserve. This meant that they do not have any food for crop failures. Many of their exports are in coffee, livestock and animal skins which are all weather dependent. The yearly income per person in Ethiopia is 390 dollars with 39% living in poverty, 719 in Kenya with 46 present and \$150 in with a 71%. These countries have always suffered from food insecurity.

An effect of overpopulation is migration. Many flee to refugee camps because of the famine. Famine occurred in the horn of Africa in 2011. Famine occurs when 20% of households face food shortages 20% suffer from malnutrition and when the death rate per day is 2 in every ten thousand. Refugees fled to camps in Kenya and Ethiopia from Somalia. Dadaab in Kenya is the world's largest refugee camp. Its population is 500000 where it is only built for 90000. The camp is over 50km<sup>2</sup> and is in an arid and barren landscape where the winds erode the soil. Corrupt governments prevent food aid organisation from operating in the areas. Many people from the horn of Africa migrate across the Red Sea into Yemen. Yemen is also poor country and the government cannot cope with the influx of refugees. Lack of Opportunity in rural areas also causes migration into cities this leads to rapid urbanisation resulting in shanty towns. Mexico City has grown rapidly in recent years. It took London 130 years to grow from 1 million 28 million and took Mexico only 15 years to go from 1 million to 18. This makes providing water waste and electricity services difficult and leads to poor living conditions.