Unit 1 - Population Change

1.1 How do populations change?
The world population is growing rapidly - it doubled between 1950 and 2000 and is now over 6 billion. Most of this growth has been in LEDCs. It is expected to keep rising quickly until at least 2050.
In MEDCs populations are fairly steady or even starting to fall slightly. They also have many more older people.

Populations change for 3 basic reasons:
- birth rate - children being born
- death rate - people dieing
- migration - people moving from one lace to another

The natural increase is the birth rate - death rate. This shows how quickly the population is changing.

- Life expectancy - how long you live for, on average
- Infant mortality - the number of children who die before 1 year
- Fertility - births
- Mortality - deaths

Places with a high birth rate and a low death rate have the highest population change. As countries develop their death rate usually falls first due to better diet, medicine etc. The birth rate usually stays high because people keep on having lots of children to make sure enough survive. This leads to rapid population growth until the birth rate can be controlled.

Physical factors causing population change	Human factors causing population change
- natural disasters (earthquakes, floods etc…) - disease - e.g. AIDS in Southern Africa is significantly reducing the life expectancy	- healthcare - good or bad - poverty - religion/culture - may encourage large or small families) - education - better educated women tend to have less children - war - migration

1.2 What are the effects of population change?
MEDCs have ageing populations - people getting older due to low birth rates and increasing life expectancy.
LEDCs have youthful populations - more young people due to high birth rates.

LEDCs - what might happen if growth rates continue to be high?	MEDCs - what might happen if populations continue to age?
- shortages of food, water and fuel - especially clean water (due to over-population) - increasing malnutrition and water borne diseases - cities will grow rapidly - lack of jobs - increasing poverty - increasing pollution - e.g. from use of energy - decreasing quality of life with poor housing, healthcare and education - overcrowding and a lack of farmland	- proportion of elderly people who are dependent upon others will increase - proportion of young working people will decrease - which means there won't be enough young people to pay for pensions, healthcare and housing needed for older people - people may have to pay for their own old age - different housing and healthcare needs - more lesiure time and spending on the lesiure industry, which can create jobs

The **Dependent Population** is the older and very young who depend upon other people to pay for them.

1.3 How can population change be managed?
Governments and NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations - often charities) both have a role to play in managing populations. Their aim is to reduce the problems that population change might lead to.
China - has used a one child policy to greatly reduce it's population growth and help it develop
Bangladesh - information and contraception have been provided both by government and NGOs like Concern Worldwide. NGOs are also encouraging women to attend school - better education leads to less children. Women are also being helped to get training and start small businesses - all of which will make them economically useful for something other than child rearing.
UK - providing different healthcare and housing (e.g. sheltered housing). Young people are being told to take out private pensions as the government will not be able to pay for them. NGOs like Age Concern help elderly people ad highlight issues which effect them. In **Italy** the government is encouraging people to have more children