Overpopulation and Underpopulation

**Overpopulation:**
This is an area that has too many people and not enough resources to maintain a reasonable standard of living in that area. Resources may include food, jobs, technology, services, energy. Overpopulated areas often on verge of famine and have high emigration. Examples of overpopulation are in Bangladesh where pop. Density was 282 per km$^2$ in 1850 but rose to 1127 per km$^2$ by 2010. It has a population of approx 162 million.

**Underpopulation:**
This is when there are not enough people to make full use of the resources and technology of the place they live in. Canada is said to be underpopulated because it could increase its population but still have a high standard of living. Canada exports food and has many mineral resources. Population density in Canada is 3.4 per km$^2$. It has a population of approx 33.7 million.

**Optimum Population:**
This is when a country is making the best use of its resources so its population can enjoy a high quality of life.
Overpopulation and Underpopulation

Over / Underpopulation is not necessarily linked to Population Density. E.G. Population Density in Japan is 6535 per km² but is not said to be overpopulated. However Population Density in Mali is 12 per km² but is said to be overpopulated.

Population Density is not directly linked to level of economic development. I.E. More people does not necessarily mean that economy is doing better.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Pop. Density per km²</th>
<th>G.D.P. per capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>4,400,000</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>$38,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>10,827,000</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>33,740,000</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>162,221,000</td>
<td>1127</td>
<td>$1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>14,517,000</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$1,187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D Mc Donnell
Migration is the movement of people from one area to another.

Emigration is used to describe the movement of people out of a country. People that left Ireland during the famine were referred to as emigrants by the people left behind in Ireland.

Immigration is the term that describes people that arrive into a country. E.G. Irish people that arrived into the U.S. during the famine would have been referred to as immigrants by the Americans.
Economic Migrants:
People who move to another place in search of work.

Asylum Seeker (Refugee):
A person ‘who owing to a well founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail of the protection of that country’

U.N. Convention on Status of Refugees, 1951
People have the right to seek refugee status in a foreign country. However, the country that they seek refugee status in does not necessarily have to take them in.
MIGRATION

Push Factors:
These are the things that make people leave their homeland/country. Examples:- famine in Ireland 1845, wars eg WW 2, lack of work eg Ireland in 1980’s and 2010, forced to move eg African slave trade 1700’s & 1800’s.

Pull Factors:
These are the things that attract migrants to a certain place. i.e. availability of work e.g. Polish coming to Ireland 2003 – 2006 looking for work, availability of education, good services
MIGRATION

Donor Regions:
These are the places the migrants are coming from

Receiver Regions:
These are the places that migrants are moving into
MIGRATION

Effects of Migration on Donor Regions

Demographic:
Migration is age and sex selective so a population imbalance can result. i.e. Younger people emigrate so older people are left behind. This results in a drop in marriage rates and in turn the birth rate is affected

Socio-Economic:
With less people left in the country, government spending is cut back on services, transport and infrastructure. This results in less development in the country and therefore less opportunity for business and investment. This in turn means less jobs and continued emigration. Eg. West of Ireland. People may also have less political representation eg Entire W coast of Ireland has 48 T.D.’s representing them in Dáil Eireann whereas Dublin has 47.
MIGRATION

Effects of Migration on Receiver Regions

Demographic:
Can cause a rapid increase in population which over time can cause an increase in birth rate. E.g. Ireland from 2000 to 2006 pop increase by almost 500,000

Socio-Economic:
Young Skilled workers are very attractive for industries looking to invest in a growing economy. E.g. Ireland during the Celtic Tiger. This stimulates the economy and helps it to grow. However too much immigration puts pressure on social services, housing, health and education.

Cultural:
People bring their customs with them i.e. music, food, religion, attitude. This mixes with the receiver population and can be a vibrant exiting development in a population. E.g. Polish Shops in Ireland, Turkish Barbers, Athletes representing Ireland