



How is China coping with an ageing population?

China – an ageing population

This week we'll look at China's population and how it has changed over time. The main themes for this week's lesson are:

- How has the government tried to control the growth of the population?
- Why is there a gender imbalance in China?
- How is China coping with an ageing population and what are the problems associated with a large elderly population?

Task one:

To understand why China is experiencing a population issue context is essential. Read the below paragraph to find out more information.

The government introduced the One Child Policy in 1979 to limit population growth. It is estimated that this rule reduced population growth by as much as 300 million people over the first 20 years of its implementation.

However, because couples often prefer male children and may abort or abandon female babies if they are only permitted one child, this has resulted in the disparate ratio of 114 males for every 100 females born. By 2020 there may be 30 million men of marriageable age who will not be able to find a wife.

Sometime between 2030 and 2050 there could be only two workers for every person who is retired (currently 6:1) which would wipe out China's low-cost labour advantage and put a huge strain on China's welfare provision. China may need to bring in pension reforms such as reducing the benefit rates and increasing the retirement age.

Answer these questions:

1. Why do you think the government introduced the one child policy in 1979?
2. Why did couples prefer male children over female children? (Think about economically and traditional gender stereotypes)

China – an ageing population: page 1

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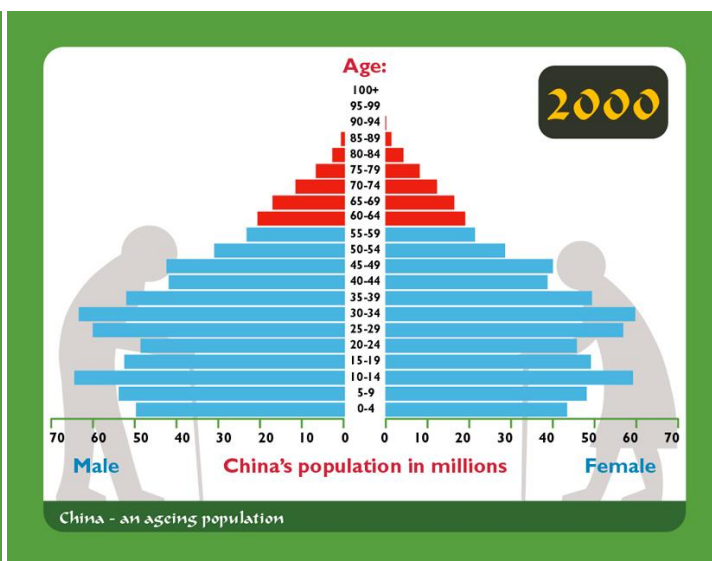
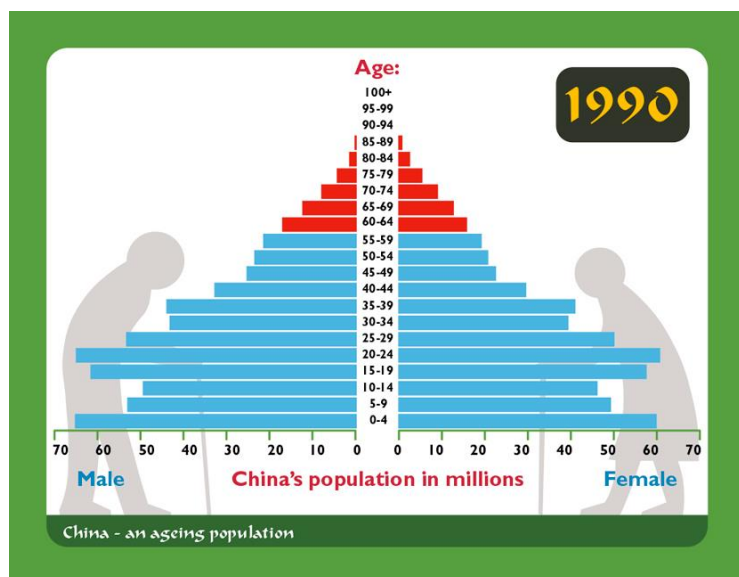
- What are the moral problems associated with the One Child Policy? Do you think the government should be able to tell parents how many children to have. What do you think the problems were?
- Do some research, does the One Child Policy still exist in China? If not, when was it abolished and why?

Task two:

The graphs on the following pages show how China's population is expected to change between 1990 and 2050.

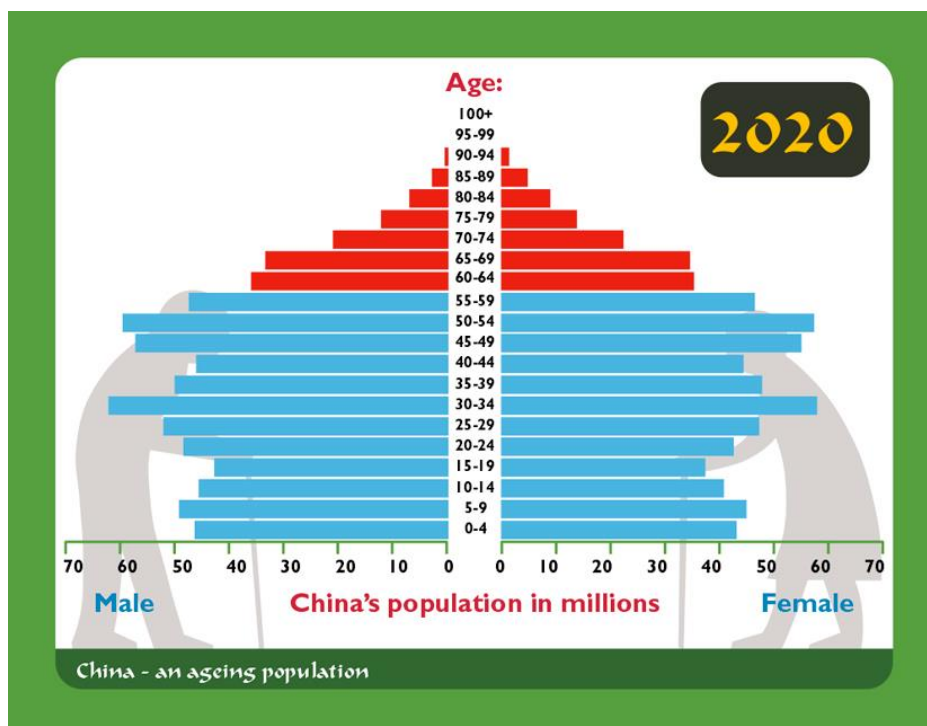
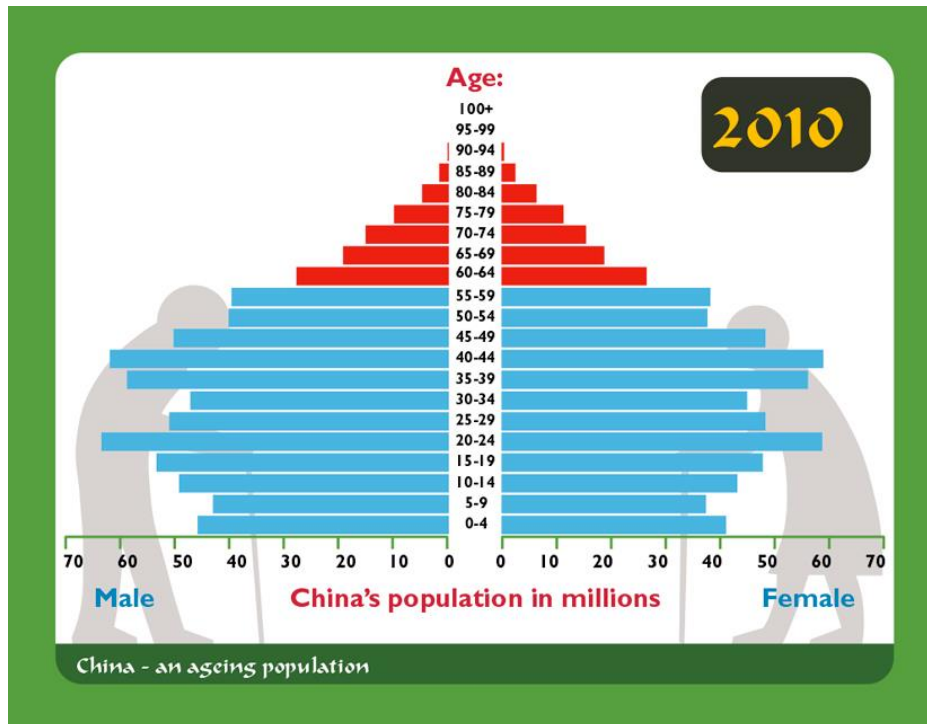
The red bars show China's population above the age of 60, the blue bars show the population under 60.

What happens to the red part of the graph as the years pass? Write a summary that explains the change over time in the graphs.



China – an ageing population: page 2

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China – an ageing population: page 3

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Task three:

[Click here](#) for a case study that looks at Japan and [click here](#) for further information on the issues that China faces. If you cannot access these links the information can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zdcwxnb/revision/2>

These are two comparative case studies looking at the problems of population in two Asian countries, China and Japan. Read through both case studies, analyse the graphs and write a report that compares the two. Make sure you include:

- For each country what are the main problems of population.
- For each country how have their government tackles any issues faced.
- For each country what does the future population look like.
- Try to compare and contrast as you go for example, In Japan however, in China they have tackled this differently.

Post your work on Seesaw!

China – an ageing population: page 4

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