

Year 9 Geography Research and Communication Task 2010.

Australia's Unique Human Character and Demographic Characteristics

The study of human population characteristics and patterns is called demography, which is a specialised branch of Geography. The demographic characteristics that can be studied in human populations are usually based on statistics and include such elements as size, growth rates, ethnic composition, age structure, gender and spatial distribution. "Geography Focus 2" p76.

Your task is to complete each of the questions below using ICT (computers). If you are unsure of any section you should ask your teacher to help you.

Australia's Population (5 marks)

www.abs.gov.au > population clock

1. The total resident population: _____
2. One birth every: _____
3. One death every: _____
4. One migrant gain every: _____
5. An overall population increase of one person every: _____

Give the date on which you accessed this site: _____

Table1: Australia's Population Size

Year	Population ('000)	Year	Population ('000)
1901	3788	1961	10548
1911	4490	1971	13067
1921	5455	1981	14923
1931	6527	1991	17284
1941	7110	2001	19413
1951	8422	2011 (est)	24115

6. Using the data in Table 1 construct a line graph to show Australia's population from 1901 to 2011. Label World War 1 (1914 – 1918), World War 2 (1939 – 1945). (5 marks)

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/

7. Referring to the website above complete the table showing the comparison between demographic characteristics for Australia, Indonesia (a developing country) and the United States of America (a developed country). (10 marks)

Questions 8 and 9 also refer to this website.

Comparison of Demographic Characteristics of Australia, Indonesia and the USA

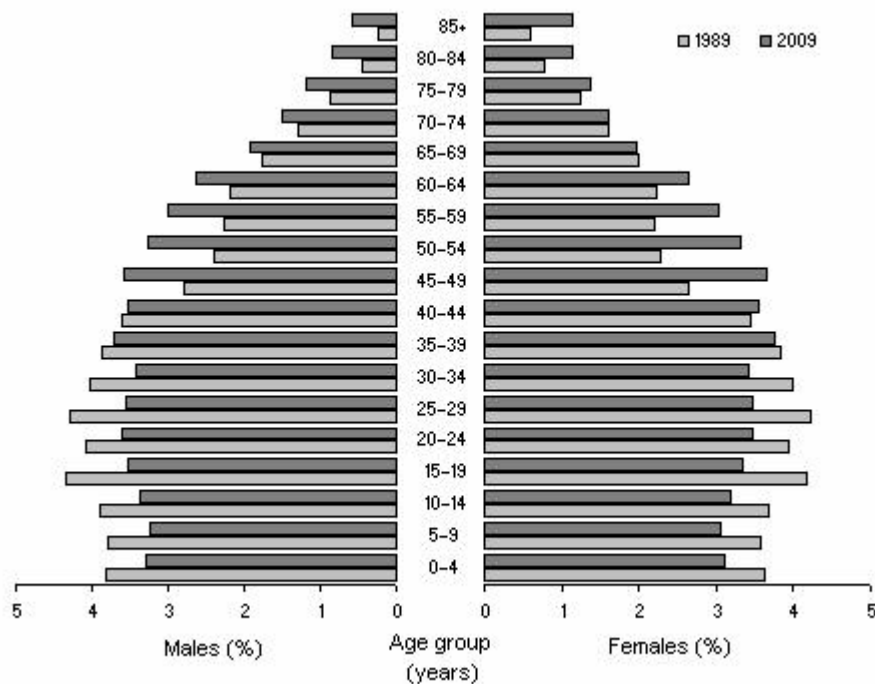
Demographic Characteristics	Australia	Indonesia	United States
Population size			
Growth rates			
Age structure (%)			
0 - 14 years			
15 – 64 years			
65 years and over			
Median age			
Urbanisation (%)			
Net migration rate			
Life expectancy			
Total			
Male			
Female			

8. Explain the meaning of the following terms: (5 marks)

- (a) Median age
- (b) Age structure
- (c) Urbanisation
- (d) Net migration rate
- (e) Life expectancy

9. With reference to the table outline the unique human characteristics of Australia. (5 marks)

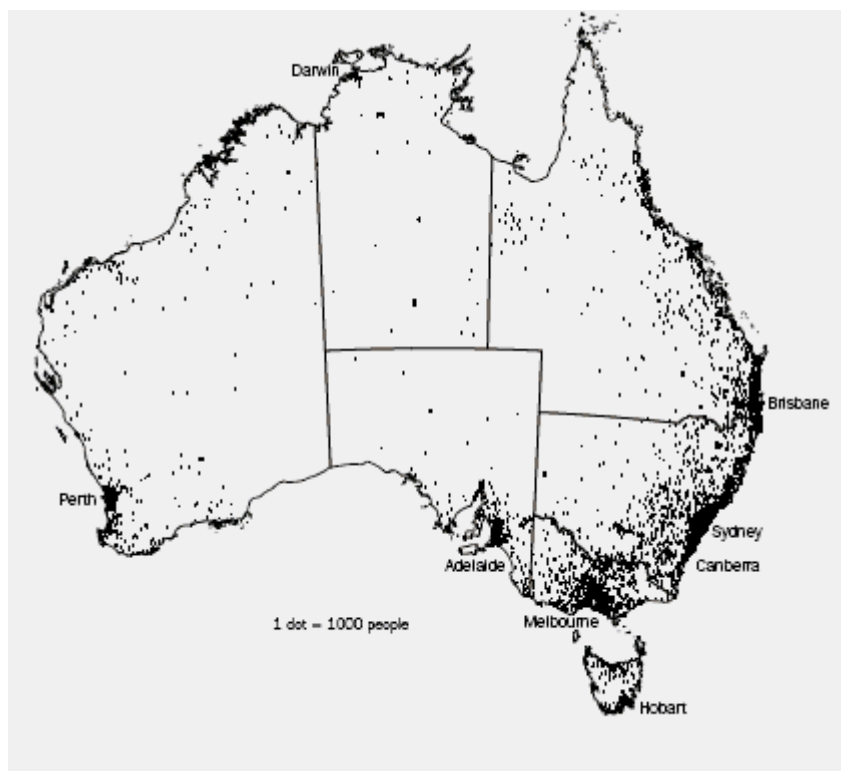
Population structure, Age and sex - Australia - 1989 and 2009.



10. Refer to the Population pyramid to answer this question. (7 marks)

- (a) Estimate the percentage of the population under the age of 10 years in 1989. (1 mark)
- (b) Estimate the percentage of the population under the age of 10 years in 2009. (1 mark)
- (c) Estimate the percentage of males over the age of 80 years in 2009. (1 mark)
- (d) Estimate the percentage of females over the age of 80 years in 2009. (1 mark)
- (e) Describe the changes in the population pyramid between 1989 and 2009. (3 marks)

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION



DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION ACROSS STATES — 30 JUNE 2006

State or territory	Major Cities	Total
	%	'000
New South Wales	72.6	6 817.2
Victoria	74.8	5 128.3
Queensland	59.6	4 091.5
South Australia	72.7	1 568.2
Western Australia	71.5	2 059.0
Tasmania(a)	..	489.9
Northern Territory(b)	..	210.7
Australian Capital Territory	99.8	334.2
Australia(c)	68.4	20 701.5

11. Using the data in the table above, construct a column graph showing the number of people living in each state in 2006. (8 marks)

12. With reference to the map and table above write a paragraph of 6 – 10 lines describing Australia’s population distribution. Refer to the states, urban areas etc (5 marks)

AGEING POPULATION

Australia's population, like that of most developed countries, is ageing as a result of sustained low fertility and increasing life expectancy. This is resulting in proportionally fewer children (under 15 years of age) in the population. The median age (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) of the Australian population has increased by 5.1 years over the last two decades, from 31.8 years at 30 June 1989 to 36.9 years at 30 June 2009. Between 30 June 2008 and 2009 the median age remained steady at 36.9. Over the next several decades, population ageing is expected to have significant implications for Australia including health, labour force participation, housing and demand for skilled labour (Productivity Commission 2005, **Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia**, Research Report, Canberra).

13. Refer to the article 'Ageing Population' to answer this question.

- (a) What two demographic characteristics are factors in an ageing population? (2 mark)
- (b) Identify four expected implications of an ageing population for Australia. (2 marks)
- (c) What is meant by the term an '*ageing population*'? (1 mark)

14. Extended Response: (15 marks)

Using the information gathered when completing the task and the data given, describe the trends in Australia's demographic characteristics and explain how these changing characteristics are influencing the nature and identity of Australian society.