



Inspectoratul Școlar Județean  
Iași



MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI  
CERCETĂRII ȘTIINȚIFICE

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**BALKAN INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY OLYMPIAD**  
**June 24 - June 29, 2018**  
**IAȘI, ROMANIA**

**WRITTEN TEST (J)**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE STUDENTS:**

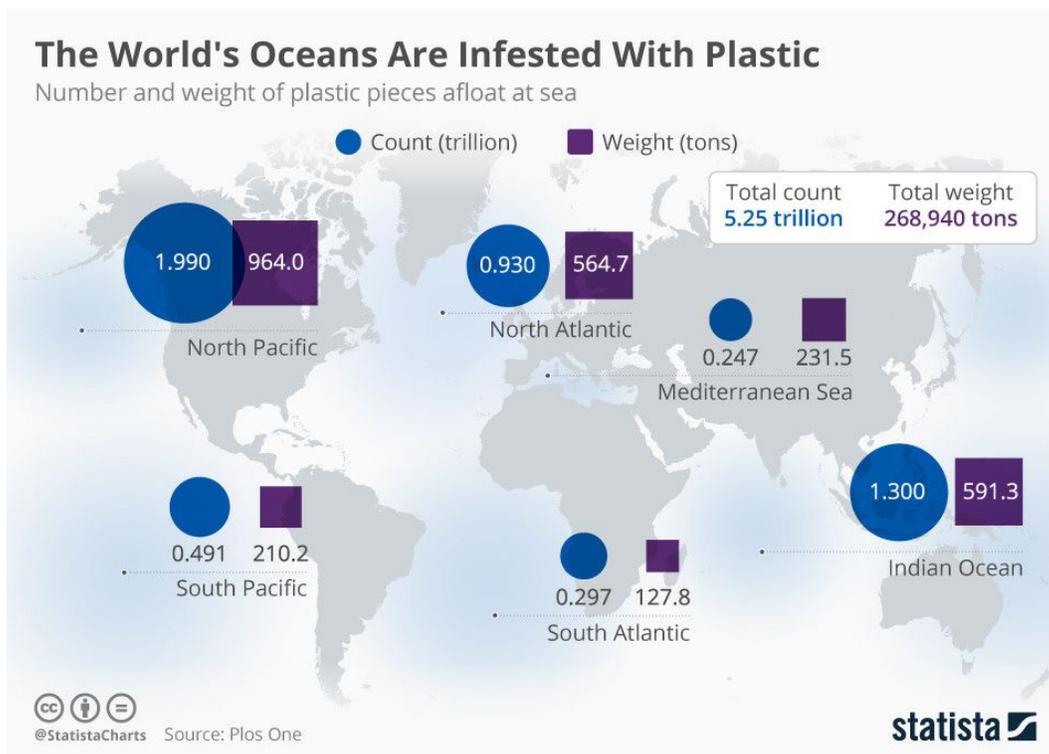
1. This written test includes the source materials, the questions and the space for answers.
2. Write your code number in the designated space on each of the 12 sheets of paper.
3. The test consists of **five assignments**.
4. The maximum total mark for the written test is **40** (8 marks for each assignment).
5. You are asked to give only the required number of answers (examples, reasons, etc). For instance, if the question asks for three examples and you give more than three, only the first three will be considered and marked.
6. You are allowed to use bilingual dictionaries during the test.
7. You have an extra blank sheet of paper at the end of the materials at your own disposal. This is not considered for the final marking of your paper.
8. The duration of the test is **180 minutes**.

**GOOD LUCK!**

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### Assignment 1

One of the most important problems that the ocean faces today is represented by the pollution with plastic waste (*Source 1a*). Recent studies show that more than 8 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year. If the current rate of pollution continues, the quantity of plastic in the ocean will surpass the quantity of fish by 2050. Moreover, it was discovered that 90% of the plastic waste present in the oceans comes from just 10 rivers (*Source 1b*) and that the delivery ratio increases with river size.



Source 1a

River	Countries
the Yangtze	China
the Indus	China, India, Pakistan
the Yellow River	China
the Hai He	China
the Ganges	Bangladesh, India
the Pearl River	China, Vietnam
the Amur	Russia, China
the Mekong	China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam
the Nile	Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Tanzania, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Egypt
the Niger	Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, Nigeria

Source 1b

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Study the provided map (*Source 1a*) and the associated table (*Source 1b*). Answer the following questions.

1 m **1a.** Using *Source 1b*, identify which of the countries with high contribution to ocean plastic pollution are part of BRIC.

BRIC: .....

The countries crossed by the Nile River belong to which category:

- a) MEDCs
- b) MINT
- c) LEDCs
- d) SADC

3 m **1b.** Use 3 arguments to explain why the rivers presented in the table in *Source 1b* account for about 90% of the plastic waste pollution in the oceans.

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4 m **1c.** Propose 4 sustainable strategies to reduce the plastic pollution caused by these rivers.

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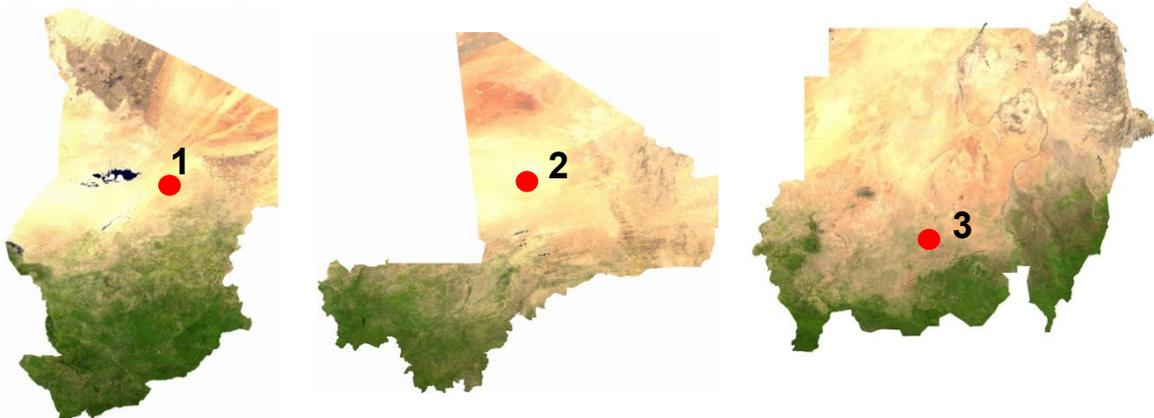
### Assignment 2

The image in *Source 2* represents the village of Araouane, located in the North of Timbuktu. Study the image below and answer the following questions.



Source 2

1 m 2a. The location of this village is represented by one number in one of the following maps. Choose the number .....



1 m 2b. Name the environmental problem that threatens the village.  
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1 m **2c.** Choose the desert of the same type as the one in *Source 2*.

- a) Gobi Desert
- b) Kalahari Desert
- c) Karakum Desert
- d) Patagonian Desert

2 m **2d.** What is the average amount of rainfall in the desert? Explain this amount of rainfall in this area, by giving 3 reasons.

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1 m **2e.** Name and define the landforms identified in the image.

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1 m **2f.** Name the wind specific to this area and draw the direction of the wind on the image in *Source 2*.

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1 m **2g.** Explain why the nomad campers are still attracted to this village.

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### Assignment 3

In the period of 1984 and 2010, the amount of built-up areas in China increased nearly fivefold. It is estimated that the new urban zones constructed in 2011-2013 encompassed more concrete than the whole of the United States used in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Source 3a* illustrates the *Heart of Lake*, a 10-hectare area located on Huxindao Island in the city of Xiamen, China. Planned to host its first inhabitants at the end of 2018, this area consists of 5700 sky-scrapers apartments, organised in 19-40 floors and also in individual units. There are many green areas and all the streets will be used by pedestrians.

*Source 3b* represents the *Kangbashi District* of Ordos city, in the Inner Mongolia region of China. Intended to house a million people, the district remains mostly uninhabited, being considered a ghost city. Its urban design is often found in the new Chinese cities.



Source 3a



Source 3b

Study *Source 3* and read the previous text. Answer the following questions.

2 m **3a.** What is the impact that these types of cities have on the urban environment? (Name two effects for each urban design presented in *Source 3a* and *Source 3b*.)

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2 m **3b.** Identify 2 differences in the lifestyle of the citizens living in a green city (the *Heart of Lake*) and a ghost city (*Kangbashi District*).

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2 m **3c.** Describe 2 goals of the urban architecture specific to the *Heart of Lake*, related to the planning of green cities.

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2 m **3d.** Identify 2 reasons that lead to the formation of the ghost cities of China.

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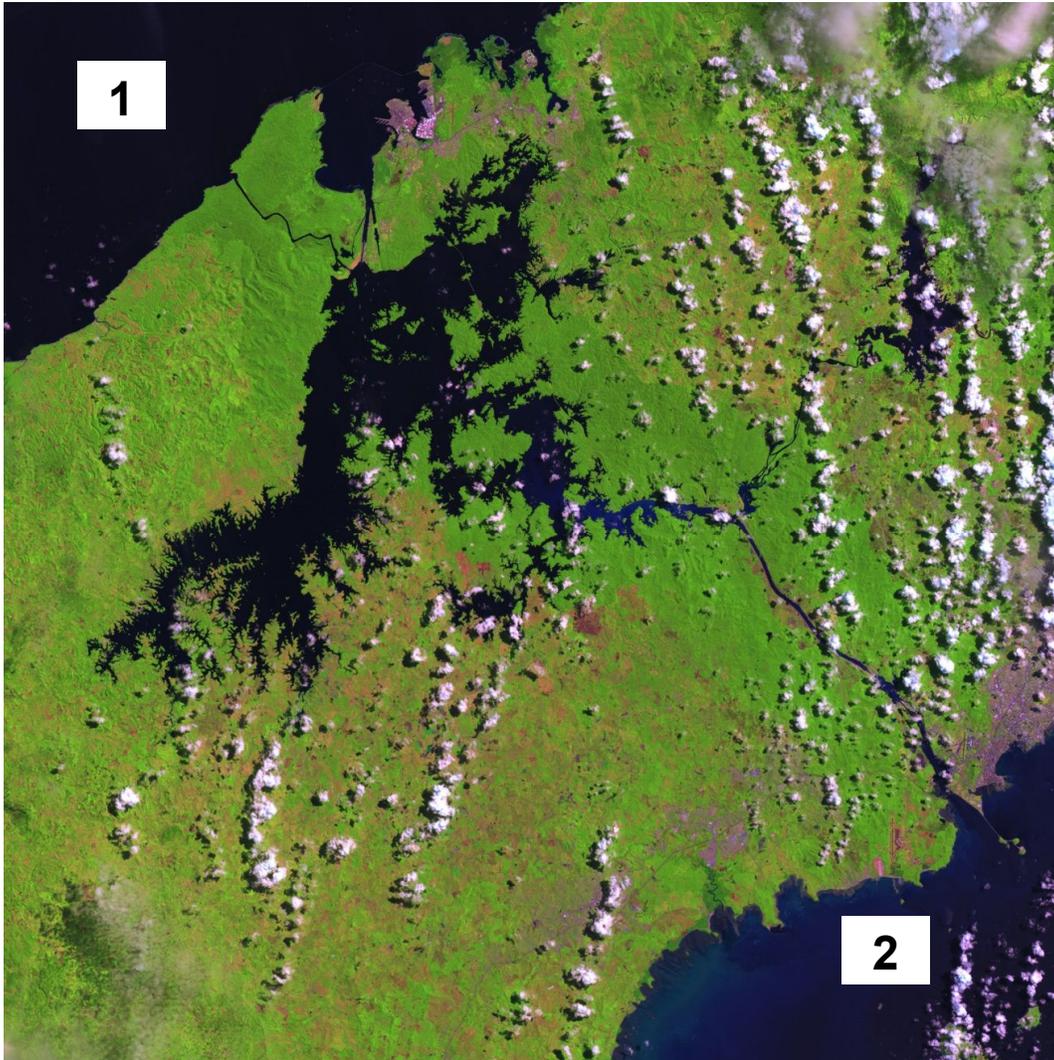
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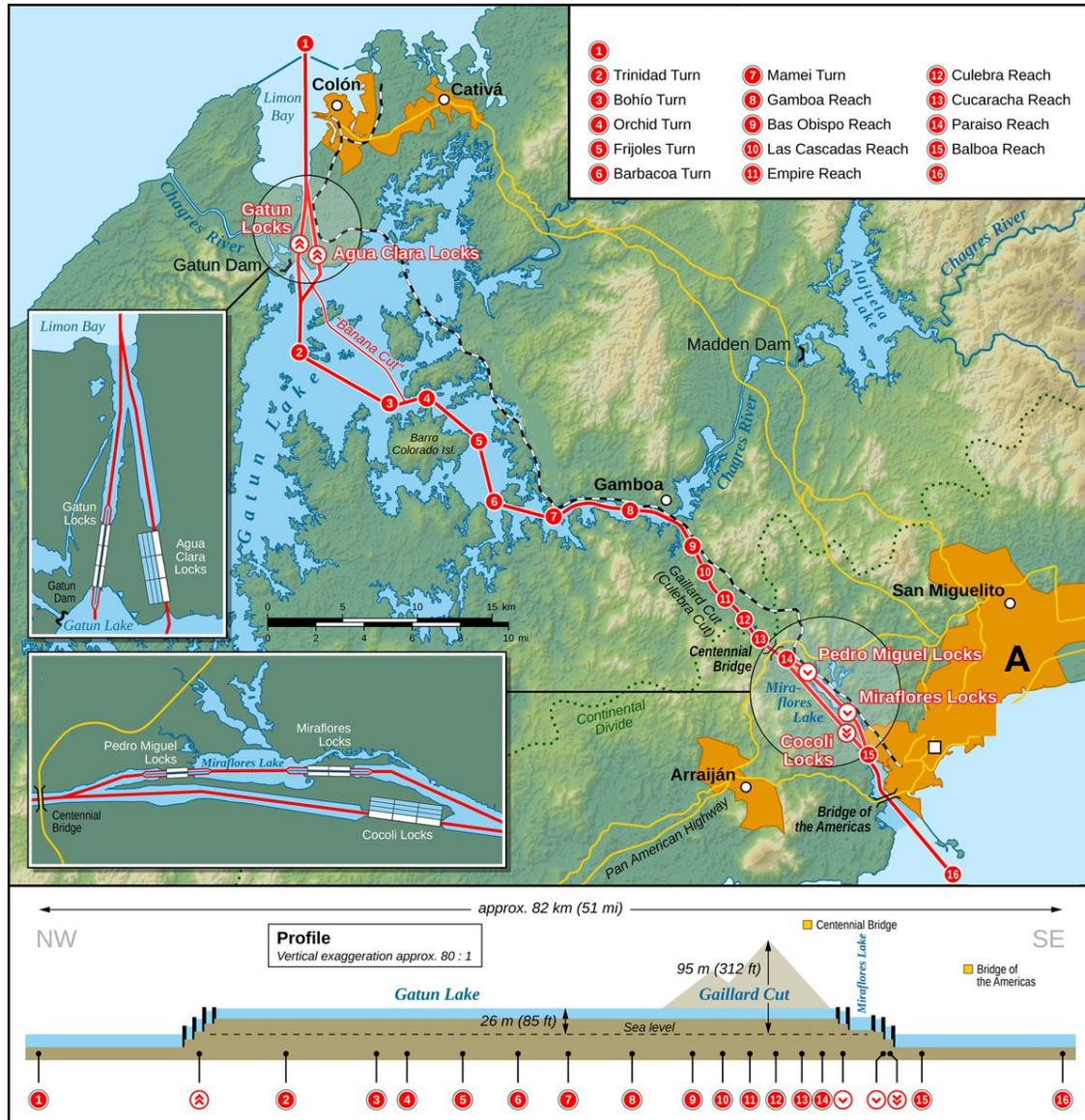
### Assignment 4

Source 4a shows a satellite image of a Western Hemisphere Canal that was completed in 1914. Its construction was started by France and continued by the state that administered the Canal until 1999. The map and diagram in Source 4b illustrate the navigation system specific to this Canal. By the use of Source 4a and Source 4b, answer the following questions.



Source 4a

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Source 4b

1 m

4a. The two bodies of water marked with 1 and 2 on Source 4a are:

- a) the Red Sea (1) and the Mediterranean Sea (2)
- b) the Mediterranean Sea (1) and the Red Sea (2)
- c) the Pacific Ocean (1) and the Atlantic Ocean (2)
- d) the Atlantic Ocean (1) and the Pacific Ocean (2)

1 m

4b. Name the communication way marked with a red line on Source 4b.

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0.5 m

4c. Name the city marked with letter A on Source 4b.

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1.5 m **4d.** Explain why this location was chosen for this communication way, giving 3 reasons.

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2 m **4e.** Identify 2 benefits of using this communication way.

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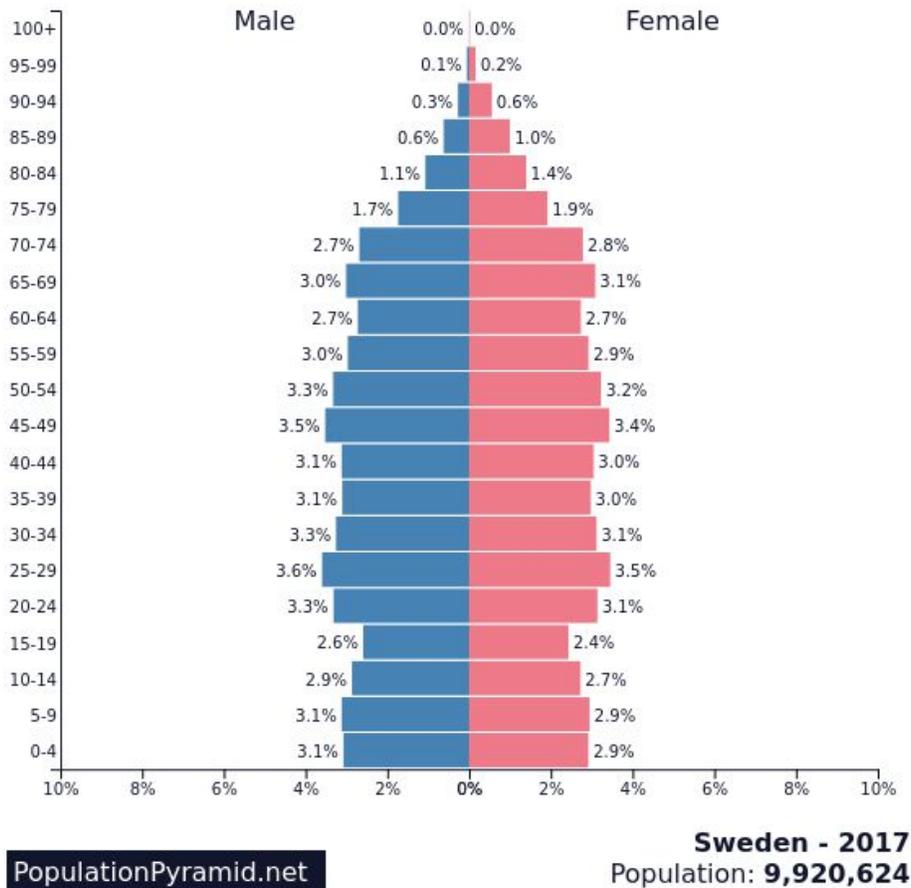
2 m **4f.** Identify 4 environmental problems specific to this area.

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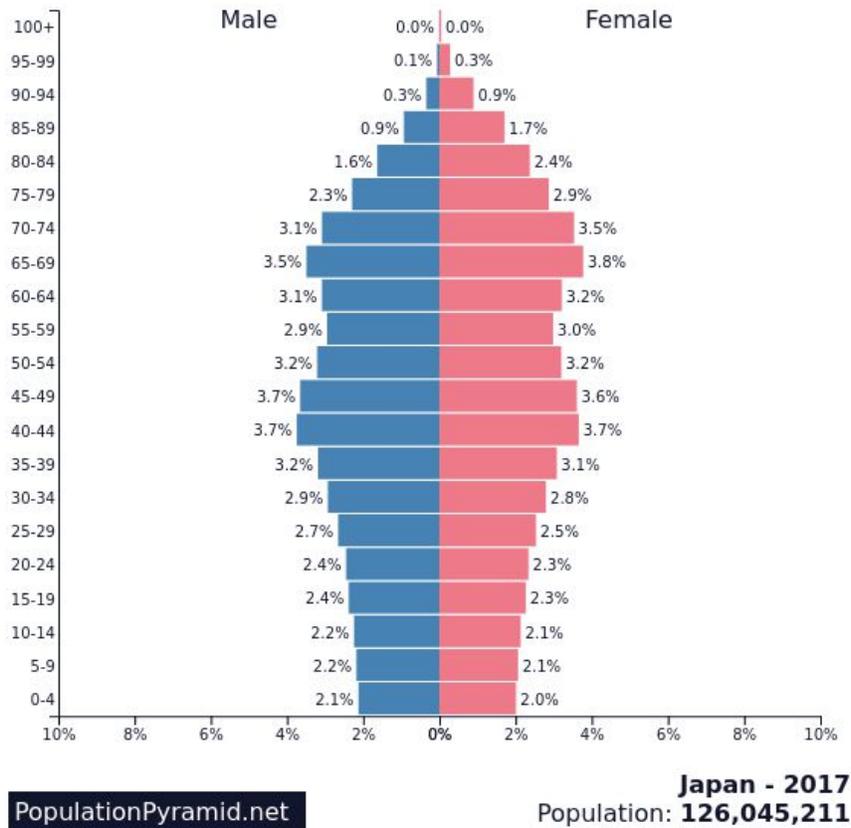
### Assignment 5

Source 5a and Source 5b represent the population pyramids of Sweden, respectively Japan for the year of 2017. Despite the cultural differences that may be easily depicted between these two countries, there are some demographic similarities that raise great interest. However, the causes and the government solutions used to address these problematic demographic aspects are distinctive. Study the provided sources and answer the following questions.



Source 5a

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Source 5b

- 1 m **5a.** These two countries have in common:
- a) a high birth rate
  - b) an ageing population
  - c) a high percentage of young population
  - d) a high death rate
- 0.5 m **5b.** Calculate the percentage of young population (0 – 19 years old) in Sweden.
- .....
- 1 m **5c.** Explain the narrow base of the population pyramid of Sweden.
- .....
- .....
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- .....
- 1 m **5d.** Propose 2 strategies that could lead to an increase of the birth rate in Sweden.
- .....
- .....

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0.5 m **5e.** Calculate the percentage of old population (65 – 100+ years old) in Japan.  
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2 m **5f.** Explain the high percentage of old population in Japan.  
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2 m **5g.** Identify 4 impacts of the ageing population of Japan.  
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