## 9 An ageing population

Aims: Using cohesive devices | Using punctuation effectively | Writing topic sentences

## Part 1: Vocabulary





- The sentences 1-7 all contain words relating to population and population growth. Circle the option (a or b) that the words in italics best correspond to.
  - Overpopulation relates not just to the size of the population but also to the density of population in relation to available resources.
    - a the total number of people
    - b the degree to which an area is filled with people
  - 2 Many people predict that population growth will accelerate over the next thirty years before leveling off at approximately 12 billion.
    - a stay the same
    - **b** speed up
  - 3 Governments regularly gather demographic data, including information about age, gender, income, and employment status, in order to plan effectively for the future.
    - a relating to population
    - b relating to politics

- 4 The 2001 census revealed that the median age of the population had risen markedly.
  - a estimate of the population
  - b count of the population
- The proportion of the population composed of children has declined, while the proportion of the population that is aged has grown.
  - a old
  - **b** young
- 6 The recent jump in the numbers of people aged 60 to 65 in some countries can be attributed to the boom in births following the Second World War.
  - a gradual rise
  - b rapid rise
- 7 As the population ages, many fear that caring for the elderly will be too great a burden for the younger generation.
  - a obligation
  - **b** privilege

Match the expressions 1–10 with the definitions a–j. 2

1	pension	a	a person who looks after the elderly or sick
2	longevity	b	the ability to produce children
3	nursing home	С	the middle point in a range of values
4	care-giver	d	serious, recurring and/or long lasting
5	to retire	е	long life
6	mortality	f	a regular payment made by government or former employer to a person who has stopped working
7	fertility	g	the control of the number of children in a family by use of contraceptives
8	median	h	to give up work, especially on reaching pensionable age
9	family planning	i	a hospital or home for people who are old or ill
10	chronic	i	the number of deaths in a given period

3	The expressions a-h are either causes or consequences of population ageing.	Decide			
	which of them are causes and which are consequences.				

a	increasing	public	health	costs

- **b** lower fertility rate
- c decreasing mortality from infectious diseases
- d increasing incidence of chronic illnesses (e.g. arthritis)
- e growing pressure on care givers
- f family planning
- g dwindling pension funds
- h improved health care

4	Complete the sentences 1-7 with expressions from Exercise 3. Make any changes
	necessary.

1	The increasing numbers of older people has put, especially women in their 40s, who are also often responsible for looking after children.				
2	to see the second among governments, employers and				
	has resulted not only in greater longevity but also in better health statu among the elderly.				
4	such as cholera and polio has been a welcome development.				
5	As the population ages, there has been an and type-two diabetes.				
	Unless measures are taken to curb, these will almost certainly result in higher taxes.				
7	measures have undoubtedly reduced birth rates in some countries.				