PASSAGE 55

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In 1950, there were only 2.5 billion people in the world. Now there are 5.3 billion. Human population may reach 8.5 billion by the year 2025. Experts disagree about how serious a problem this very fast growth is. And they disagree about what should be done about it.

It could be said that growth is slowing down. Most industrial countries - Japan, Canada, the United States, and the nations of Europe - are hardly growing at all. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, growth is somewhat slower than it was twenty years ago.

Industrial nations all went through a time of fast growth when their industry was developing. When they reached the point where most people could live in comfort, population growth slowed. Many experts believe that today's developing nations will go through a similar change. The best way to control population, they say, is to raise the standard of living.

Industrial nations are beginning to look for ways to produce goods without the pollution that is one of the harmful effects of overcrowding. Developing countries will also use such methods if they are to take care of their people. Educating children everywhere is expensive, but the cost is **worthwhile** because children will contribute to their country's development when they are grown. Perhaps children now in school will invent ways to help people live at peace with the earth.

Question 1: What will the world population be predicted in the future?

A. 2.5 billion B. 5.3 billion C. 8.5 billion D. 4.0 billion

Question 2: Why is population growth slowing down in industrialized countries?

A. Due to scarce resources. B. Because they have achieved comfort in life.

C. Due to wealthy education. D. Because of the emergence of diseases.

Question 3: According to experts, what is the best way to control population growth?

A. Lowering the standard of living. B. Economic growth.

C. Raising the standard of living. D. Reducing the number of children.

Question 4: What is emphasized about educating children in the passage?

A. Education is expensive but unnecessary.

B. Education helps children become better consumers.

C. Education is a valuable investment for a country’s development.

D. Education is only necessary for children in industrial countries.

Question 5: The word **"worthwhile"** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

A. useless B. expensive C. valuable D. unnecessary

LIVEWORKSHEETS