

DEMOGRAPHY PRELIMINARY EXAM
AUGUST 2002
MORNING EXAM

I. ANSWER EITHER A OR B.

- A. Is there an endpoint to fertility? By how much can and might fertility decline? What does the experience of European countries and elsewhere suggest? Discuss these questions with reference to available theories of fertility decline.
- B. Describe trends in nonmarital fertility in industrialized nations, including but not limited to the United States. Discuss predominant explanations for these changes and what these explanations imply for future levels and trends.

II. ANSWER EITHER A OR B.

- A. Several theories have been offered to explain the association between social class and health/mortality at adult ages, including social causation, experiences in childhood, and health selection. Critically review each of these in light of current evidence on their role in explaining health outcomes.
- B. The mortality of children residing in the same household often appears more similar than those of two children drawn at random from different households, even after adjusting for standard demographic characteristics (e.g., age, sex, number of siblings, parental characteristics, and so forth). Pick a country in which to study this problem and identify two rival hypotheses concerning this phenomena. Propose a research design that might adjudicate between these alternatives.

III. ANSWER EITHER A OR B.

- A. Migration is often underrepresented in demography/population textbooks. Explain why migration as a process differs from other demographic processes. Include conceptual differences, methodological differences, and theoretical differences related to individual decision-making.
- B. In recent decades, the spatial redistribution of population toward urban areas has often been observed in developing countries, even during periods of high urban unemployment. Why might this occur? Critically discuss extant theories and possible policies concerning such migration patterns.