**Première OIB Geography Theme 4 - CHINA**

**China’s Demographic Policies**

**Task 1 (in preparation for the class)**

**There are several sources for you to explore.**

1. **Read the main article and carry out the research needed to answer the questions below it.**

* **main article**

[**https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/02/china-population-control-two-child-policy**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/02/china-population-control-two-child-policy)

**Resources which you might find useful when answering the questions:**

* **short video clip**

[**https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/29/china-abandons-one-child-policy**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/29/china-abandons-one-child-policy)

* **definitions and data from the World Bank site** [**https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.dyn.tfrt.in**](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.dyn.tfrt.in)
* **collection of photographs**

[**https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2014/oct/07/chinas-one-child-policy-the-only-childs-view-in-pictures**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2014/oct/07/chinas-one-child-policy-the-only-childs-view-in-pictures)

* **graphs**

**https://www.theguardian.com/world/datablog/2015/oct/29/impact-china-one-child-policy-four-graphs**

**Beyond the one-child years, a population crisis looms**

*Lily Kuo and Xueying Wang, Guardian weekly 8th March 2019*

Questions

1. Explain the expressions ‘*baby boom’* and *‘Malthusian family planning regime’* (paragraph 5)

2. Give definitions for the following:

birth rate

pro-natalist population policy

3. The article makes several statements without backing them up with statistical evidence. Which development indicators would we use if we were providing statistical evidence to illustrate the following statements from the text:

- *improving education standards and income levels* (paragraph 6)

- *the world’s second largest economy* (paragraph 7)

4. What evidence is there in the text of the resulting ‘success’ of China’s former anti-natalist population policy? (use quotations)

6. How was this ‘success’ achieved? Again give evidence from the text.

7. What are now seen as the negative consequences of this anti-natalist policy?

7. Find examples from the text of how the Chinese government is now encouraging people to have more children.

8. How successful is this new policy likely to be?

**Task 2 (in class) Role play**

Role play activity

In groups of 4-6, students explore the challenges facing the Chinese population and its falling fertility rate.

Before working in a group, students are each given a ‘role play card’. Either individually or in pairs, they think about the questions on the card which relate to some of the realities of their character’s situation.

Students should make notes in response to the questions on their cards, in order to anticipate the conversation to follow.

Before you begin, agree between the members of your group about which part of China you live in. Why is this important?

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| *Character* | *Questions to ask yourself before beginning* |
| government official(s) | Were you previously involved in implementing the Chinese government’s anti-natalist policy (the One-Child Policy)?  What kind of policies did you help to put in place as part of that policy? How successful were you at your job?  What kind of policies are you trying to put in place now?  Are there financial incentives for you to achieve higher birth rates?  How many children do you have yourself? Or are you too busy building your career to want to have any (or more) children? |

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| *Character* | *Questions to ask yourself before beginning* |
| couple | Do you both agree over how many children you want?  Did you have to comply with the One-Child policy in the past?  What effect did that have on your lives?  What kind of jobs do you have?  Are both of you ‘only children’?  If so, are/were you happy about this? |

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| *Character* | *Questions to ask yourself before beginning* |
| only child | Do you like being an only child?  Or perhaps you’d love a younger brother or sister?  What kind of activities do you do outside of school?  Do you enjoy all the fuss and attention or are you exhausted?!  How do you feel about the prospect of one day maybe having to care for both your parents and your 4 grandparents on your own? |

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| *Character* | *Questions to ask yourself before beginning* |
| elderly grandparent(s) | Did you only have one child?  How did you feel about the One-Child policy?  What are your worries for your old age?  Do you think your son/daughter should have more than one child? |

Note : this role play can also raise questions about Chinese attitudes towards, and policies on: single parents, homosexuality, same-sex couples, adoption, abortion…all of which can also stimulate thinking and debate on these attitudes as indications of a country’s level of ‘development’.