GRADE 10	TERM 3	SOCIAL SCIENCES (GEOGRAPHY) UNIT 1: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY TEACHERS GUIDE

What do we mean by population distribution and density?

Density refers to *the number of people living per unit of an area (e.g. per square km); the number of people relative to the space occupied by them*

Distribution refers to *the arrangement or spread of people living in a given area; also, how the population of an area is arranged according to variables such as age, race, or sex*

Arithmetic density

Distribution maps show how many people live in an area by means of dots. These dots represent a number of people. An area with many dots would show a high population whereas areas with fewer dots would show areas of lower population density.

Density maps are more accurate as they show how many people there are per square kilometre.

Arithmetic density is the *total number of people per square km.*

Factors affecting population density and distribution

There are a range of human and physical factors that affect population density. Complete the tables below.

Table 1: Physical factors affecting density and distribution

Factors	High density	Low density
Relief (shape and height of land)	*Low land which is flat e.g. Ganges Valley in India*	*High land that is mountainous e.g. Himalayas*
Resources	*Areas rich in resources (e.g. coal, oil, wood, fishing etc.) tend to densely populated e.g. Western Europe*	*Areas with few resources tend to be sparsely populated e.g. The Sahel*
Climate	*Areas with temperate climates tend to be densely populated as there is enough rain and heat to grow crops e.g. UK*	*Areas with extreme climates of hot and cold tend to be sparsely populated e.g. the Sahara Desert*

Table 2: Human factors affecting density and distribution

Factors	High density	Low density
Political	*Countries with stable governments tend to have a high population density e.g. Singapore*	*Unstable countries tend to have lower population densities as people migrate e.g. Afghanistan.*
Social	*Groups of people want to live close to each other for security e.g. USA*	*Other groups of people prefer to be isolated e.g. Scandinavians*
Economic	*Good job opportunities encourage high population densities, particularly in large cities in MEDCs and LEDCs around the world.*	*Limited job opportunities cause some areas to be sparsely populated e.g. Amazon Rainforest*