



Level 3 Extended Project Production Log

You can print out this form, fill it in and either scan it and e-mail it to epq@aqa.org.uk or post it to: Extended Project, AQA, Stag Hill House, Guildford, GU2 7XJ.

Candidate name: Mark Stevenson
Candidate number: 66900
Extended Project Working Title: Response to population pressures

Note: *This production log should consist of the following pages. Additional journal material, planning evidence, research evidence, records of meetings with your supervisor, etc. may be added in each section.*

	Date completed
Record of initial planning meeting	9/11/07
Project Proposal Form (already completed)	9/11/07
Plan at start of project	9/11/07
Mid-project review	12/2/08
End-of-project review	21/4/08
Summary	21/4/08
Presentation record	10/4/08
Reflection	21/4/08

Extended Project Final Title: "To what extent can a countries response to population pressures be considered a Malthusian type disaster?"

Candidate's signature:..... Date: 21/4/08

Supervisor's signature: Date:

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Dr Michael Cresswell Director General

Record of initial planning meeting(s)

This form records initial meeting(s) with your supervisor to agree your project proposal.

Your first idea for topic/title:

I wish to produce a project that will complement my Geography studies, and reinforce the hope that I will be studying Geography next year at university:

'Response to population pressures', is my first title option as I would like to explore the issue of overpopulation/underpopulation. I understand that this is a key current debate in geography as it brings together the topics of globalisation, population and consumption.

Your first ideas for research and development of your project:

I wish to investigate the methods that country's use (or fail to use) to maintain 'optimum population', when at current rate of growth/decline this becomes unsustainable. I hope to define 'optimum population' and look at the future regarding population increases. How will the world sustainably cope both environmentally and socially with the overall worldwide increases in population that are expected? Country's with declining populations will be considered in addition to those populations that are increasing.

Your supervisor's main comments and advice:

- One's emphasis should be on analysis and evaluation, rather than mere description.
- The project should aim to target a multitude of high level sources, both book and web based.
- I should create and maintain a record of the work undertaken.
- I should discuss ideas with my geography teacher. Her response was that I should concentrate on four countries and ensure I explained and evaluated the role of the theorists Malthus and Boserup.

Changes, clarifications or additions you have made as a result of your discussion with your supervisor:

- I should begin with an introduction stating both my aims and the reasons why I have chosen to do such a project and how this is relevant to the future of humanity.
- I have decided to consider four countries as case study material - China, Rwanda, Mauritius and France.
- I must ensure that a conclusion is reached, and that a clear final evaluation of my work is completed.
- I have been recommended to produce a spider diagram of my sources by mid-project, keep my work well organised in a folder, and select suitable and relevant sources that should be acknowledged.
- My supervisor emphasised the necessity to put forward the relevant theorists of population statistics. I have chosen to consider Malthus and Boserup, who I understand are key contrasting thickness on the optimistic/pessimistic population debate.

Supervisor's initials:	Date:
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Plan at start of project

This form records your outline plan at the start of your work.

Outline the next steps in your planned research/initial development:

- Visit Manchester Central Library to get Malthus and Boserup's essays on population.
- Consult internet search engines (eg Kartoo) for a spider diagram that might, inspire ideas.
- Collate all research, and put into groups:- 'China, Rwanda, Mauritius, France Conclusion.'
- Then begin drafting out.
- Produce a schedule (attached), and target dates for production.

Your supervisor's main comments and advice:

My supervisor suggests that creating a spider diagram to condense information would be a good way to reduce the quantity of information, and condense it into more manageable 'chunks'. Furthermore, I must ensure that the environmental impact of human population imbalances is addressed. My supervisor suggests I could do this in my conclusion. General reinforcements made:

- Create a log sheet to record work done.
- Define population key terms, consider creating a glossary.
- Keep all notes in a simple, well organised folder.

Changes, clarifications or additions you have made as a result of your discussion with your supervisor and/or the comments from AQA

Adviser:

- Consider the 'Is it ethical to have children concern' of neo-Malthusians in my introduction and conclusion.
- Use a title that is more fitting for a 'spirit of debate', that mimics a university-like essay. My new title shall be:
'To what extent can a country's response to population pressures be considered a Malthusian type disaster?'

My AQA advisor did not make a significant comment, only that the project was suitable.

Supervisor's initials:	Date:
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Mid-project review

This form records your outline plan about half-way through your work.

Outline the successes, failures, additions and/or changes you made as you followed your *Plan at start of project*.

I have gathered successfully a wide range of different references in order to evaluate my task. I have changed the title to make it more fitting to a 'spirit of debate':

'To what extent can a country's response to population pressures be considered a Malthusian type disaster?'

I am pleased with the self set targets that have been met (over 75% so far).

Outline your planned steps to complete your project:

1. Complete first draft, according to set targets on additional sheet.
2. Revise draft, emphasising analysis and evaluation
3. Produce a presentation, using power-point that is audience engaging.

Your supervisor's main comments and advice at this stage:

- Ensure that research can effectively be condensed, ensuring that emphasis remains on evaluation and analysis rather than merely regurgitating text.
- Ensure both sides of the argument are considered, with equal weighting.

Changes, clarifications or additions you have made as a result of your discussion with your supervisor at this stage:

The title has been changed, and has been made more inkeeping with the light of the 'Extended project' aims, to be a piece of work that will be valuable to improve future skills, especially for universities.

- A date has been set for the presentation 10th march. My supervisor will moderate and a representative of AQA Extended project will be there to observe, standardise and ask questions.

- Sections have been condensed, for example information about environmental issues and 'modern malthusians' have been added to the conclusion and introduction of the report.

- It has once again been reinforced that one must come to a clear conclusion.

Supervisor's initials:	Date:
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End-of-project review

This form records the (near) completion of your product.

Outline the successes, failures, additions and/or changes you made as you followed the plan in your *Mid-project review*:

I believe that I have successfully produced a report of high calibre and standard. Following my supervisors advice it has a report structure and utilises high level skills. The only negative point to make is that I did not meet all completion deadlines I set myself, however this has not made my project a failure as I did meet all compulsory deadlines. Since my mid-project review I have decided to emphasise a clear sub concluding bit of analysis after each country, to maintain my emphasis on analysis and evaluation.

Outline any additional advice or comment that you received from your supervisor during this final stage:

Having completed the reflection section, no further changes have been suggested today.

Changes, clarifications or additions you made as a result of discussion with your supervisor in this final stage:

I must ensure to include copies of the report and power-point presentation.

Supervisor's initials:	Date:
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Summary

This form records the nature of your product

Outline (50 -150 words) the nature of your final product, its main content and its conclusion:

In my project I set out to explore the notions of 'population' and the concern that an increasing population has upon the stability of the planet, taking into account the views of population theorists Malthus and Boserup. I considered Rwanda and China as examples of countries with overpopulation crisis that resulted in Malthusian disasters, and considered Mauritius as an example where a catastrophe has been averted. I have also explored examples of countries with possible under population concerns, including France. I reinforced emphasis that environmental concerns must not be ignored – if we continue to exploit natural resources unsustainably we will damage the planet, reducing its overall 'carrying capacity' – the theoretical maximum human population it can carry. The conclusion that I reached is that we will certainly see future Malthusian disasters; but whether one major disaster encompasses the whole world is up to our future decisions; environmental, social and economic.

(149 words)

Presentation record

This form records your presentation and its preparation

Outline the nature of your presentation (e.g. timing, audience, use of visual aids, slides, notes used, etc.):

I produced a general 'speech', however as planned this was only an emergency prompt. I used a slideshow with minimal text, but an emphasis on diagrams to stimulate the presentation experience. I ensured that I reinforced at the start 'why' I wished to do this presentation, and again after my conclusion. It took 14 minutes for the presentation to be completed, after which questions were asked. The principal asked one question and offered some further 'Chinese context' regarding a recent book he had read, the AQA representative offered four questions, my supervisor one question and the rest of the group asked three questions in total. In my responses I tried to summarise the context of the question asked, and attempted to respond with relevant 'in the news' examples.

Briefly list the main content of your presentation:

1. For how long can the world's population hang in the balance?
2. Population Growth
3. Food supply
4. Level of consumption
5. Theorists – Thomas Malthus
6. Theorists – Ester Boserup
7. Mauritius
8. Rwanda
9. France
10. China
11. Conclusion
12. Philosophical speculation
13. Any questions

Supervisor's initials:	Date:
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Reflection

This form is to record your own evaluation when you have completed your project and given your presentation

Briefly summarise your main learning from completing this project. You might include new knowledge or expertise that you enjoy or find valuable, a consideration of your planning and organisation, changes you would make if you undertook such work again, advice you would give to others undertaking such a project.

Completing this project has developed the skills I will require to enter university and successfully approach a research task. I find it insightful now to be able to look at current issues and relate them to their wider issues and concerns. I am pleased with the targets that I met, and feel that they have contributed to an improvement in my timekeeping skills for the future.

If I were to undertake a similar project again I would try not to concentrate too much of my work near to the deadline for submission. Furthermore, I would try consolidating my introduction, which in its present state is a little wordy. I believe that my project would benefit from a greater exploration of the wider environmental concerns, including those not just connected to one sub-continent; for example my project could have had a specific section on global warming. Although my project did touch upon the 'neo-Malthusian' 'Is it ethical to have children?' debate it does not consider this in as much detail as I might have liked.

Nevertheless, I must acknowledge that my project is of a good standard and quality. Efficient referencing and comprehensive consideration of the relevant theorists, Malthus and Boserup has enabled me to produce a representative report. I was particularly pleased with the research skills, especially within the sections of 'Rwanda' and 'France' as prior to the project I was not as familiar with these countries.

Advice to future candidates is a complex issue as everyone has their own learning style, and their own research experience. Nevertheless, I can make these suggestions. Firstly, you should research the general concerns relevant in your project and ensure that you note any relevant topics you hear in the media. Secondly, you should try to keep your deadlines, but if you miss any don't panic! Instead you should actively consolidate your work and remember never to get stuck on a complex issue for too long – instead you should seek help from your project supervisor. Finally I suggest that future candidates ensure their project written form is suitable, with clear headings and sub headings, rather than one piece of unending text.