Week 5: How Can the Population Explosion Be Controlled?

1. What is the surprising achievement of Mexico, Bangladesh, and many other developing countries? (2 pts.)

   Any of the following answers
   o a rapid decline in the fertility rate/level
   o very successful family planning programs
   o a rapid decline in the birthrate
   o a rapid decrease in the number of children couples have
   o women are having fewer children
   o a reduction in the rate of population growth

2. This year, the UN revised its population projections. According to a UN official, why has the rate of progress (in reducing the rate of population growth) come down? (2 pts.)

   Any of the following answers
   o A decline in funding for family planning programs
   o A steep decline in world foreign aid for family planning

3. What region of the world (or country) is facing a “shortgevity crisis”—and why? (2 pts.)

   Any of the following answers
   o Region/country: Sub-Saharan Africa/Zimbabwe, etc. Why: HIV/AIDS
   o Region/country: Russia/former Soviet block Why: disorder following the fall of the Soviet state/self destructive behavior/alcoholism

4. What region of the world (or country) is facing a “population implosion”—and why? (2 pts.)

   Any of the following answers
   Region/country
   o Europe/any country in Europe or South Korea, Japan, or China Why: fertility rate has fallen below 2.1/fertility rate has fallen below the population replacement level

5. What change has occurred in China’s gender balance and what technology has made this possible? (2 pts.)

   Both of the following answers (2 pts.)
   o Change: an increase in the number of males vs. females born
   o Technology: the ultrasound/a device to determine a child’s sex before birth