



The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Sociology

Specialized Comprehensive Examination in Reproductive Health

April 15, 2008

PLEASE ANSWER TWO OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE QUESTIONS

1. In their 1997 paper "Feminists and Neo-Malthusians: Past and Present Alliances," Dennis Hodgson and Susan Cotts Watkins argue that "feminists and neo-Malthusians are neither natural allies nor natural opponents. Only occasionally do the immediate goals of these movements merge, and even then one or both parties do not necessarily seek an alliance" (471). Drawing upon Hodgson and Watkins and others, briefly outline the historical tension between these two groups, focusing mainly on the period leading up to the 1994 Population and Development Conference in Cairo. Next, using a country of your choosing, evaluate the period since the paper was published. What tensions remain and which ideology prevails in the population policies and provision of services in that country?

2. What, if anything, does development have to do with fertility? →

3. If NIH or the Metanexus Institute awarded you "whatever money it took" to conduct a survey of the relations between fertility and religion in the country you are most interested in, what would be the key features of your investigation? Describe a sampling frame (i.e., who would you target and why?), a research design (e.g., what features might you build in, and why?), and key areas of content. Relate these choices to relevant literature in the area. What research questions could such a project hope to address? What questions would remain unanswered? → *research of rel.*

4. Please assess the literature on the relations between migration and development[?] including any unpublished findings of which you may be aware. What are some of the main unanswered questions that you see in this area, and what would be some promising ways of approaching them in the future? Feel free to concentrate the latter part of your essay on regions or countries with which you are familiar. ~

5. Some demographers contend that very low fertility will have dramatic, and perhaps disastrous, effects on populations while others argue that the outcome may not be as dire. Drawing upon this literature, argue both sides of the debate. Conclude with a clear statement of where you stand on the issue with respect to some country or countries with which you are familiar. → *low part.*