The Demographic Transition Model

### Stage 1 – A period of high birth and death rates

**Reasons for high birth rate** –
- Limited birth control and family planning
- High infant mortality rate
- Children are seen as future source of income
- Children seen as a sign of strength
- Some religions encourage large families

**Reasons for high death rate** –
- High incidence of disease
- Poor nutrition and famine
- Poor hygiene
- Inadequate health facilities

### Stage 2 – A period of high birth rate but falling death rate. Population growth is quick and expanding

**Reasons for declining death rate** –
- Improved public health
- Better nutrition
- Lower child mortality
- Improved medical provision

### Stage 3 – A period of falling birth rate and continuing falling death rate. Population growth slows down very slightly but still high

**Reasons for falling birth rate** –
- Changing socio-economic conditions
- Greater access to education for women
- Preferences for smaller families
- Rise in materialism
- Increased personal wealth
- Compulsory schooling which can be expensive
- Lower infant mortality
- The availability of family planning systems

### Stage 4 – A period of low birth rate and low death rate, both of which fluctuate. Population growth is small and fertility continues to fall

**Reasons for the low levels** –
There are significant changes in personal lifestyles. More women in workforce, high personal incomes and more leisure interests

### Stage 5 – A period during which the death rate slightly exceeds the birth rate causing population decline

**Reasons for the decline** –
- A rise in individualism
- Greater financial independence of women
- Concern over the population-resource
- An increase in non-traditional lifestyles
- A rise in the ideas of childlessness
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1. **Sierra Leone**

Describe the demographic transition of the above. State what major changes there have been and if there have been any movements between stages since 1970.
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