Ageing population

Explain population ageing and evaluate dependency, care and policy arguments without treating older people as a burden.

Core knowledge

- Population ageing reflects lower fertility, longer life expectancy and cohort effects.
- Dependency is not simply an age category: older people also provide care, work, volunteering and family support.
- Arguments about ageing should connect family care, public policy, work and intergenerational relationships.

Studies / perspectives

- Ageing society lens: Rising proportions of older people alter care, pensions, work and family support.
- Feminist care lens: Unpaid care responsibilities often fall unequally by gender and class.
- Critical gerontology: Avoid deficit language: older people are not only dependants but social actors.

Assessment focus

- Evaluate the view that an ageing population creates problems for families and society. [20/30-mark planning]
- Build claim → evidence → mechanism → evaluation → judgement.

Indicative guidance: reward accurate definitions, explanation of the mechanism, application to family life and evaluative qualification of evidence.