

Physical Factors	High Density	Low Density
Relief (Shape and height of land)	Plains are suitable for farming, manufacturing and service activities and thus have high densities of population, e.g. the Indo-Gangetic Plains.	Mountains with steep slopes are not suitable for agriculture, industry or transport. They have low densities of people. e.g. the Himalayas.
Climate	Areas with equable and moderate climate tend to be densely populated, e.g. eastern China, Western Europe, India.	Places experiencing extreme cold, heat or aridity are inhospitable for permanent settlement. e.g. the Sahara, Antarctica.
Water	People prefer to live in the areas where fresh water is easily available, e.g., all the major river valleys of the world.	Deserts which are dry are sparsely populated. e.g. the Sahara.
Resources	Areas rich in resources like coal, oil, fishing tend to be densely populated, e.g. Western Europe, eastern USA.	Areas with less resources tend to be sparsely populated. e.g. The Thar Desert.

Human factors	High Density	Low Density
Political	Countries with stable governments tend to have denser populations, e.g., Singapore. Government policies can also decide the density of population.	Countries with governments which engage in frequent wars tend to have sparse. e.g. Afghanistan and Sudan.
Social	Areas with stable governments and better education and health facilities (e.g. Punjab) or having religious significance (e.g. Vatican City) tend to be heavily populated.	Areas with poor access to facilities like health care and education tend to have fewer people, e.g. the Thar Desert, the Sahel in the Sahara.

Economic

Places with industries that provide abundant employment opportunities and places with good infrastructure facilities like efficient transport networks and electricity tend to be more densely populated. E.g. Western Europe, the Shanghai region of China, and the Bangalore - Coimbatore industrial region.

Lack of infrastructural facilities results in sparse population. e.g. Bastar region in central India  
Amazon rainforest