**Name and describe three factors that influence the rate of population change.**

There are a number of factors that influence the rate of population change. The three that I will be discussing are food supply, the place of women if society and healthy.

As a population grows it needs to be fed. Hence the food supply needs to improve and increase. The agricultural revolution resulted in new farming methods such as crop rotation and selective breeding allowing farmers to produce more food and well as fertilisers and pesticides allowing farmers grow more crops. This food supply lowers the death rate and increase population growth

The status of women in society plays a huge role in population change in different countries. In Ireland women have equal status as men so they are educated with careers. This means that family planning has to be done. In less developed countries the role of women is that of a mother and men expect to have large families. Here women get married at a younger age and as they are uneducated they don’t know about family planning which leads to high birth rates. As a country develops and women become more educated, they also gain equality and choose to have smaller families lowering the birth rate.

Lastly a good healthcare system lowers the death rate. When vaccines and antibiotics are available people survive illnesses and diseases that previously caused death. Access to doctors and hospitals also decrease death rate. The availability of clean drinking water and proper sanitation also reduces the spread of disease. As our living standards and conditions are so high we rarely get the fatal diseases that plague poorer less developed countries.

**What is the optimistic and pessimistic view of population change in the future?**

The pessimistic view of population change in the future is that that population will continue to rise at an explosive rate for year to come. People with this view expect the population of the world to rise over 10 billion people by 2050. This would put enormous amount of pressure of land and food supplies.

The optimistic view of population change is that the population will not increase so rapidly. People with this view believe that birth rates will drop as education and healthcare become more widely available in areas with the highest population growth. They believe that people will have smaller families and while the population will continue to grow it will eventually level out at 8 billion people in 2050