# An Introduction to Thomas Malthus' An Essay on the Principle of Population- Macat Economics Analysis

Notes:

* 12000 years ago with the discovery of the sedentary agriculture ensured that food was abundant;
* so exponential growth of the world’s population, currently 7 billion people
* Malthus in the 18th century wrote the “Essay on the Principle of the Population”;
* subsistence level is a level of adequate food, nothing more, nothing less in proportion with the population;
* example of a school of fish: if there is subsistence level, the fish population will constantly grow;
* if the food is extra the fish growth will be exponential;
* availability of land constrains the production, so all the food population couldn’t be feed, it will die of hunger or diseases;
* consequently, it will return to balance;
* land availability is outside fish but also human control just like famine and illnesses;
* Malthus called this leveling the positive check;
* he criticised the Elizabethan “Poor Laws”;
* according to Malthus to beat the population “trap” adopt preventative checks.