*Robert Thomas Malthus: An Essay on the Principle of Population*

The main points highlighted in the essay are:

1. The subsistence level;
2. The levelling effect of food

 According to Malthus More food does not mean more births and longer lives

 Solutions to correct the disequilibrium between population and food supply:

* Positive checks (natural forces)
* Preventive checks (late marriage, celibacy)

Malthus disapproved Elizabethan “Poor Laws” →  Social welfare and food redistribution to the poor would unravel in the long run

Example:

1. Level of subsistence;
2. Increase food => more population can survive to maturity;
3. Population increase is exponential but food supply will remain constant or, at best, grow linearly;
4. Food supply can no longer meet the demand of all population;
5. Lots of people die of hunger and the equilibrium is returned.