
AP[®] Human Geography

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Set 1

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AP[®] HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

6 points: 1 + 3 + 2

A. Define devolution. (1 point)

- A1. The breakup of a state
- A2. The movement of power from a central government to regional governments (or subnational governments) within the state
- A3. The transfer of some central powers or ceding of authority to regional or local governments
- A4. Transfer of some power from a state to a self-identified community within it to accommodate separatist pressures
- A5. The process whereby regions within a state demand and gain political strength and growing autonomy at the expense of the central government
- A6. Recognition or creation of regional governments with varying degrees of autonomy and local administrative control (multilevel government) while the state retains authority over countrywide concerns, such as monetary policy, defense, and foreign relations

B. Describe how EACH of the following forces contributes to devolutionary pressures within a country.

(3 points: 1 point for each) Response must specifically describe how each factor contributes to devolutionary pressures (e.g., a desire for autonomy/separation/statehood, areas or peoples who are isolated or less connected, increasing centrifugal forces within the country).

| Forces | Description |
|---|--|
| Cultural diversity | B1. Differences in language, religion, history, or ethnicity |
| Regional economic differences | B2. Inequality, uneven economic development or differences in predominant economic activities |
| Physical geography and territorial size | B3. Physical features or barriers, such as mountains or bodies of water B4. Distance between capital or core areas and the periphery B5. Barriers to infrastructure, communication, or connectivity, e.g., lack of roads, railroads B6. Regional differences in the location or availability of natural resources B7. In large countries, smaller areas may want autonomy or separation B8. Comparatively smaller territories or regions within a country |

C. Identify and explain ONE political impact resulting from devolutionary pressures related to cultural differences in either Spain or Nigeria. (2 points: 1 identification + 1 explanation)

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3 (continued)

| Country | Identification | Explanation |
|----------------|---|--|
| Spain | 1. Factors of secession or division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secessionist movements or attempted secession • vote for independence or self-determination • irredentism • terrorism or violent conflict | 1a. Full separation from Spain resulting in regional population’s ability to communicate in their own language (Catalan, Galician, or Basque) in schools, business, or government 1b. Region’s peoples would have their own identity, political system, national heritage (e.g., cultural history, holidays, festivals, traditions) 1c. To reunify a culture currently divided between Spain and a neighboring country 1d. Armed conflict as a means for political change |
| | 2. Factors of autonomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited autonomy • limited self-determination | 2a. Autonomous regions were created to increase local control of regional languages and reduce tensions with the majority (Castilian-speaking) Spanish country or population and decrease the appeal of a separatist movement 2b. Allowance for a dual culture or dual society that embraces separate cultural identities or separate nations |
| | 3. Factors of unification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unification or reunification • Spanish nationalism • zero autonomy • preservation of Spanish constitutional monarchy • increasing authoritarianism | 3a. Spanish state (or EU) currently functions as a multicultural society (despite economic woes) 3b. Spanish military or police forces used in response to regional votes and associated protests 3c. Spanish nationalism being promoted by the central government 3d. Spain faces challenges to political unity due to internal cultural factions |
| Nigeria | 4. Factors of secession or division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secessionist movements or attempted secession • vote for independence or self-determination • irredentism • terrorism or violent conflict | 4a. Religious differences have led to regional social movements 4b. Ethnic (tribal) differences have led to regional social movements 4c. Ethnic conflict, Ogoni movement, Biafra, Nigerian civil war, Islamist movements (e.g., Boko Haram, sharia law) |
| | 5. Factors of autonomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allowance for multiple legal systems • limited autonomy • limited self-determination | 5a. Acceptance of many cultures or multicultural society that embraces separate cultural identities or separate nations 5b. Government allowing for multiple legal systems within the federal state (e.g., [English] common law, tribal or customary legal systems, sharia) 5c. Linguistic differences have led to regional social movements |
| | 6. Factors of unification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining federal state or confederation • unification or reunification • zero autonomy • federal popular elections | 6a. Movement of the capital to help bridge the cultural divide and shed the colonial past 6b. Nigerian federal state allows for more ethnonational political representation 6c. Nigerian nationalism being promoted by the central government 6d. Nigeria faces challenges to political unity due to internal cultural factions. |

ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 3

- A. Devolution is the breaking apart of a state, or the division of a state.
- B. Cultural diversity can cause devolution in state in many ways. Having multiple languages, ethnicities, or religions in a state can cause tension. For example, in Nigeria there are two main religions in the country: Christianity and Islam. The government and the majority of the population is Christian. But, a minority of the population is Islamic, and doesn't agree with the government, which can lead to violence. Like, the Boko Haram terrorist attacks in Nigeria. Regional economic differences can cause devolution because one region of a state may feel like it makes more money than the rest of the state. This may cause that region to want to become its own state. For instance, Catalonia, Spain makes a lot of money from tourism in the region. So, they feel like they should be able to become their own country because of this tourism, and having so much more money, than the rest of Spain. Physical geography and size of a region may cause devolution simply because it may be isolated from the rest of the state. For example, the Baque region of Spain is isolated from the rest of the state because of the Pyrenees mountains cutting off the rest of the state. This feeling of isolation can cause a feeling of nationalism for that region which could also lead to violence.

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ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 3

C. One political impact as a result from devolutionary pressures is a bias towards the population that favors the government. For example, in Nigeria the government, and the south is predominantly Christian, but the north is mostly Islam. This difference in religion has caused violence in the country on multiple occasions, and it is virtually impossible for the government to run fairly. Tensions reached a new and violent high when terrorist group Boko Haram kidnapped hundreds of girls mainly for attention to the Islam minority in the north. Highly dangerous situations like this could be just the beginning of more to come simply because of ~~religious~~ religious and cultural difference.

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A.) Devolution is the process of moving political, governmental power from a bigger national scale to a more regional gov't.

B.)^{1.} ~ A country with high cultural diversity would experience devolutionary pressures because all the different cultures would want power to themselves & make decisions based on their own views. Giving all the power to just one culture would create tension & protest.

^{2.} ~ Regional economic differences within a country would contribute to devolutionary pressures b/c if all the rich people had power, then decisions would be in favor for the rich, hurting the poor & vice versa. So each economic group would want power to themselves so they can benefit themselves & be hurt.

^{3.} ~ Devolutionary pressures from physical geography & territorial size would arise because big territories would believe they deserve power, but also small territories would want power as well so they're not completely overthrown by a bigger territory. If the physical geography of a place caused for many areas to be isolated because of boundaries then each of these places would push for power of their own b/c they lack transportation & communication to other places.

C.) In Spain, most of the power is with the Spanish people, but in Basque, the people are pushing to gain

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their own power b/c they speak a different language & have a different culture than the Spanish people. A political impact because of this is the Basque boycotting & turning against the gov't which they controlled by so now, the Spanish gov't is having to give them some kind of power so this conflict doesn't grow into a huge, deadly one.

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Devolution is the act of countries breaking up within themselves due to cultural diversity, regional economic differences, and physical geography/territorial size.

Cultural Diversity contributes to devolutionary pressures within a country by dividing/separating the different cultures within a country. When this happens, people's cultural habits interfere with others and it ends up breaking countries apart. Second, regional economic differences break each other apart because different regions may have a different level of economic development, and it's hard to be unified that way. Last, the physical geography and territorial size is a major factor contributing to devolutionary pressures within a country because if one region is clearly bigger than another, it can affect the smaller regions by overpowering them.

For example, in Nigeria, there is only 4 territories remaining because the larger regions have taken over after caving into the devolutionary pressures ~~related~~ related to cultural differences.

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Question 3

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

Students were expected to define the term “devolution” and describe how specific forces related to culture, economics, and physical geography can contribute to devolutionary pressures in the abstract. Then students were to apply this understanding to identify and explain the political impact of cultural differences within one of two specific countries: Spain or Nigeria. Students were being asked to show their knowledge of human geography across multiple units of the course by utilizing a scale-of-analysis approach to the question. Students could discuss devolution as a transferring of power to different scales within a country.

Several skills were required of the students to be able to answer this question: using critical analysis, identifying factors that create spatial patterns and processes, and the ability to examine real-world examples to see what abstract concepts look like on the ground.

Sample: 3A

Score: 6

The response earned full credit and demonstrates a full understanding of devolution and devolutionary processes. The response earned 1 point in part A for defining devolution as the breaking apart or division of a state. The response earned 1 point in part B for describing how cultural diversity in a country can cause tension via the presence of multiple languages, ethnicities, or religions. (B1) The response earned an additional 1 point in part B for describing how one region of a country may have more wealth than other regions, causing potential separation due to devolutionary pressures. (B2) The response earned an additional 1 point in part B for describing that physical geography and territorial size may contribute to one region being isolated from the rest of a state. An example provided is how the Basque region is isolated from the rest of Spain by the Pyrenees Mountains. (B3) The response earned 1 point in part C for identifying that religious differences in Nigeria have caused violent conflicts. (C4) The response earned 1 additional point in part C for explaining that violence and tension in many parts of Nigeria have been caused by numerous kidnappings by the group Boko Haram. (C4c)

Sample: 3B

Score: 4

The response earned 1 point in part A for defining devolution as moving political power from a national to a regional government. (A2) The response earned no point in part B1 as there are no specifics provided as to how cultural diversity contributes to devolutionary pressures. The response earned no point in part B2 as the response describes regional economic differences as different levels of economic class instead of uneven economic development between regions within a country. The response earned 1 point in part B3 for describing that physical geography and territorial size may cause isolation, which may inhibit transportation and communication between regions. (B5) The response earned 1 point in part C for identifying that the Basque region of Spain has pushed for autonomy from the rest of the country. (C2) The response earned an additional 1 point for part C for explaining that autonomous regions in Spain, such as the Basque region, were created to reduce tensions and to decrease the appeal of separatist movements. (C2a)

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Question 3 (continued)

Sample: 3C

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point in part A for defining devolution as the breakup of a state. (A1) The response earned no point in part B1 as there are no specifics provided as to how cultural diversity contributes to devolutionary pressures. The response earned 1 point in part B for describing how regional economic differences in development may lead to devolutionary pressures. (B2) The response earned no additional point in part B because the discussion of physical geography and territorial size provides only a general overview of the size of regions in Nigeria. The response earned no points in part C as the response does not identify or explain any political impacts related to cultural differences in Nigeria.