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# AP<sup>®</sup> Human Geography

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

### **Inside:**

#### **Free-Response Question 1**

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
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- ☒ **Scoring Commentary**

**Question 1: No Stimulus****7 points**

<b>A</b> (Point 1)	<b>Define the concept of an independent state.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A1. The primary building block of the world political map.</li><li>• A2. A sovereign country, sovereign state, or a political entity with its own independent government (governs itself autonomously and is not controlled by any other external power).</li><li>• A3. A country with control over its own territory or laws, and/or a country that is recognized by other states.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>
<b>B</b> (Point 2)	<b>Describe one purpose of supranational organizations.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• B1. To address transnational or environmental challenges, and/or to create economies of scale, trade agreements, and/or military alliances.</li><li>• B2. To align member states (countries) that have a common interest or objective (e.g., administrative, economic, environmental, military, strategic, peace, security).</li><li>• B3. To create free trade zones, cartels, lending agencies, and/or research institutions.</li><li>• B4. To reduce the operational cost of governance, regulation, tariffs, business operations, currency exchange, banking fees and/or legal expenses.</li><li>• B5. To increase regional or organizational economic power, productivity (e.g., gross national product), and/or size of the available labor force.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>

<b>C</b> (Point 3)	<b>Describe one global outcome of an increase in international trade.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• C1. An increase in international trade allows countries to use comparative advantage and/or complementarity to specialize in the production of goods and/or services.</li><li>• C2. Increase in globalization, free trade, trade agreements, interdependence, supranational organizations, and/or rising levels of international development.</li><li>• C3. Outsourcing of jobs from countries with higher labor costs to countries with lower labor costs and/or increased competition between countries.</li><li>• C4. Deindustrialization in more developed/core countries or regions.</li><li>• C5. Improved or expanded infrastructure (e.g., port facilities, warehouses, roads, transportation networks).</li><li>• C6. Increased pollution, use of natural resources, and/or environmental impacts.</li><li>• C7. New manufacturing zones, free trade zones, special economic zones, and/or export processing zones.</li><li>• C8. Changes in the economic sectors of national economies and/or changes in methods of production.</li><li>• C9. Increased potential for supply chain problems (e.g., halted production, delayed shipment, tariffs, trade restrictions, labor shortages, quality control issues, technological integration, sustainability pressures, cost increases).</li><li>• C10. Wider access to more diverse goods, services, technology, media, and/or ideas.</li><li>• C11. Lower production costs and/or prices for consumers.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>
<b>D</b> (Point 4)	<b>Explain how deindustrialization has affected the economy of core countries.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• D1. Economies have shifted away from manufacturing toward services and technology as the main sources of economic production.</li><li>• D2. The loss of manufacturing businesses and/or jobs resulted in widespread unemployment, economic decline, and/or less business investment.</li><li>• D3. Deindustrialization has contributed to an international division of labor and/or an economic sector shift in which core countries have higher-paying jobs.</li><li>• D4. Outsourcing, offshoring, and/or economic restructuring have led to a decline in jobs in core countries and an increase in jobs in newly industrialized countries (developing countries, semiperiphery).</li><li>• D5. Core countries and/or cities have developed strategies designed to attract new businesses to replace those lost from deindustrialization (e.g., lower taxes for businesses that relocate).</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>

<b>E</b> (Point 5)	<b>Explain why international boundaries on land or at sea may lead to disputes over resources.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E1. Boundaries may be contested due to more than one country or company claiming ownership over a resource.</li><li>• E2. Countries may disagree with international agreements that define the rights and responsibilities of countries (e.g., United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [UNCLOS]).</li><li>• E3. Political boundaries may be superimposed over resource areas claimed by different countries.</li><li>• E4. Corporations, indigenous groups, and/or local communities may have competing claims to resources.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>
<b>F</b> (Point 6)	<b>Explain how supranational organizations such as the EU or ASEAN may challenge the sovereignty of member states.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• F1. Supranational organizations implement international laws or policies that may result in limitations on the economic or political actions of individual member states.</li><li>• F2. Supranational organizations may require participation in military alliances or impose changes in regional governance (e.g., border policies, currencies, trade regulations, environmental regulations, labor regulations, taxes, judicial systems) that replace or supersede existing systems of national government in member states.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>
<b>G</b> (Point 7)	<b>Explain how advances in communication technologies may affect state sovereignty.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• G1. Advances in technology may affect state sovereignty by facilitating devolution, supranationalism, and/or democratization efforts that change the structure of the state or its system of governance.</li><li>• G2. Advances in technology may affect state sovereignty by allowing people, social movements, and/or organizations (e.g., other governments, corporations) to communicate faster or more effectively, or to a larger audience, about political issues and/or social justice, leading to changes in law, government policy, strengthening of the state, and/or the devolution of the state.</li><li>• G3. Advances in technology may affect state sovereignty by increasing the ability of a supranational organization to monitor what is occurring in member states (e.g., upholding agreements and enforcing regulations).</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>

- A. An independent state can be defined as a state which has sovereignty and can defend its territory, has power over what is done inside the country's borders, and is recognized by other states.
- B. One purpose of supranational organizations is to create a union between the various member countries so that they are stronger together than apart, including shared benefits like economic benefits. An example would be the EU, or European Union. This supranational organization has reduced barriers to trade (ex. tariffs) between member countries, making them stronger together than apart. Additionally, supranational organizations like the UN or United Nations acts sort of like a mediator between countries, solving international disputes.
- C. One global outcome of an increase in international trade is countries saving money as they trade goods with other countries with comparative advantages over certain goods. Country A might be able to produce a certain good for cheaper than Country B due to climate and access to natural resources and the same might be true for Country B. Therefore, these countries exporting goods that they are better at producing will result in lower prices due to lower production costs. Additionally, this will further contribute to the global spread of various crops everywhere, making places more diverse in terms of the goods that exist there.
- D. Deindustrialization has effected the economy of core countries by relying more on periphery and semiperiphery countries for services in the primary and secondary sectors. A core country might locate its factories and manufacturing facilities in less developed countries due to the lower labor and production costs there (many core countries have minimum wages and labor unions demanding higher pay for workers). This would decrease the prevalence of primary and secondary sector jobs in core countries, allowing for the tertiary, and even the quaternary and quinary sectors to grow.
- E. International boundaries on land or at sea may cause countries to fight over resources as they disagree over which country has the right to the resources found along the boundaries, which may be difficult to discern who has control over them. An example would be the countries of Iraq and Kuwait, along the boundaries of which are located oil reserves. Iraq has control over most of the oil reserves as they are located within their country's borders, but they accused Kuwait of using oil reserves in their border, causing a dispute over resources, in this case oil reserves.
- F. Supranational organizations such as the EU or ASEAN may challenge the sovereignty of member states as the member states are forced to conform to the rules of the supranational organization and have to take actions based on what is best for the majority of the group. Both the EU and ASEAN are both organizations that aim to reduce barriers to trade between member countries, such as tariffs. By forcing member countries to keep their tariffs between member countries low, these organizations have

succeeded in reducing barriers to trade, but have also reduced the sovereignty of the member countries by forcing them to take specific actions (must keep tariffs low).

G. Advances in communication technologies may affect state sovereignty by improving communication between regions, allowing them to force governments to take certain actions. An example might be in a country whose government is overly authoritative or controlling who has done actions which have caused outrage between citizens. Communication technology like the media would allow the message/word about certain government actions to be spread further and talked about more, increasing outrage and rebellion so much so that the state will be forced to take actions that the citizens want, reducing their sovereignty.

- A. An independent state is a state where the governance and power of it goes to itself. It has its own rules and regulations that doesn't need permission from anyone on how to rule.
- B. One purpose of supranational organizations is to promote peace. These organizations have multiple members representing each country/state so that any conflict that arises can be solved in peaceful ways with contracts or negotiations.
- C. One global outcome of an increase in international trade is the increase propability of gaining allies and more trade partnerships. As international trade increases, more countries can expand their offers to other countries in exchange for something of the same value. Allies are gained which ensures a specfiic country will always be trading with them, like the USA and the UK.
- D. Deindustrialization has affected the economy of core countries by having the core country be reliant and dependent on other countries to provide goods. An example is the USA and China. The USA doesn't manufacture many things anymore despite being an industial power plant back in the 20th and 19th century. China manufactures everything it can and the USA often trades with them to get certain goods that the USA doesn't aready have, making the USA very reliant on China.
- E. International boundaries on land or at sea may lead to disputes over resources by creating compeition for certain goods. The use of land is an integral part of the economy of any country, but especially for developing countries. Developing countries rely heavily upon owning land and using it to make goods and trade with developed countries for profit. Sea is also very important and can cause disputes if a certain piece of water that a country owns doesn't provide the same services anymore (like overproduction of a fish species), so countries look elsewhere, which can cause conflicts between countries that already have that land or want it too.
- F. Supranational organizations such as the EU or ASEAN may challenge the sovereignty of member states through peace negotiations. The desire for state sovereignty is often wished within developing countries that want to sepearate in order to be their own ruler and independent, but the organizations main job and goal is to stop that. It counts as a conflict and therefore the organizations must find ways to help and unite the states together again so that state sovereignty isn't secured for any place.
- G. Advances in communication technologies may affect state sovereignty as it can unite groups together and encourage them turn to other countries for help for the cause they want. Communication is a big key in making people feel connected to each other and also a big key for groups to reach out and ask for alliances so that they can fight each other in one way or another (often violent) and achieve state sovereignty.

- A. An independent state is a state that is not connected or tied to anything else and in which they are not ruled by other people.
- B. One purpose of a supranational organization is to help countries and the environment to become a better place.
- C. One global outcome of an increase in the international trade is that countries are able to make business with other countries and support and help each other when they need help. It creates connections with other countries.
- D. Deindustrialization has affected the economy of core countries because it breaks down the industry of a country. This hurts the economy of a country and leads to bankruptcy.
- E. International boundaries on land or at sea may lead to disputes over resources since they might feel it is unfair that certain countries are able to get better resources than others and that just because they are not close to the sea or close to other lands than they should not be punished for that.
- F. Supranational organizations may challenge the sovereignty of member states because they would want to take command of how things go in countries.
- G. Advances in technologies may affect state sovereignty because it would make people have access to the world and many could riot or revolt.



## Question 1

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

### Overview

**NEW for 2025:** The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses* on [AP Central](#).

### Sample: 1A

**HG Point 1 Score: 1**

**HG Point 2 Score: 1**

**HG Point 3 Score: 1**

**HG Point 4 Score: 1**

**HG Point 5 Score: 1**

**HG Point 6 Score: 1**

**HG Point 7 Score: 1**

**Score: 7**

The response to part A earned 1 point. The response correctly defines an independent state by stating that it “has power over what is done inside the country’s borders, and is recognized by other states.”

The response to part B earned 1 point. The response correctly describes the purpose of supranational organizations by stating that it creates “a union between the various member countries so that they are stronger together than apart, including shared benefits like economic benefits.”

The response to part C earned 1 point. The response correctly describes a global outcome of an increase in international trade by stating that countries are “saving money as they trade goods with other countries with comparative advantages over certain goods.”

The response to part D earned 1 point. The response correctly explains how deindustrialization has affected the economy of core countries by stating that core countries are “relying more on periphery and semiperiphery countries for services in the primary and secondary sectors. A core country might locate its factories and manufacturing facilities in less developed countries due to the lower labor and production costs there (many core countries have minimum wages and labor unions demanding higher pay for workers).”

The response to part E earned 1 point. The response correctly explains why international boundaries may lead to disputes over resources by stating that “International boundaries on land or at sea may cause countries to fight over resources as they disagree over which country has the right to the resources found along the boundaries, which may be difficult to discern who has control over them.”

The response to part F earned 1 point. The response correctly explains how supranational organizations such as the EU or ASEAN may challenge the sovereignty of member states by stating that supranational organizations “aim to reduce barriers to trade between member countries, such as tariffs. By forcing member countries to keep their tariffs between member countries low, these organizations have succeeded in reducing barriers to trade, but have also reduced the sovereignty of the member countries by forcing them to take specific actions (must keep tariffs low).”

**Question 1 (continued)**

The response to part G earned 1 point. The response correctly explains how advances in communication technologies may affect state sovereignty by stating that, “Communication technology like the media would allow the message/word about certain government actions to be spread further and talked about more, increasing outrage and rebellion so much so that the state will be forced to take actions that the citizens want, reducing their sovereignty.”

**Question 1 (continued)****Sample: 1B****HG Point 1 Score: 1****HG Point 2 Score: 1****HG Point 3 Score: 1****HG Point 4 Score: 1****HG Point 5 Score: 0****HG Point 6 Score: 0****HG Point 7 Score: 0****Score: 4**

The response to part A earned 1 point. The response correctly defines an independent state by stating that “An independent state is a state where the governance and power of it goes to itself. It has its own rules and regulations that doesn’t need permission from anyone on how to rule.”

The response to part B earned 1 point. The response correctly describes the purpose of supranational organizations by stating that “One purpose of supranational organizations is to promote peace. These organizations have multiple members representing each country/state so that any conflict that arises can be solved in peaceful ways.”

The response to part C earned 1 point. The response correctly describes a global outcome of an increase in international trade by stating that “One global outcome of an increase in international trade is the increase propability of gaining allies and more trade partnerships. As international trade increases, more countries can expand their offers to other countries in exchange for something of the same value.”

The response to part D earned 1 point. The response correctly explains how deindustrialization has affected the economy of core countries by stating that “Deindustrialization has affected the economy of core countries by having the core country be reliant and dependent on other countries to provide goods.” The response provides an example of the USA being more reliant on manufacturing in China.

The response to part E did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains that international boundaries may lead to disputes over resources by stating that “International boundaries on land or at sea may lead to disputes over resources by creating compeition for certain goods.” The response would have earned the point if it had stated that disputes over resources may occur because more than one country or company may claim ownership over a resource.

The response to part F did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains how supranational organizations such as the EU or ASEAN may challenge the sovereignty of member states through “peace negotiations.” The response would have earned the point if it had stated that supranational organizations may implement international laws or policies that may result in limitations on the economic or political actions of individual member states.

The response to part G did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains how advances in communication technologies may affect state sovereignty by stating that “Communication is a big key in making people feel connected to each other and also a big key for groups to reach out and ask for alliances so that they can fight each other in one way or another (often violent) and achieve state sovereignty.” The response would have earned the point if it had stated that advances in technology may affect state sovereignty by facilitating devolution, supranationalism, and/or democratization efforts that change the structure of the state or its system of governance.

**Question 1 (continued)****Sample: 1C****HG Point 1 Score: 1****HG Point 2 Score: 0****HG Point 3 Score: 1****HG Point 4 Score: 0****HG Point 5 Score: 0****HG Point 6 Score: 0****HG Point 7 Score: 0****Score: 2**

The response to part A earned 1 point. The response correctly defines an independent state by stating that “they aren’t ruled by other people.”

The response to part B did not earn a point. The response incorrectly states that the purpose “is to help country’s and the environment to become a better place.” The response would have earned the point if it had stated that supranational organizations address transnational or environmental challenges, or that they create economies of scale, trade agreements, and/or military alliances.

The response to part C earned 1 point. The response correctly describes a global outcome of an increase in international trade by describing that, “countries are able to make business with other country’s and support and help each other” and stating that “It creates connections with other country’s.”

The response to part D did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains how deindustrialization has affected the economy of core countries by stating that, “because it brakes down the industry of a country.” The response would have earned the point if it had stated that deindustrialization led to the loss of manufacturing businesses and/or jobs that resulted in widespread unemployment, economic decline, and/or less business investment.

The response to part E did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains that international boundaries may lead to disputes over resources by stating that, “just because they aren’t close to the sea or close to other lands than they should not be punished for that.” The response would have earned the point if it had stated that disputes over resources may occur because more than one country or company may claim ownership over a resource.

The response to part F did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains how supranational organizations such as the EU or ASEAN may challenge the sovereignty of member states by stating that, “Supranational organizations may challenge the sovereignty of member states because they would want to take commands of how things go in country’s.” The response would have earned the point if it had stated that supranational organizations may implement international laws or policies that may result in limitations on the economic or political actions of individual member states.

The response to part G did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains how advances in communication technologies may affect state sovereignty by stating that, “Advances in technologies may affect state sovereignty because it would make people have access to the world and many could riot or revolt.” The response would have earned the point if it had stated that advances in technology may affect state sovereignty by facilitating devolution, supranationalism, and/or democratization efforts that change the structure of the state or its system of governance.