

2026



AP[®] Human Geography

Scoring Guidelines

Question 1: No Stimulus**7 points**

A (Point 1)	Identify a factor that influences the distribution of human populations. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • A1. Physical factors (e.g., climate, landforms, vegetation, water bodies, natural hazards) • A2. Cultural or social factors (e.g., religious sites, historic migration, settlement patterns) • A3. Economic factors (e.g., job opportunities, industrial development, trade routes) • A4. Political factors (e.g., political stability, government policies, conflicts)	1 point
B (Point 2)	Describe one demographic factor that may lead to population decline. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • B1. A low birth rate, low fertility rate, or low rate of natural increase (RNI) may result in population decline (e.g., a total fertility rate below the replacement rate of 2.1). • B2. A high death rate or high mortality rate may lead to population decline. • B3. Migration out of the country may result in population decline (outmigration) or negative net migration. • B4. An aging population characterized by a high proportion of elderly people and/or a low proportion of people of childbearing age may lead to population decline.	1 point
C (Point 3)	Describe one effect of population density on the environment. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • C1. Population density may affect a location's carrying capacity. • C2. High population density may increase the demand for resources (e.g., water, minerals, fossil fuels, forests) and/or increase a location's ecological footprint. • C3. High population density may contribute to environmental degradation (e.g., pollution, deforestation, soil and water usage, habitat or biodiversity loss, urban heat islands, waste management). • C4. High population density areas can use space more efficiently and/or result in lower impacts of human population in less densely populated areas. • C5. Low population density may reduce the demand for resources and/or result in limited environmental degradation.	1 point

D (Point 4)	Describe one potential cause of migration. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • D1. Migration may be caused by push factors (e.g., low wages, limited employment opportunities, low quality of life, lack of services, natural disasters, political instability, conflict). • D2. Migration may be caused by pull factors (e.g., employment opportunities, family reunification).	1 point
E (Point 5)	Explain how one type of population policy may affect a country's population size. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • E1. Pronatalist policies may increase population size by encouraging people to have more children through incentives. • E2. Antinatalist policies may decrease population size by limiting the number of children people have through restrictions or disincentives. • E3. Immigration policies that encourage immigration may increase population size by increasing the number of people entering the country. • E4. Restrictive immigration policies may limit population size by controlling the number of people allowed to enter the country. • E5. Some population or immigration policies may not affect population size because they focus on nondemographic goals, lack enforcement, are not widely adopted, and/or are outweighed by external demographic or economic factors.	1 point

F (Point 6)	Explain how technological changes may challenge state sovereignty. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • F1. Advances in communication technology (e.g., the Internet, smartphones) may challenge state sovereignty by facilitating devolution. • F2. Advances in communication technology may challenge state sovereignty by facilitating supranationalism and/or shifting decision-making authority to supranational organizations. • F3. Advances in communication technology may challenge state sovereignty by enabling separatist movements or political groups to organize, communicate, and/or mobilize support. • F4. Advances in technology (e.g., encryption technology, network security, cybersecurity tools, robotics) may challenge state sovereignty by limiting a government's ability to monitor, regulate, and/or control activity within its borders. • F5. Advancements in transportation, communication, industrial technologies, or military technologies may be used by opponents to challenge state sovereignty or destabilize the state.	1 point
G (Point 7)	A change in population composition may be a centrifugal force. Explain how centrifugal forces may affect a country. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • G1. Centrifugal forces may weaken national unity and/or lead to failed states by increasing internal divisions within a country. • G2. Centrifugal forces may affect a country by contributing to uneven economic development and/or regional disparities. • G3. Centrifugal forces may affect a country by fostering political instability and/or challenges to government legitimacy through conflict, ideological differences, or governance disputes.	1 point

Question 2: One Stimulus**7 points**

A (Point 1)	Identify the country in the table that imports the smallest amount of soybeans from Paraguay. Acceptable identification: • A1. Tunisia	1 point
B (Point 2)	Using the data shown in the table, describe a similarity between Argentina and Brazil in their soybean imports from Paraguay. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • B1. Both Argentina and Brazil import a high percentage of their total soybean imports from Paraguay (95% and 92%, respectively). • B2. Both Argentina and Brazil import soybeans from Paraguay valued at more than \$300 million. • B3. Both Argentina and Brazil rely heavily on Paraguay as a source of soybean imports.	1 point
C (Point 3)	Explain how an economic factor may influence agricultural practices. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • C1. Land, labor, and/or transportation costs may influence agricultural practices by determining whether farmers adopt intensive or extensive methods. • C2. The cost of agricultural inputs (e.g., seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, technology) may influence agricultural practices by affecting crop yields and/or the level of mechanization or chemical use. • C3. Changes in consumer demand or global market prices may influence agricultural practices by encouraging farmers to adjust the types and/or quantities of crops they produce. • C4. Government policies (e.g., subsidies, credit, financial incentives, tariffs, export restrictions) may influence agricultural practices by altering the profitability of certain crops and/or enabling farmers to invest in new technologies, expand production, and/or specialize in certain crops.	1 point

D (Point 4)	Describe the concept of commodity dependence. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • D1. Commodity dependence is when a country relies heavily on one or a small number of commodities (e.g., crops, minerals, fossil fuels) for export. • D2. Commodity dependence is when a country's exports are highly concentrated in a small number of commodities within global trade.	1 point
E (Point 5)	Using the data shown in the table, explain how soybeans illustrate interdependence in the world economy. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • E1. The data illustrate interdependence by demonstrating how soybeans move through a global supply chain, connecting producers in Paraguay to consumers and/or industries in importing countries. • E2. The data illustrate interdependence by indicating that Paraguay has a comparative advantage and/or complementarity in soybean production, leading other countries to import soybeans from Paraguay. • E3. The data illustrate interdependence by showing that several countries (e.g., Argentina, Brazil) import a high percentage of their soybeans from Paraguay, creating significant economic dependence on Paraguay. • E4. The data illustrate interdependence by showing that Paraguay relies on billions of dollars in export revenue from countries that import its soybeans. • E5. The data illustrate interdependence by showing that Paraguay exports nearly \$3 billion of a single commodity to countries across different world regions (e.g., South America, Europe, North Africa), linking distant economies through trade.	1 point

F (Point 6)	Describe one possible environmental consequence of large-scale commercial agriculture. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • F1. Environmental effects of agricultural land use include pollution, land cover change, desertification, habitat or species loss, resource depletion, and/or soil salinization. • F2. Agricultural practices (e.g., mechanized plowing, extensive irrigation systems, deforestation for field expansion, and/or drainage of wetlands) alter the landscape. • F3. Large-scale commercial agriculture may reduce biodiversity by replacing diverse ecosystems with monocropping and/or monoculture systems. • F4. Large-scale commercial agriculture may be associated with reduced pressure for agricultural land expansion. • F5. Large-scale commercial agriculture can support more efficient land use through higher yields per unit of land. • F6. Technological innovations (e.g., drip irrigation, precision agriculture, GPS-guided equipment) can optimize the use of water, fertilizers, and/or pesticides, limiting the environmental impacts on farms, neighboring areas, downstream ecosystems, and/or downwind communities.	1 point
G (Point 7)	Explain why a government may implement sustainable development policies. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • G1. A government may implement sustainable development policies to address problems resulting from natural resource depletion. • G2. A government may implement sustainable development policies to address problems resulting from the effects of pollution. • G3. A government may implement sustainable development policies to promote long-term economic sustainability by managing resources for future use. • G4. A government may implement sustainable development policies to support continued economic development while managing environmental impacts. • G5. A government may implement sustainable development policies to align national policies with international agreements or initiatives (e.g., United Nations Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]).	1 point

Question 3: Two Stimuli**7 points**

A (Point 1)	Using the data shown in Source 1, identify the province or territory with the largest bilingual population. Acceptable identification: • A1. Quebec	1 point
B (Point 2)	Describe one type of region shown in Source 2. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • B1. Source 2 shows a formal region (a region with clear political boundaries, unifying characteristics, and/or shared patterns of activity). • B2. Source 2 shows a functional region (a region organized around a central node and linked by economic and/or social interactions). • B3. Source 2 shows a region with transitional and/or overlapping boundaries (e.g., areas where French- and English-language communities coexist).	1 point
C (Point 3)	Using the data shown in Source 1, describe the relationship between the number of bilingual speakers and the pattern of minority language schools in Canada. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • C1. Minority language schools are clustered in areas or provinces with high numbers of bilingual speakers (e.g., provinces with 1,000,001–2,000,000 or 2,000,001–3,898,980 bilingual speakers). • C2. Minority language schools are spatially dispersed or less common in areas or provinces with low numbers of bilingual speakers (e.g., provinces with 1,390–10,000 or 10,001–100,000 bilingual speakers). • C3. Minority language schools are generally absent in areas or provinces with fewer than 10,000 bilingual speakers, except for Prince Edward Island.	1 point

D (Point 4)	Language is a characteristic of the cultural landscape. Describe another characteristic of the cultural landscape. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • D1. Cultural landscapes may include places of religious significance and/or sacred spaces (e.g., mosques, churches, temples, synagogues, cemeteries, shrines). • D2. Cultural landscapes may show evidence of sequent occupance (e.g., architectural styles or place names reflecting successive cultural groups). • D3. Cultural landscapes may include expressions of culture (e.g., clothing, art, music, soundscapes, architecture, food), cultural institutions (e.g., museums, theaters, libraries), and/or festivals or events (e.g., parades, holidays, sporting events). • D4. Cultural landscapes may include physical features with cultural meaning (e.g., sacred mountains or rivers with religious significance). • D5. Cultural landscapes may reflect land-use patterns (e.g., agricultural practices, industrial practices, urban development, recreational areas, rural settlement patterns) and/or types of economic activities (e.g., markets, shops, businesses). • D6. Cultural landscapes may include transportation networks (e.g., roads, railways, ports, airports), public spaces (e.g., parks, plazas, community centers), and/or monuments or public art installations (e.g., murals, sculptures, statues, memorials).	1 point
E (Point 5)	Explain how a historical process, such as technological change or colonialism, has affected language patterns. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • E1. Historical processes, such as technological change or colonialism, have affected language patterns by leading to creolization and/or the development of lingua francas. • E2. Colonialism has affected language patterns by spreading the language of the colonizing country to new regions. • E3. Technological change has affected language patterns by accelerating the diffusion of dominant languages through media and/or the Internet. • E4. Migration has affected language patterns by increasing linguistic diversity and/or creating multilingual societies. • E5. Globalization has affected language patterns by contributing to the widespread use of global languages (e.g., English) in business and/or international communication.	1 point

F (Point 6)	Explain how a city can engage in a process of globalization. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • F1. A city can engage in globalization by influencing global economic, political, and/or cultural processes. • F2. A city can engage in globalization by developing global networks and linkages (e.g., trade, transportation, communications) that connect it to other cities and regions. • F3. A city can engage in globalization by creating and/or distributing global cultural goods or culture traits (e.g., media, entertainment, cuisine, consumer culture). • F4. A city can engage in globalization by attracting foreign investment and/or multinational corporations that integrate the city into global economic systems. • F5. A city can engage in globalization by hosting global cultural, political, or economic events (e.g., international festivals, summits, sporting events) that increase global connections and/or visibility.	1 point
G (Point 7)	Explain how the patterns shown in Source 2 illustrate the concept of multiculturalism. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: • G1. The patterns shown in Source 2 illustrate multiculturalism by demonstrating that both French and English are present within the same metropolitan areas. • G2. The patterns shown in Source 2 illustrate multiculturalism by showing the diffusion of French and English throughout the region. • G3. The patterns shown in Source 2 illustrate multiculturalism because minority-language schools are present within major metropolitan areas (e.g., Ottawa, Montreal), indicating the presence of multiple language communities. • G4. The patterns shown in Source 2 illustrate multiculturalism by showing overlapping areas where French- and English-language communities coexist.	1 point