

AP Human Geography College Board Sample essays

Year	Question	Topic	Chapter(from the black book)	
2010	<p>According to Alfred Weber's theory of industrial location, three factors determine the location of a manufacturing plant: the location of raw materials, the location of the market, and transportation costs.</p> <p>A. Using an example of a specific industry other than the one portrayed on the map above, explain under what conditions an industry would locate near the markets.</p> <p>B. Using an example of a specific industry other than the one portrayed on the map above, explain under what conditions an industry would locate near raw materials.</p> <p>C. Using the map above and Weberian theory, explain the geography of ethanol plants in the United States.</p>	Industry & Service	12	<p>Dot map</p> <p>Location theory</p> <p>Agglomeration</p> <p>Friction of distance</p> <p>Variable costs</p> <p>Least cost theory</p> <p>Locational interdependence</p> <p>Primary industrial regions</p> <p>Raw materials</p> <p>Weight/bulk</p>
2010	<p>Since 1950 many states have faced challenges in developing a strong national identity.</p> <p>A. Using contemporary examples, explain how each of the following has contributed to the development of national identity and the strengthening of a state,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic development 2. Relocation of a state's capital (since 1950) <p>B. Using contemporary examples, explain how each of the following may detract from the development of national identity and weaken a state.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethnicity 2. Transportation infrastructure. 	<p>Political</p> <p>Urban Geography</p> <p>Development</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p>	<p>State</p> <p>Devolution</p> <p>Centrifugal</p> <p>Centripetal</p> <p>Forward capital</p> <p>States with New capitals since 1950 (Brazil, Nigeria, Pakistan)</p>
2010	<p>The population pyramids above represent two countries at different stages of the demographic transition and economic development.</p> <p>A. Explain the demographic characteristics of each country above with respect to the demographic</p>	Population	2	<p>Population pyramid</p> <p>Demographic transition</p> <p>Natural increase</p> <p>Crude birth rate</p> <p>Crude death rate</p> <p>Yugoslavia, Belgium, Canada, USSR</p> <p>Balkanization</p> <p>Ethnonationalism</p>

	<p>transition model.</p> <p>B. Discuss ONE positive impact of EACH country's population structure on its economic development.</p> <p>C. Discuss ONE negative impact of EACH country's population structure on its economic development.</p>			<p>Regionalism</p> <p>Sectionalism</p> <p>Dependency ratio</p>
2009	<p>The map above shows the distribution of three religious groups on the contiguous United States,</p> <p>A. Using the letters in the legend, name the three religious groups shown on the map.</p> <p>B. For one of the three religious groups, first identify and then explain TWO factors that have influenced the distribution shown on the map.</p> <p>C. Explain how the map as presented at this scale is an incomplete representation of the geography of religion in the United States,</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Religion</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Map</p> <p>Baptist</p> <p>Mormons</p> <p>Lutheranism</p> <p>Avoiding cultural appropriation</p> <p>Large scale</p> <p>Small scale</p>
2009	<p>A large proportion of urban residents in the megacities of the periphery of the world system live in squatter settlements.</p> <p>A. Describe a typical location of squatter settlements within urban areas of megacities on the global periphery.</p> <p>B. Describe two factors that contribute to the formation of squatter settlements.</p> <p>C. Give a detailed account of THREE consequences of the rapid growth of squatter settlements. The three consequences you discuss may be social, economic, political or environmental.</p>	<p>Urbanization</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Edge city</p> <p>Squatter settlements</p> <p>Urbanization</p> <p>Rural</p>
2009	<p>Agriculture in the United States has changed significantly in the past few decades. With respect to the past, present, and projected trends in agriculture shown in the diagram above, answering the following:</p> <p>A. First identify and then explain TWO factors contributing to the steady decline in the number of dairy farms since 1970.</p> <p>B. First identify and then explain TWO factors contributing to the increase in the number of organic farms since 1970.</p>	<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Line graph</p> <p>Commercial farming</p> <p>Higer yield</p> <p>Organic farming</p> <p>Agribusiness</p> <p>Von Thunen</p> <p>GMO</p> <p>Disposable income</p> <p>Hebicides</p> <p>Pesticides</p>
2008	<p>Von Thunen's model of land use are similar in appearance but different in their geographic setting.</p>	<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Von Thunen</p> <p>Burgess</p> <p>Land use pattnrs</p> <p>Residential</p>

	<p>Analyze and discuss the two models in terms of each of the following:</p> <p>A. For each of these models, identify the type of land use the model addresses.</p> <p>B. Identify two assumptions that are shared by both models.</p> <p>C. For each of these models, explain how relative location affects land-use patterns.</p>			<p>Industrial</p> <p>CBD</p> <p>Perishable</p> <p>Urban</p> <p>Suburban</p> <p>exurb</p>
2008	<p>Regional migration patterns within contiguous United States are the result of several factors. The map above shows net migration at the country level, but these data support generalizations about migration patterns at the regional scale.</p> <p>A. Identify two specific regions that have experienced net in-migration,</p> <p>B. identify two specific regions that have experienced net out-migration.</p> <p>C. Explain the processes that contribute to the general patterns of migration within the United States shown on the map above in terms of each of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic structure 2. Friction of distance 3. Age structure of the population. 	Migration	3	<p>Map</p> <p>Migration</p> <p>Net in migration</p> <p>Net out migration</p> <p>Friction of distance</p> <p>Sunbelt</p> <p>Rust belt</p> <p>Megalopolis</p> <p>Laws of migration</p> <p>Gravity model</p> <p>Push/Pull Factors</p> <p>Telecommuting</p> <p>Footloose activities</p>
2008	<p>Countries in the graph above have been chosen to illustrate an important trend in educational patterns in the developing world.</p> <p>A. identify the trend shown in the graph above.</p> <p>B. Identify and explain an effect of this trend on population growth in the developing world.</p> <p>C. Identify and explain a effect of this trend on economic development in the developing world.</p> <p>D. Identify and explain an effect of this trend on gender roles in the developing world.</p>	Population Development	<p>2</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Bar graph</p> <p>Developing</p> <p>Periphral</p> <p>Wallerstein</p> <p>Fertility rate decrease</p> <p>Mortality rate</p> <p>Developing countries</p> <p>Opportunity costs</p> <p>Delay child bearing</p> <p>Family planning</p> <p>GDP</p> <p>Literacy rate</p> <p>Periphery</p> <p>Semi periphery</p> <p>Core</p> <p>Teritary</p> <p>Sexism</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>Dowry deaths</p>
2007	<p>The drawings above reflect agriculture activities in the hinterland of a large urban area.</p> <p>A. Apply the underlying principles of von Thunen's agriculture land-use model to predict the locations of the</p>	Agriculture	11	<p>Pictures</p> <p>Von Thunen</p> <p>Land use model</p> <p>Perishability</p> <p>market</p>

	<p>activities shown in X and Y relative to a large urban area.</p> <p>B. Choose either activity X or activity Y and apply the underlying principles of von Thunen's agriculture land-use model to explain the location of the activity.</p> <p>C. Discuss two factors that explain why agriculture land-use patterns today differ from those developed by von Thunen's model in 1826.</p>			
2007	<p>At the same time that English is solidifying its role as the world's premier lingua franca, lesser-used minority languages (such as Welsh, Basque, and Inuktitut) are undergoing revival.</p> <p>Discuss three distinct factors promoting the revival of revival of minority languages in the face of globalization.</p>	<p>Language</p> <p>Political</p> <p>Culture</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Lingua franca</p> <p>Official language</p> <p>Standard language</p> <p>Multilingual</p> <p>Bilingual</p> <p>Placelessness</p> <p>Folk culture</p> <p>Local culture</p> <p>Popular culture</p> <p>Devolution</p> <p>Mass media</p> <p>diffusion</p>
2007	<p>Economic restructuring is transforming the world economy.</p> <p>A. Define and discuss the key features of the new international division of labor (also known as global division of labor)</p> <p>B. Explain an impact of the new international division of labor on the socioeconomic structure of the United States.</p> <p>C. Explain an impact of the new international division of labor on the socioeconomic structure of developing countries such as Mexico, China, and India.</p>	<p>Political</p> <p>Development</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Economic</p> <p>interdependence</p> <p>Trade agreements</p> <p>Outsourcing</p> <p>Off shoring</p> <p>Time space compression</p> <p>Multinational corporations</p> <p>NAFTA</p>
2006	<p>International migration in the late twentieth century illustrates many important geographic principles.</p> <p>A. Define each of the following principles.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core-periphery 2. Distance decay 3. Chain migration. <p>B. For each principle in part A, select a migration stream identified by letter on the map above, and discuss how the stream you choose illustrates the principle.</p> <p>Note: Each lettered migration streams may be used only once.</p>	<p>Migration</p> <p>Political</p>	<p>3 & 8</p>	<p>Map</p> <p>Migration</p> <p>Chain migration</p> <p>Distance decay</p> <p>Core, semi peripheral, & peripheral</p>
2006	<p>The photograph above, taken in a small town in Arkansas, shows a customer service call center in a building that until recently</p>	<p>Industry & development</p>	<p>12 & 10</p>	<p>Photo</p> <p>Footloose industries</p> <p>Labor costs</p> <p>Multiplier effect</p>

	<p>was an automotive parts manufacturing plant.</p> <p>A. Identify two reasons why businesses would choose to locate their call centers in small southern towns.</p> <p>B. Discuss three disadvantages in the use of call centers as a local economic development strategy.</p>			
2006	<p>The visibility of any state depends on a balance between centripetal and centrifugal forces.</p> <p>A. Define the concepts "centripetal force" and "centrifugal force."</p> <p>B. Give a specific example of and explain a centripetal force that affects that affect the viability of any of the states shown on the map above.</p> <p>C. With reference to a different specific example, explain a centrifugal force that affects the visibility of any of the states shown on the map above.</p>	Political	8	<p>Map</p> <p>Centripetal forces</p> <p>Centrifugal forces</p> <p>Devolution</p> <p>Balkanization</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Location/type/info</p> <p>India & Nepal /Religious/Hinduism</p> <p>India/language/Hindu & English</p> <p>India/national pride/name changes-Bombay to Mumbai</p>
2005	<p>The modern state system is engaged in a struggle between the forces of supranationalism and devolution.</p> <p>A. Define both terms and give a geographic example for each.</p> <p>B. With reference to the political and economical geography of Europe, briefly discuss three changes resulting from supranationalism.</p> <p>C. With reference to the political and economical geography of Europe, briefly discuss three changes resulting from devolution.</p>	Political	8	<p>State</p> <p>Nation</p> <p>Territoriality</p> <p>Sovereignty</p> <p>Devolution</p> <p>Supranationalism</p> <p>UN/ Benelux/EU</p> <p>Belgium/Scotland/Basques</p> <p>Euro</p> <p>Open borders</p> <p>refugees</p>
2005	<p>Peaks in immigration to the United States reflect changing circumstances at the global scale. Refer to the graph above to answer the following.</p> <p>A. Identify the main source areas and explain two key push factors associated with the early twentieth-century peaks.</p> <p>B. Discuss how change in the economic structure of the United States promoted immigration in the early twentieth century.</p> <p>C. Identify the main source areas and explain two key push factors associated with the late twentieth-century peak.</p>	Population & Migration	2 & 3	<p>Line graph</p> <p>Immigration</p> <p>Push factors</p> <p>Pull factors</p> <p>Ethnic strife</p> <p>Religious persecution</p> <p>Industrialization</p> <p>Agribusiness</p> <p>Tertiary, quaternary, quinary</p>

	D. Discuss how change in the economic structure of the United States promoted immigration in the late twentieth century.			
2005	. In the 1990's the central business and residential districts of the cities in the United States became the focus of a revitalization process. Discuss how each of the following has contributed to this revitalization process. A. Economic factors B. Demographic composition C. Urban policy D. Sense of place	Urban Culture population	9, 4,2	CBD Central city Urbanization Gentrification International migration Untraditional families Empty nesters Zoning Historic preservation
2004	The map above shows the main maquiladora centers in Mexico in the year 2000. A. Define a maquiladora. B. Refer to the map above to explain the spatial distribution of maquiladoras within Mexico. C. Discuss FOUR factors that explain why Mexico has emerged as an important location in the current global system of industrial organization.	migration	3	Map Maquiladora Outsourcing Sweatshops Export processing zones NAFTA
2004	The restructuring of agriculture in the late twentieth century has had important implications for rural land use and the distribution of poultry (chicken and turkey) production in the United States. A. List TWO factors that have increased the demand for poultry. B. Briefly describe TWO characteristics of the present economic organization of poultry production in the United States. C. Describe TWO features of the present geographic distribution of poultry production in the United States.	agriculture	11	Population increase Low fat diets Mad cow Taboos against pork and beef
2004	The graph above describes the residential density profile of a major North American city. The population pyramids labeled X and Y describe the demographic composition of places located at points X and Y on the graph of population density. A. Use the concept of land rent (sometimes called bid-rent) to explain the profile of residential population density shown on the graph. B. Using the population	urban	9	Line graph & population pyramid Affordable housing Aging/retirees Downsizing Delayed pregnancies Childless couples Perception of neighborhood

	<p>pyramids labeled X and Y, identify and explain TWO differences in the demographic composition between the pyramids.</p> <p>C. Explain the relationship between the demographic differences identified in part B, above, and residential land use patterns at point X and point Y, respectively, in the graph of population density.</p>			
2003	<p>Discuss THREE ways in which the concept of core-periphery relation helps explain the development of the urban system shown above. Be sure to use evidence from both maps to support each of your conclusions.</p>	Political & Urban	8 & 9	<p>2 maps</p> <p>Core</p> <p>Periphery</p> <p>Semi-periphery</p> <p>Urban</p> <p>Rank size rule</p> <p>Primate city</p> <p>Entrepôts</p> <p>Distance decay</p> <p>transportation</p>
2003	<p>A. Identify and explain ONE way that tourism has diminished regional landscape distinctiveness.</p> <p>B. Identify and explain ONE way that tourism has enhanced regional landscape distinctiveness.</p>	culture	4 & 5	<p>Placelessness</p> <p>Authenticity</p> <p>Commodification</p> <p>Neolocalism</p> <p>Cultural landscape conservation</p>
2003	<p>Over the past 150 years Europe has changed from a source to a destination region for international migration.</p> <p>A. Use the demographic transition model to explain briefly Europe's development as a source of international migrants between 1800 and 1920.</p> <p>B. Identify and briefly explain ONE factor other than demographic transition that was responsible for Europe's development as a source of migrants to the United States between 1800 and 1920.</p> <p>C. Briefly explain how THREE aspects of the demographic transition model account for Europe's transformation into a destination region for migrants from North Africa between 1960 and 2000.</p>	migration	3	<p>Immigrants</p> <p>Migration</p> <p>Birth rate</p> <p>Potato Famine</p> <p>Job opportunities</p> <p>Religious persecution</p> <p>Scapegoats</p> <p>Chain migration</p>
2002	<p>A. Define the following concepts as they are used in political geography.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nation 2. State 3. Nation-state <p>B. For each of these concepts, name a specific late-twentieth-century example from Region A and a specific late-twentieth-</p>	Political	8	<p>Map</p> <p>Nation</p> <p>State</p> <p>Nation-state</p> <p>Devolution</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Nations: Basques, Flemish, Kurds, Palestinians</p> <p>State: Germany, Czech Republic, United Kingdom</p>

	<p>century example from Region B on the map above.</p> <p>C. Explain how the pursuit of the nation-state ideal during recent decades has led to conflict in each of the two Regions A and B on the map above.</p>			<p>Nation-states: Israel, Turkey, Iran</p> <p>Sovereign</p> <p>Territoriality</p> <p>Ethnicity</p> <p>Conflict examples: No Ireland, Basques, Belgium nationalism</p>
2002	<p>With reference to each of the following, explain how religion has shaped the cultural landscape. Support each explanation with one specific example.</p> <p>A. Sacred sites</p> <p>B. Burial practices/sites</p> <p>C. Architecture</p> <p>D. Place names</p>	Culture	4,5,7	<p>Cultural landscape</p> <p>Pilgrimage</p> <p>Sacred sites</p> <p>Examples: Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Western Wall, Ganges river</p> <p>Examples: Cremation, Burial/cemeteries, toponyms</p> <p>Saints (St. Louis, San Diego)</p>
2002	<p>Zone X and Zone Y are two different types of neighborhoods with high concentrations of households headed by females. Use the map above to answer the following questions.</p> <p>A. Briefly describe TWO socioeconomic factors that have led to concentration of households headed by females in Zone X and TWO socioeconomic factors that have led to concentration of households headed by females in Zone Y.</p> <p>B. Discuss one advantage OR one disadvantage of the Hoyt sector model for understanding the location and characteristics of Zones X and Y.</p>	Urbanization Political	9 & 8	<p>Map</p> <p>Hoyt Model</p> <p>Redlining</p> <p>Blockbusting</p> <p>Gentrification</p> <p>Divorce</p> <p>Life expectancy</p> <p>CBD</p>
2001	<p>A.(i) Define the term "Green Revolution" as used during the period 1945 to 1985.</p> <p>(ii) Explain the principal agriculture practices/technologies associated with the green revolution.</p> <p>(iii) Name TWO regions, in different parts of the world, where the green revolution has had a significant impact on crop yields.</p> <p>B. Identify and discuss TWO social, political, or cultural conditions necessary for the success of the agriculture practices/technologies of the green revolution.</p> <p>C. Identify and discuss TWO significant economic or ecological factors that may limit the long-term success of the agriculture</p>	Agriculture	11	<p>Green Revolution</p> <p>Agribusiness</p> <p>Commercial farming</p> <p>Fertilizer</p> <p>Pesticides</p> <p>Insecticides</p> <p>Hybridization</p> <p>Super rice/new strains</p> <p>Higher yield</p> <p>India, China, Mexico, Indonesia, Vietnam</p> <p>Rural market economy</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>Credit</p> <p>Political stability</p> <p>Water pollution</p> <p>Drought</p> <p>Cost of chemicals(fertilizer)</p> <p>Soil quality</p> <p>Debt</p> <p>Climate</p>

	practices/technologies of the green revolution.			Arable land Climate
2001	The development of suburbs in North American metropolitan areas has greatly accelerated since the 1950's and 1960's. Discuss how THREE of the following have contributed to this acceleration. A. Transportation. B. Housing Production C. Landscape preferences D. Social and demographic trends.	urban	9	Suburbs Exurbs Urban Transportation Tax codes GI Bill Suburbs Popular culture Baby boomers Nuclear family White flight Multiplier effect
2001	According to Rostow model, countries move through the following five stages of economic development: Stage 1: Traditional Stage 2: Preconditions for takeoff Stage 3: Takeoff Stage 4: Drive to maturity Stage 5: High mass consumption Explain the usefulness of the model in understanding contemporary social and economic change with reference to any THREE of the following A. A country's role in the world economy. B. Colonial transportation networks. C. Cultural differences D. Local social and class structure. Be sure to support your answers with examples from any of the following regions: Latin America Sub-Saharan Africa South Asia.	development	10	Rostow Labor exporting regions Core Periphery Semi periphery NAFTA OPEC Mass consumption Supranationalism Ports Urbanization Caste system-India Language barriers Profit motive Colonial legacy Infrastructure Gender roles Violence/war Class divisions Social stratification

Chapter	Topic	# of questions since 2001
1	Intro	0
2	population	4
3	migration	5 *
4	culture	4
5	Identity	2
6	language	1
7	religion	2
8	political	10 ***
9	urban	6 **
10	development	5 *
11	agriculture	5 *
12	industry	2