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AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

The Ultimate Student's Guide to AP Human Geography

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Introduction

AP Human Geography is considered one of the best APs to start a student's AP career. That being said, it is no walk in the park. That's why we've created this comprehensive AP subject eBook.

Here you'll find an expansive library of guides designed to refine your conceptual knowledge and ability to solve AP problems. We've also packed in our Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips as well as a How-to Guide for studying.

It features information from the [Albert Blog](#). If you're looking for additional resources, be sure to regularly check the blog and subscribe to hear about our new posts. Even as we release this eBook, there are several great human geography guides nearing publication on the blog. We've also got content for all of your other APs, your college entrance exams, and even college course work.

E-mail us at hello@albert.io if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments!

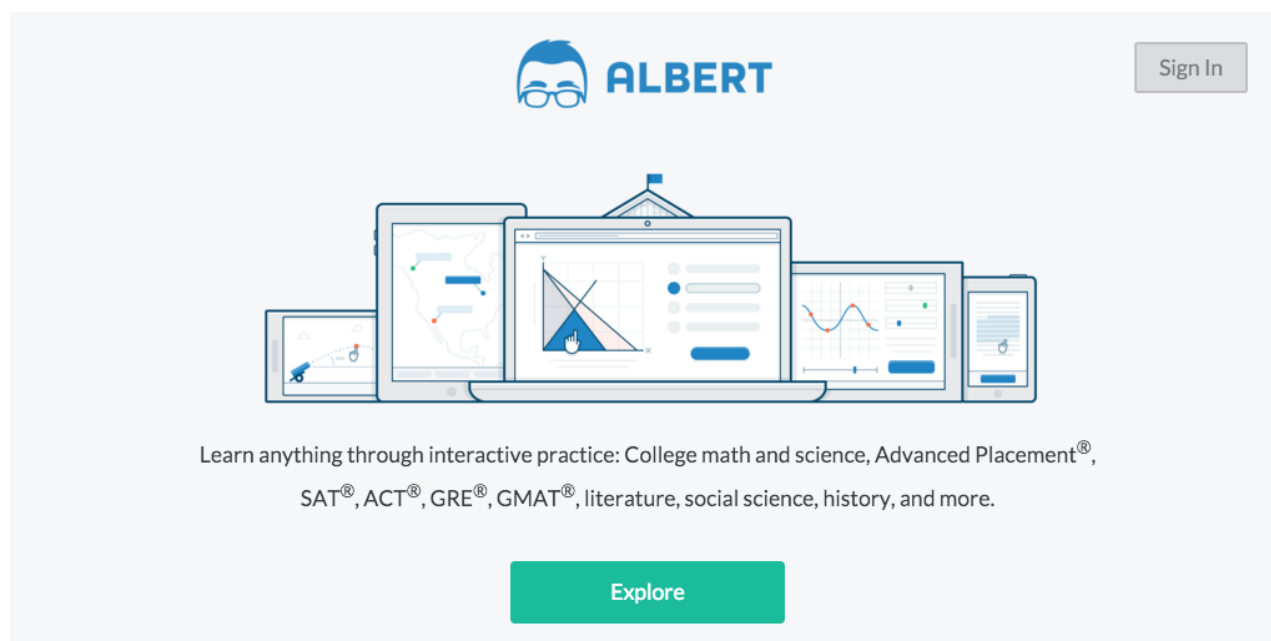
About Us

What is Albert?

Albert bridges the gap between learning and mastery with interactive content written by world-class educators.

We offer:

- Tens of thousands of AP-style practice questions in all the major APs
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Why Educators Love Us

We asked teachers how their students did after using Albert.

Here is what they had to say:



My students had an 81.2% passing rate - the previous year was 76% (the highest rate in our county)! I am thrilled. I had 64 students total, with 6 receiving 5s, 19 scoring 4s, 27 receiving 3s, 10 scored 2s and 2 received 1s.

Susan M., JP Taravella High

70% of my students scored 3 or higher. This is up from last year, and is also well above the national average. Needless to say, I am very happy with my students' success. I used Albert more intentionally this year. In the beginning of the year, I wanted students simply to answer questions and practice. Once they had 150-200 questions answered, we looked for trends, strengths, and weaknesses and worked on addressing them. Students were tasked with increasing their answer accuracy no matter how many questions it took, then they set their own goals (some wanted to focus around tone; others needed practice with meaning as a whole).



Bill S., Lapeer High School



Last year 40% passed with 3s and 4s. This year 87% passed, most had 4s and 5s. We used the stimulus-based multiple choice questions throughout the year and as review for the exam. I think it helped tremendously.

Alice P., First Baptist Christian Academy

Why Students Love Us

We asked students how they did after using Albert.

Here is what they had to say:



I scored very well this year – four 5s and one 4. Albert helped me get used to the types of questions asked on the exam and overall my scores were better this year.

Robyn G., Chambersburg Area Senior High School

Last year was my first year taking an AP test, and unfortunately I did not do as well as I had hoped. The subject had not been my best, and that was definitely displayed on my performance. However this year, I made a much higher score on my AP test. The previous year had been AP World History and I had made a 2. For this year it was AP English Language, and I scored a 4. There was a definite jump in my score, because Albert pushed me to focus on my weaknesses and form them into strengths.



Charlotte R., Rome High



I scored a 4 on AP Biology, much higher than expected. Albert was an effective resource to guide me through AP Biology. Keeping up with it consistently all year as I learned the lesson in class was crucial to reinforcing my understanding and long-term memorization of Biology. After class each day, Albert helped to sink in the ideas that I was taught in the morning.

Lily O., Wake Forest High School

Agglomeration: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

When we talk about a large city, there are various aspects to consider. For example, there is a city center, and there is the region that borders the city. The suburbs and the urban areas coexist, and that's where the term agglomeration comes from. Located as part of the city center as well as right outside the city center, an agglomeration is a built-up area of a city region. In this AP human geography review, we will discuss about what agglomeration is and its importance.

Agglomeration: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

What is Agglomeration?

We can say that, agglomeration is a complex word that means a group of different things that are partially connected. So it's the main city center but also outer areas included at the same time. It's actually a French word that means 'continuous urbanized area' (which fits). So basically we can consider how it really fits for different cities and different countries too.

Basically, agglomeration occurs when things are close together. You can't have a widespread region and still have an agglomeration. It can be a business that helps other businesses located close together, for example. That's because this is only helping one small region of the city and not the entire city.

What's confusing, however, is that just because an agglomeration is a smaller area doesn't mean that it can only be small areas. It can actually be part of a city, part of a state or even part of a country. The basic idea is that it refers to a smaller area than the whole.

Why Study Agglomeration?

When we look at the study of cities and their makeup, we are looking at how the main structure of the city influences the rest of the area. An agglomeration takes skills and influence from the main part of the city and feeds it into the urban and suburban areas around it and understanding how and why this happens is an integral way of looking at how societies develop and understand their interdependence on other cities or even countries as well. This is how agglomeration begins to form and continues to advance over time, and we can understand how it will affect other people.

Agglomeration: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

What is an Agglomeration Economy?

When we talk about these methods of development on a smaller scale, we talk about things like specific business groupings. A business that is located near another may benefit from just the placement. For example; a large office building may have a high number of employees. The nearby family-owned restaurants business may escalate during lunch simply because they are located near the building. They reap the benefits of the larger building without actually being part of it but simply by being located nearby.

When people or businesses are established near each other, they realize mutual benefits from each other as a result. When larger businesses move into town, everyone sees the benefits of the increased cash flow, even if they are not directly impacted by it. When a railroad or airport is put in, likewise everyone in the area will start to benefit from it simply because they are located nearby, even if they are not directly impacted by the new business. This is what agglomeration means for those who are a part of it. It means getting benefits from different forces located nearby as well as from direct aspects.

Does Agglomeration Really Work?

There has been a lot of research about agglomeration that you might want to look at too. Researchers want to make sure that agglomeration is real and what they have found is that it really does seem to. That's because they found that there're higher wages in areas that have higher population density. Where we live most frequently is also where most people are making more money. Researchers think it's related to more productivity and evidence of agglomeration.

Something else you should think about is the way that housing and real estate cost people living in an area. A researcher looks at higher housing costs as evidence that there is higher population. They also think about how larger areas can have an influence on higher prices and that those prices can attract more people.



Agglomeration: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

The Difficulty with Agglomeration

It is important to note, however, that an agglomeration is a type of cluster or joining of forces that is not necessarily direct and that also has nothing to do with a merger between companies or cities. Instead, it's aspects of that city or aspects of different companies, working together that may not necessarily be intentional, but tends to work. When considering the AP Human Geography exam, you do not want to mention mergers or any agreements between different cities or companies because this is not the same as an agglomeration.

How Agglomeration Helps

It's important to understand the purpose of agglomeration and what it can do within a region, and that is definitely to help cities and regions to grow and develop fully. For example, it can provide a link between different regions of a city or state even that allow for a larger pool of educated labor force from further outside the main area. It can lead to new businesses because of the success and potential of current businesses, and it can improve the ability of businesses to share a labor pool and an infrastructure that is uniquely built for their success. All of this can lead to improvement for the city in question.

Agglomeration on the AP Human Geography Exam

When it comes to the exam, you will have to know what agglomeration is and a better definition to relate in case you are asked to define it yourself. Remember to use terms like 'cooperation' or 'joining' but to avoid 'merger' and other terms like it. An agglomeration is not an official agreement in this sense but rather a cluster of similar groups or organizations that can use similar aspects of a city together. You have to be able to clarify the difference between a contractual agreement between companies or cities to assist one another and an agglomeration that occurs on its own.



Agglomeration: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

You will also have to be able to explain why an agglomeration is going to be beneficial to different groups of people as well as different organizations and businesses. Things like improving the labor pool, increasing the cash flow in the area and improving urbanization can all be benefits, but there are many more as well that you should consider. You have to make sure that your definition is going to focus primarily on a couple of examples, however, rather than giving a large number of examples that are not thoroughly explained. These types of exams primarily focus on the quality that you provide in your answers rather than simply quantity of answers.

Conclusion

In all, agglomeration can be a difficult concept for many to understand. It requires you to look at different aspects of a region or community and understand how they work together without necessarily being part of the same city or responsible for the same things. An agglomeration can occur on a small scale, such as with businesses within a city, or it can occur on a large scale, such as countries that interact together for business and create more jobs or better infrastructure for their regions. There are many ways that agglomerations occur, but the primary factor to remember is that they are not created with contracts and mergers, but generally through a natural process. It is important to look at this type of society and understand how it can help the growth and development of society as a whole.

Balkanization:

AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

Not a whole lot of people know about the Balkan Peninsula because it existed so long before we were even born, but it's where the term 'Balkanization' actually came from. Basically, at the time, the area was known as the Ottoman Empire, and it occupied the area where we have current countries like Bulgaria, Albania and Serbia. **Nowadays, we use this term to refer to any country that breaks apart to form several countries or several states.** Balkanization mostly leads to cold wars. In this AP Human Geography study guide, we will discuss the term balkanization as well as how it has changed and different parts of the world it has applied to.



Balkanization: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Balkanization of The Balkan Peninsula

Over a century ago the Balkan Peninsula was ruled by the Ottoman Empire. It lasted for a long time but after a while things started going badly for the Empire and it started breaking apart. The people weren't happy with the way that the Empire was ruling them, and they started a rebellion. That rebellion began in 1817, but it didn't end for 95 years, until 1912. At that point, the Empire broke apart into separate countries.

Today those countries include Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and a whole lot of others, but the countries did not like each other when this first happened, and they actually fought a lot. It took a lot of time before they were able to coexist in any way and even longer to actually work together. The problems that had been there with the entire Empire really influenced the people to hate each other for a long time. What this showed us is that balkanization often starts in a negative way, but **in the long run it can yield positive results**, because **after breaking up the** countries really had a better existence.

It was after this happened that the term 'balkanization' was created and it started being used by others. In most cases, countries look at balkanization negatively, but there may be other ways to look at it. A lot of researchers are studying if there are positive ways that balkanization could occur, and they're looking at it in areas like England. There are a lot of ways that balkanization can influence different countries, but that can also effect people like us who live in those countries.

Benefits of Balkanization

What we know is that balkanization **has happened** in a number of countries, like the ones we've already mentioned, but we haven't seen any way that it's a positive occurrence. What's happening now though is that researchers are starting to think about whether it could be positive. One of the biggest things they're **focusing on is** the United Kingdom, **which** is already a large territory much like the Ottoman Empire was. The way that it's run right now, the entire United Kingdom is treated as one country, but really it's made up of smaller countries.



Balkanization: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

Researchers think that maybe it would be better if those countries really did break up because then they could be more successful on their own. **Countries** like Scotland, Wales and England, would be responsible for themselves instead of acting as one large country, and this could change the way we see them and the way that they interact with the rest of the world.

Each country would have its own rules and **operations**; they would be able to improve the standard of living for each country on their own. Plus a positive breakup would mean cooperation continues between the countries but not as one entity. But since no one has seen a positive balkanization yet, all we can really do is speculate.

Trouble with Balkanization

In many instances, balkanization is used as a term to describe the devolution of larger countries and states as a result of multi-ethnicity leading to ethnic fragmentation and an overall feeling of political fragmentation. In these instances, balkanization can lead to dictatorship or even ethnic cleansing. These aspects can reflect upon the myriad negative effects that occur in regards to balkanization. This is what happened in countries like Armenia and Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and Yugoslavia, which had a whole lot of problems with ethnic division. When these things occur, and countries begin to revolt against one another, it can result in ethnic boundaries being formed between states.

When ethnic or political boundaries establish the new states or countries within what was once a single region it results in bloodshed and the subjugation of some ethnic or religious groups for the benefit of other ethnic or religious groups. There is no benefit to this type of occurrence, and the people who find themselves bound within it are generally uncertain of their future within the world or within their own country. This can lead to a disintegration of relations with outside countries including trade relations, as occurred with Yugoslavia in the 90's.



Balkanization: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Important Definitions for Balkanization

Multinational – Relating to several different nationalities or comprising of several different nationalities. Balkanization can occur in regions where there is a lot of diversity and nationalities coming together in one place. This is what we call a multinational region because it has several nations together like the United Kingdom, which is made up of nations like Scotland and Wales.

Multi-ethnic – Relating to several different ethnic groups or comprising of several different ethnic groups. Balkanization typically only occurs in areas where there is multi-ethnicity, which can lead to problems within the region and amongst the people living there. A multi-ethnic region could be a single country or state that comprises of a range of different people from different ethnic backgrounds all at the same time like in Armenia, where ethnic differences caused a lot of problems in the country.

Centrifugal Force – A centrifugal force is one that tears something apart from the inside. It doesn't have to actually be a force but could be a difference in people that makes them turn on each other. An example would be the religious differences that occur in the United States now, with each religion **believing to be the dominant**. If there is a lot of trouble with people trying to get along within the country, it can actually lead to problems in the country remaining unified.

Balkanization in the AP Human Geography Exam

Questions in the past have related to balkanization but not through direct questioning. For example, questions have asked how ethnicity has detracted from the development of a national identity and led to the weakening of the state itself. This type of question looks for you to *discuss ways in which dissolution of ethnic groups can lead to problems within the country including balkanization and the breakdown of the country itself as a result*. The scoring rubric requires you to understand how different factors can result from concepts of ethnicity as well as, for this specific question in 2010, transportation infrastructure.



Balkanization: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

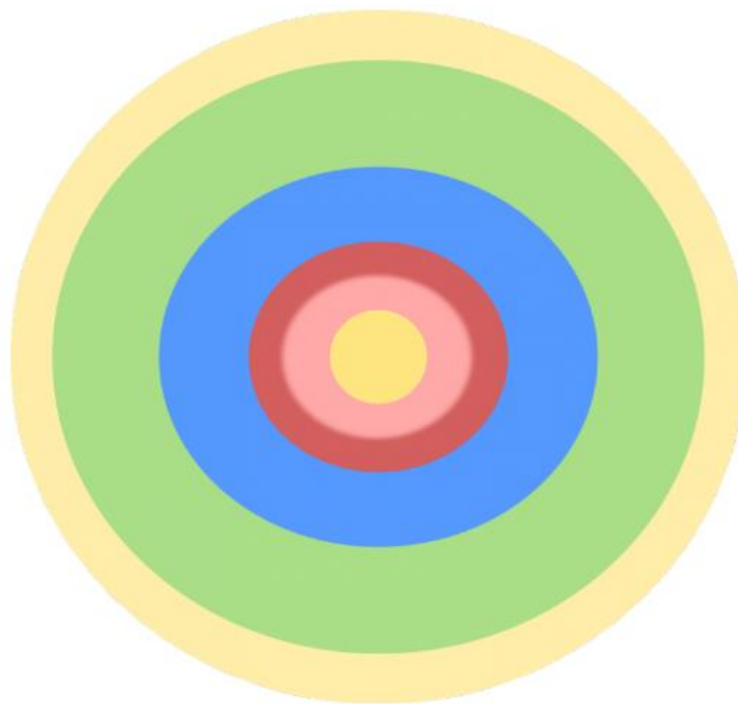
Many questions regarding balkanization could be focused **on ethnicity** instead. This means that the question may ask you to **describe** what factors could impact ethnicity within a specific region or country. It could also ask you to **explain** how ethnicity could result in negative effects for the country itself. These questions may ask you to consider some of the most famous representations of balkanization within countries and groupings throughout history including the Balkan Peninsula and the considered balkanization of the United Kingdom. These areas of the world have been greatly impacted by these efforts.

Conclusion

If you are going to take the AP Human Geography exam, you want to know how it relates to the concept of balkanization. Understand that balkanization may be referenced specifically in the exam or the exam may refer to ethnicity in an effort to help you recognize that balkanization is part of the response being led to. Make sure that you consider not only what balkanization is but also how it can impact a region and why it is, in most instances, considered a negative aspect of a multi-ethnic or multinational region.

To sum it up, the AP exam is designed to make you think carefully about the way that different countries are formed and the way that they interact with one another. When said countries are not able to interact in a positive way it can lead to a breakdown through the process of centrifugal forces. This breakdown in communication and tolerance for one another can lead to balkanization within the country, resulting in several countries or several regions within a country which are inclined to negative interaction and violence and can even lead to war.

Concentric Zone Model: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

When we talk about different groups of people and different parts of town as being business districts, residential districts or even working class districts, most people don't think of them as concentric zones. Concentric zones are a model of the way that different social groups are arranged within a city, and a general representation is found in nearly all cities. There are reasons for this of course, and we'll talk about the reasons that certain parts of a community are located within specific zones and how these zones tend to be created throughout the course of this AP human geography study guide.

Concentric Zone Model: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

What is the Concentric Zone Model?

Have you ever really looked around your neighborhood and thought about it? Most people don't think about it a lot, but they do have different terms for different parts of the neighborhood. For example, downtown is the business area or on the 'outskirts of town' might be the 'suburbs.' These terms that we use are just the more common method of using a concentric zone model. But of course, for the purposes of the AP exam, you will likely need a more direct understanding.

According to the concentric zone model, there are five different 'zones' in any given city. The first zone, the one at the very center of everything, is the central business district. Next, would be the zone of transition, then the working class residential district, the upper-class residential district and the commuter zone. The entire theory was created by a sociologist named Ernest Burgess in 1923, as a method of describing the way that different people come to exist within specific regions.

The Concentric Zones

Burgess started his research with the city of Chicago, a large city that fit very well with his view of how cities are developed. As the first sociologist to consider why specific social groups locate themselves within certain regions, he developed this theory as a way to explain it. His theory considers a bulls-eye pattern that each city is made from and which represents different groups of people (as we mentioned) who reside in each of those locations. It also considers somewhat why these individuals are located there and what each region is representative of.

The Zone of Transition

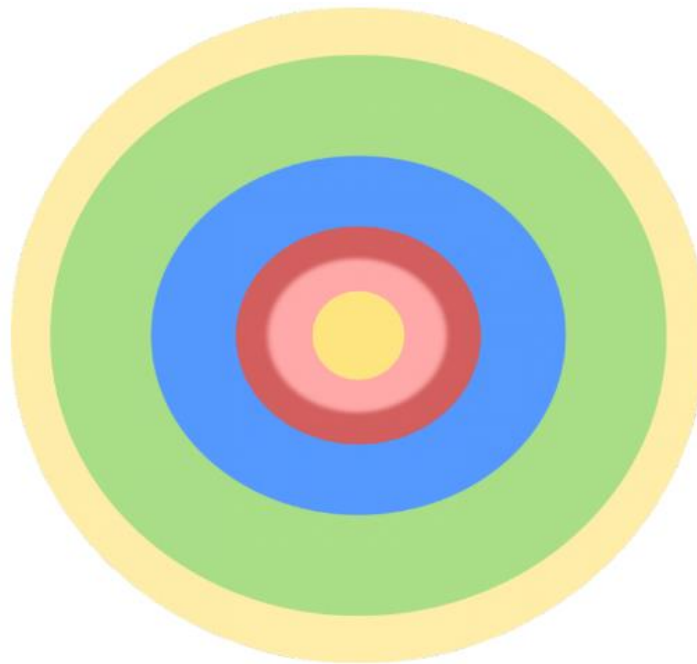
This is the first zone that appears once we leave the central business district, this zone was considered one with a mixture of residential buildings and commercial businesses. As a result, it's somewhat of a transition area where you never really know what to expect.

Concentric Zone Model: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

It's also the region where the most people live and, as a result, it tends to have more rental properties, more poverty and higher crime rates. Not only that but it also tends to have higher rates of immigrant groups.

The Working Class Residential District



[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

The Working Class Residential District is the one that the majority of people live in because it's a blue-collar, working class neighborhood. These are the people you normally think of because they have single family homes and a large group of people as well. It's smaller than the last zone we talked about, but it's the one that most of us are part of, at least in the beginning of our careers. This is where most of the people don't have a lot of education, but they could be working on getting additional education. Their jobs just tend to not use higher level education or degrees.

Concentric Zone Model: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

The Educated Residential District

As you start moving up the ladder, you may find more people from the Educated Residential District. These are the people who have more education and tend to have higher level degrees. Because of that they also have a little better living standard. These are the people who live in a larger house and have bigger yards at the same time. Because they've got a little more money, their standard of living is higher, and they're definitely going to have more ability to do the things they want. Here we're in the fourth ring of the model itself, and as you get higher education and jobs, this could be where you live too.

The Commuter Zone

Here you're going to have the rich people in town. These are the people you see mostly with big beautiful homes. The ones that you probably wish you could afford and the giant yards with every luxury. These are people who live on the outskirts of basically everything. They're far away from the city center but usually they have jobs that are close to the city. Because they have more money though they are able to commute to those areas when they need to. It's all because they have more money that they choose to commute more. There are few people in this region because most people aren't able to afford the lifestyle.

The Problems with the Concentric Zone Model

Most of the larger cities do have this type of setup, but it really doesn't apply to smaller cities. The truth is even with some larger cities this isn't even true anymore (even though it may have been in the 1920's when it started). That's because if we look at larger cities, we see that this is the way they were originally created, but over time there are a whole lot of things that change about how cities are represented. The modern method of establishing or even changing cities around is really changing a whole lot for most people, especially when it comes to population density.

Concentric Zone Model: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

One of the reasons that affect concentric zone model is that landscapes tend to change now where they didn't a long time ago. Because of this, people move around, and they tend to locate in different regions. Moreover, they tend to relocate into a different area as the landscape changes. Another reason is that most businesses are moving around, and many of them are located in other parts of the city rather than just the center. We don't have to go to just one specific area of a city to find what we want now. What's even more important is that business districts are starting to branch out and spread out roots, even if they do still have a stronger basis at the town centers.

Things like gentrification, regeneration and development also change the way that richer people live too. A lot of people with more money aren't staying in the outer regions of the city either. A lot of bigger buildings and homes are now being built in areas that are actually closer to the city center, which means different zones are changing a lot. People who we would consider 'commuters' because of their abilities and money are actually moving into the cities, and that changes the way the zones really work.

Concentric Zones and Population Density

Of course, concentric zones have a lot to do with the density of population in specific areas. Different zones have different population densities. As you move away from the center zones the population gets smaller. Commuter zones are a lot smaller than Working Class Residential zones because there are a lot more people who tend to have lower level degrees and education than people who are higher level. This happens with all the zones that are smaller in shape because the closer to the city center the more it's assumed people will live there, and of course, fewer people have a lot of wealth to spend on their housing.

The Concentric Zone Model on the AP Human Geography Exam

When taking the AP Human Geography exam, you may be required to look at maps of the Concentric Zone Model to identify different layers or rings of the model with their corresponding titles.

Concentric Zone Model: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

You will have to consider the layout of the rings and remember that the model is designed as a bulls-eye where the smaller rings are in the center, but the smaller rings also represent the highest level of population density.

Some questions related to the Concentric Zone Model may also relate to understanding of who would live in most areas or what examples may be of certain density areas. For example, looking at a series of definitions related to different types of people you should be able to understand which zone they would represent or live in.

Given an American suburb with beautiful open spaces and large land, a metropolitan area with apartments located above the shops or a group of people who live in nice homes outside the city proper but still within the main area, which zone would the people live in

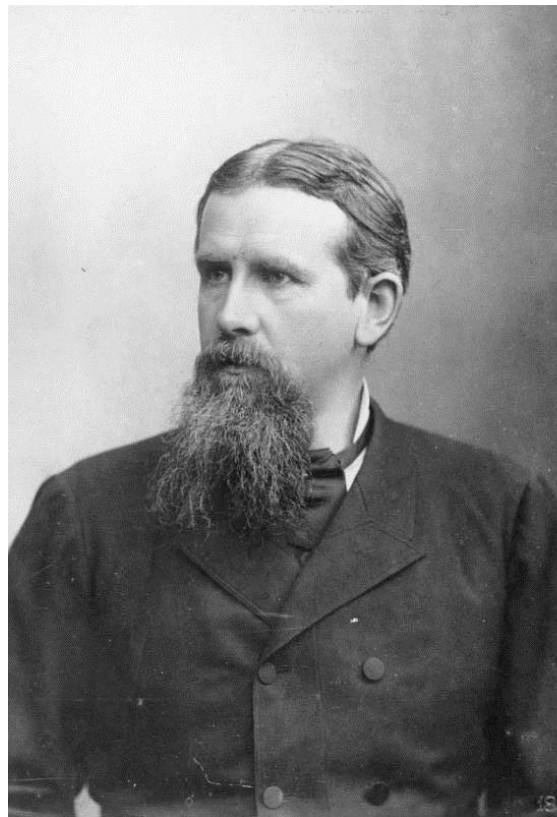
The right answer for the above would be: *Commuter Zone*.

Conclusion

Overall, you have to understand different people that make up each of the zones within the model. You should also ensure that you understand the order of the zones and how their layout relates to population density. In general, the larger the circle, the fewer the people live there and the better the living standard.

Hopefully, this AP Human Geography study guide has helped you understand this model more clearly, including when and by whom it was invented and exactly what the zones really mean.

Organic Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

The organic theory, along with the [Heartland](#) and Rimland theories, falls under political geography, otherwise known as geopolitics. Geopolitics refers to how politics plays a role in geography and influences different geographic attributes such as political borders. The term geopolitics once had a negative connotation, due to the organic theory, and in this paper, we shall discuss the reason for this.



Organic Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

It was theorized in 1897 by Friedrich Ratzel, a nineteenth-century German geographer and ethnographer. The name “organic theory” comes from Ratzel’s assertion that political entities, such as countries, behave in a way not too dissimilar from that of living organisms. More specifically, to survive, a political entity requires nourishment to gain political power. This nourishment came in the form of a term he coined called Lebensraum, which translates from German to “living space.” He was referring to the physical territory.

Therefore, we can say that organic theory states that political entities continually seek nourishment in the form of gaining territories to survive in the same way that a living organism seeks nourishment from food to survive. Essentially, the analogy is that food for an organism is territory for a country and the more territory that it conquers the more that the particular political entity can sustain and preserve itself.

As a result, the organic theory implies that for a political entity to maintain control, it invariably needs to seek out Lebensraum and go out and conquer all the territory that it possibly can, and complacency is not an option. Otherwise, it risks its security and is always vulnerable to attacks because other political entities also behave in this organic way and will try to conquer as much territory as they can as well for the purpose of self-preservation. You can compare it to the competition among living organisms for the scarce resource of food, which is their form of nourishment.

Importance and Examples of Organic Theory

Organic theory was another explanation of how and why certain political entities behaved the way that they did. Many political scientists, geographers, and ethnographers took this theory of aiming to use what happened in the past to explain what could happen in the future. Its primary goal was to help influence policy in a certain way so that certain political entities can sustain themselves and predict the way other countries, particularly those currently on the aggressive or with an aggressive nature, will behave given a particular set of circumstances.



Organic Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

In its use as a political tool, organic theory was often used as a justification of relentless and aggressive conquering. The idea behind it was self-preservation. The argument was that if one political entity didn't actively seek new territory and expanded, then its territory was susceptible and prone to outside attack from other political entities who sought the same nourishment.

To see the examples of the organic theory in play, you don't need to look far. All great empires and political entities throughout history have focused on expansion. There has been no political entity in the world focused on voluntary contraction. The closest thing that occurred in history to voluntary contraction is the split of the Roman Empire into its Western and Eastern halves, the latter going on to become the Byzantine Empire. This split was not entirely voluntary, however, as it had to be done due to administrative difficulties within the empire.

You don't see this happening as much in the modern era due to plenty of pacts, agreements, and treaties calling for ceasefires. Bodies such as the United Nations enforce such accords. However, the innate nature of a state behaving according to the organic theory is still visible. If a country is unable to conquer a territory, then it does the second-best option: it intervenes in external affairs for its gains. An example of this would be the Western intervention in the Middle East.

Another way you can see the organic theory at work in the modern world is through self-determination. Many marginalized ethnic groups, or those who believe that they deserve their political entity, such as [stateless nations](#), aim to separate from the entity that they are currently under the control of. However, if that larger entity lets self-determination run its course, that means it loses territory and therefore, nutrition. For example, India does not want to lose the state of Kashmir to Pakistan because that would mean that Pakistan would gain territory and support its organic behavior, and India would lose nutrition in this case.



Organic Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

There have been many rebuttals to the organic theory. In 1899, Sir William Crookes, a British scientist, said that territorial expansion is not the only thing that can act as nutrition and that technological advances can also solidify a political entity. This argument may explain why more developed nations are more politically stable and less likely to invade and conquer.

So, organic theory seems quite harmless overall. Why does it have such a negative connotation then?

Organic Theory and the Growth of Nazi Germany

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, we said that Friedrich Ratzel was German and developed this theory in 1897. He died soon after in 1904 at the age of 60. However, his legacy lived on to influence Adolf Hitler's Third Reich and the growth of Nazi Germany only 40 years later.

In the years after Ratzel's publication of the organic theory, many of his contemporaries began to adopt the concept of Lebensraum and used this idea to continue to draw parallels between political entities and living organisms. These ideas began to catch especially on in Ratzel's home country of Germany among other German geographers and ethnographers. In Sweden, political scientist Rudolf Kjellen termed the idea that natural geography strongly affected political entities and their relationships as geopolitics in 1899.

Karl Haushofer was a German professor who, in 1924, established the Institute for Geopolitics in Munich, where the organic theory was widely taught. His view was that it was natural for political entities to behave as organisms do, leading to the idea that political entities naturally expand at the expense of weaker political entities.



Organic Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Adolf Hitler, who had promised a German turnaround after the economic turmoil it had endured after the First World War loss with all the reparations it was forced to pay, found this quite appealing. He used the organic theory to justify all his conquests throughout Europe during World War II. He claimed that if Germany didn't grow in this way, it would fall victim again to the rest of the Europe and eventually the world as it did during the First World War.

Organic theory was identified closely with geopolitics, a relatively new field at the time, which in turn was used as justification for Germany's behavior during World War II. As a result, as mentioned in the introduction to this article, this created a negative connotation for both terms by association with Nazi Germany. Geopolitics is no longer regarded as a science. However, it is still given limited use in military strategies and international relations.

Organic Theory and the AP Human Geography Exam

So, now that you're aware of what organic theory is, let's move on to how it applies to the AP Human Geography exam, both the FRQ and multiple choice sections.

On what is available on CollegeBoard's resources regarding previous AP Human Geography FRQs and the practice multiple choice exam, there is no mention of organic theory. However, it is still in the course description, so that means it's fair game if CollegeBoard decides to put it suddenly on the FRQ or multiple choices.

On the AP Human Geography multiple choice section, you will mostly get definition-type questions. You need to know what organic theory is and understand the analogy to a living organism. Know why it behaves in this way and the implications for doing so. Go back and reread this article if you're not entirely sure you have a grasp on the definition of organic theory. You might also be asked to apply it to a real-world example. The most likely case of this would be Adolf Hitler's Third Reich and Nazi Germany, because Organic Theory originated, and grew in popularity, in Germany, and that the Nazi Party used organic theory to justify its actions.



Organic Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

On the AP Human Geography FRQ, if you are asked about organic theory or if organic theory is involved in answering one of the questions, it will usually be just one part of a question. You will most likely need to elaborate on the definition of organic theory and the arguments Friedrich Ratzel used to defend it. You may also need to apply it to a real-life situation, which would again ideally be Nazi Germany due to its adoption of this theory as the driving ideology behind its conquests throughout Europe.

Wrapping up Organic Theory

Organic theory is the idea that countries behave like organisms in that they seek nutrition to survive. The nutrition in the country's case is land territory. It was used by Adolf Hitler to justify his ruthless expansion of Nazi Germany. Regarding the AP Human Geography exam, you're more likely to see a question about it on the multiple choice section than on the FRQ.



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Gravity Model: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Pixabay](#)

When discussing [urban geography](#), more particularly cities and urban land use, it is important to understand the **gravity model**, as we will discuss in this study guide. The gravity model helps to give a clearer understanding of the distribution and size of cities while also providing useful explanations of interactions among networks among cities.



Gravity Model: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

To understand a gravity model definition, you should understand that it is called the gravity model because it is related to **Isaac Newton's Law of Gravitation**, which predicts the gravitational force between two objects. Newton's Law is applied to [urban geography](#) in the sense that it determines the strength of the interaction between two urban geographical regions, which can be cities, metropolitan areas, countries, etc. The strength of this interaction can be calculated by the formula below:

$$S = \frac{P_1 P_2}{D^2}$$

where P_1 and P_2 are the populations of cities 1 and 2, respectively, D is the distance between the two cities, and S is the interaction strength. The populations are, of course, in units of people, and the distance is generally in units of miles or kilometers, depending upon where in the world you are. The resulting strength is, therefore, in units of $people^2/mi^2$ or $people^2/km^2$. However, the number is usually just reported without units.

To explain the mathematical relationship, it is the strength of the interaction between two cities (we will assume they are cities for the sake of simplicity for this article, although you should still keep in mind that it could refer to any political or geographical subdivision) is determined by multiplying the population of one city by the population of the second, dividing by the square of the distance between the two cities.

The strength of the interaction between the two cities determines flow between the two cities. Initially, this was used only to account for migration from one place to another. However, the model has been expanded to show that it may explain different types of flow. These various types of flow could be of people, information, commodities, money, labor, and pretty much anything else that moves between two locations. The interaction strength is directly proportional to the population of each city and inversely proportional to the square of the distance.



Gravity Model: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

The larger the cities, the stronger the interaction, and the farther the cities are from one another, the weaker the interaction is, with this magnitude being squared. The latter relationship is known as distance decay, which refers to the idea that as distance decreases between two places, so does the interaction in an exponentially decaying manner.

How and why does a fundamental kinematic Newtonian physical equation apply to human geography? When compared to physical objects in Newtonian kinematics, this makes sense because, in that context, the size of each object and distance between objects determines the physical force exerted on one another. In the same way, the size of each city and the distance between them are the primary determinants of how closely the cities are bound together.

Example and Explanation of the Gravity Model

So that you can better see how this works let's look at an example of two pairs of cities, with one being a pair of the large cities far apart and the other being a pair of smaller cities closer together. In the first pair, we will look at New York City and London, and in the second pair we will look at Amsterdam and Brussels.

As of July 2016, the population of New York City is approximately 8.5 million people and London is 8.2 million people. They are 3,470 miles apart. The population of Amsterdam is approximately 800,000 people and Brussels is 1.2 million people. These two cities are 109 miles apart. Don't worry, you won't have to do actual calculations on the AP exam. This is just to show the implications of the model.

First, let's calculate the interaction strength between New York City and London, which is 5,788,604. Next, we will do the same for Amsterdam and Brussels, which is 80,801,279.



Gravity Model: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

This shows that although the population of cities determines how important a city is, regarding its push-pull factors and its interaction strength with another city, it is not as strong a factor as the distance is (hence it being squared). Even though New York City and London are two of the largest and most influential cities in the world, while Amsterdam and Brussels are significantly smaller, the fact that Amsterdam and Brussels are much closer to one another than New York City and London has created an interaction strength that is approximately 32 times stronger.

While the gravity model gives a good understanding of the relationship between the two cities and how easily flow occurs between them, there are several weaknesses to the model. The first is that people argue whether, for the distance term, to use the actual geographic distance between two places or to use what is known as the functional distance, which refers to the distance by way of roads, rail, or flights. However, if accounting for overall flow and interaction strength, the functional distance for each measurement would be different. For example, between New York and London, the functional distances would be different for people flying, as opposed to information transmittance, which requires integrating the distance to satellites.

Another criticism of the gravity model relates to the fact that the interaction strength isn't represented in units. This is because the units resulting from this calculation are physically meaningless while, in the Newtonian gravity model, a gravitational constant is included to give the calculation physical meaning. Therefore, the criticism argues that it is not scientifically verifiable and can only be based on observation.

Also, it makes a sweeping assumption that we know not to be true. It assumes that distance is included in the model regardless of political and physical geography. Obviously, there will be different boundaries that need to be crossed in this regard.



Gravity Model: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

Looking at political geography, let's take a city like Houston and compare it with Mexico City and New York City. Mexico City has a population of approximately 9 million people within the city limits, slightly higher than that of New York. For the sake of comparison, let us assume that the difference is negligible. However, New York City is approximately twice as far from Houston as Mexico City. This means that flow is nearly four times more likely to occur between Houston and Mexico City than between Houston and New York City. We know that's not true for several reasons. The main reason is that to get to Mexico City from Houston, we need to cross political boundaries, something we don't need to do if traveling to New York City. Also, conditions are far worse in Mexico City due to political climate, than in New York City, making flow less likely in this situation.

We can apply the same example to physical geography in that there could be a physical feature that acts as a hindrance, such as mountains or rough physical terrain.

Although there are plenty of ways in which the gravity model can be improved and adjusted to provide a more realistic picture of flow, it still does an excellent job giving an overall picture of how flow occurs between two points. The gravity model has been used for years and will continue to be used to understand how and why flow occurs between certain areas and to what magnitude.

The Gravity Model and the AP Human Geography Exam

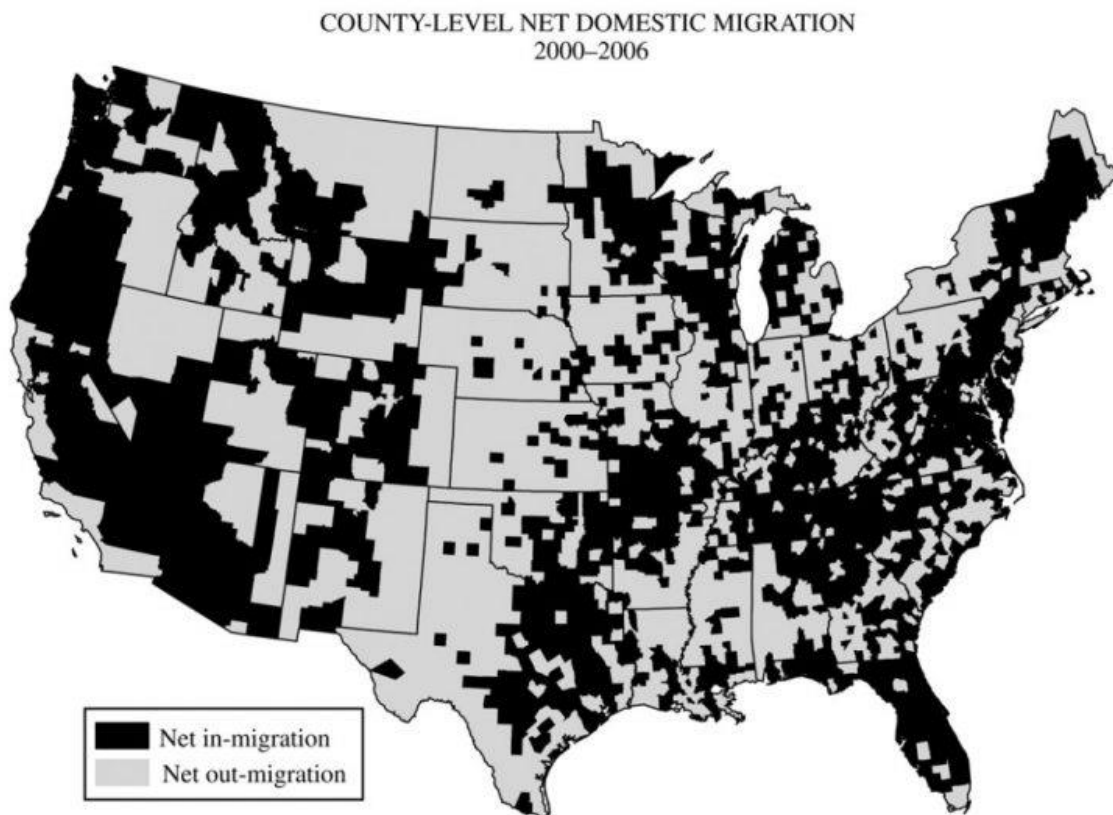
On the AP Human Geography course description, the idea of the gravity model falls under the category of "Cities and Urban Land Use." More specifically, you would be asked to use the gravity model to study systems of cities, while focusing on the location of cities, and why cities are where they are. You most likely will not be asked specifically what the gravity model is but rather you will be asked how you can apply it to certain scenarios.

Gravity Model: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

On the AP Human Geography multiple choice part of the exam, it would be difficult to incorporate the gravity model without it being a straight gravity model definition question. Therefore, you're far more likely to use it in the free-response question (FRQ) section than in the AP Human Geography multiple choice section. You would use it on the AP Human Geography FRQ as a tool to explain a phenomenon that the question is asking.

To help you apply this study guide to the exam as best as possible, here is an example of an AP Human Geography FRQ from the [2008 AP Human Geography Exam \(Question 2\)](#):



[Image Source: CollegeBoard](#)



Gravity Model: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

Regional migration patterns within the contiguous United States are the result of several factors. The map above shows net migration at the county level, but these data support generalizations about migration patterns at the regional scale.

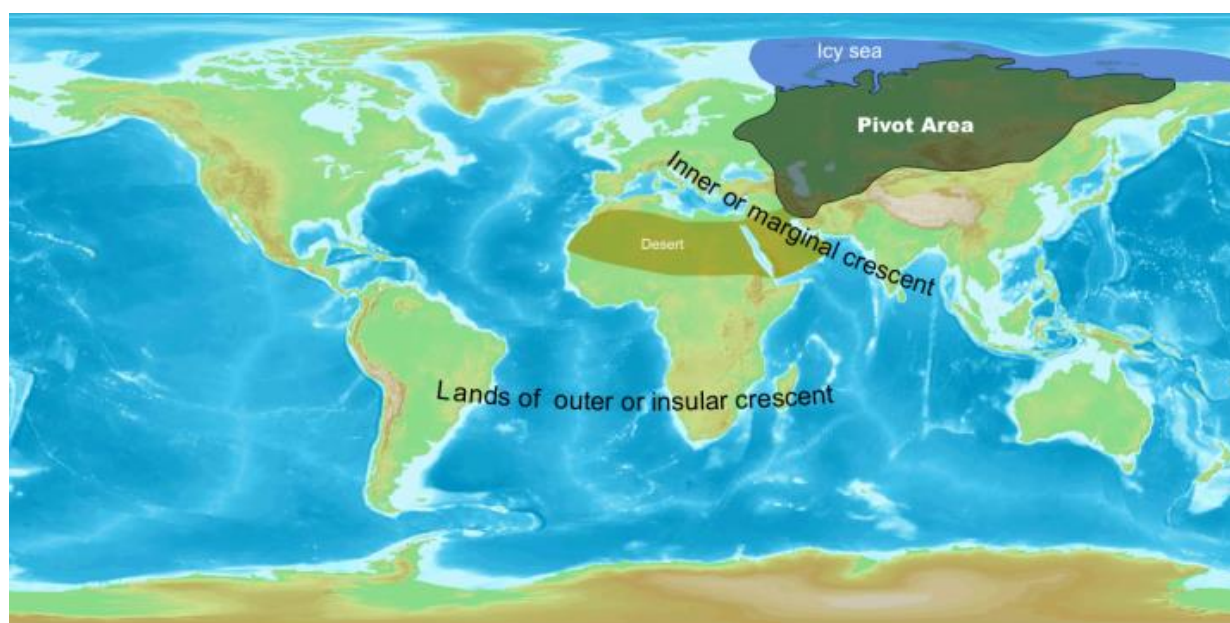
- A. Identify two specific regions that have experienced net in-migration.*
- B. Identify two specific regions that have experienced net out-migration.*
- C. Explain the processes that contribute to the general patterns of migration within the United States shown on the map in terms of each of the following:*
 - 1. Economic structure*
 - 2. Friction of distance*
 - 3. Age structure of the population*

You would use the gravity model in part C of this question while addressing the friction of distance. Here, you would say that areas of in-migration are directly related to the gravity model because there is a high amount of interaction between the places. Therefore, people begin to migrate there due to the fact that the magnitude of interaction is higher.

Wrapping up the Gravity Model

To wrap up this section of the study guide, the gravity model definition derives itself from Newton's Law of Gravitation, and essentially takes two cities and determines the strength of interaction between them by using their populations and distances. The higher the populations, the stronger the interaction, and the farther away the cities are, the lower the interaction is squared, due to the idea of distance decay. Although this model is a good indicator of interaction, some weaknesses mostly pertain to its inability to account for certain variables. You would most likely be asked to use this on the AP Human Geography FRQ section as a tool to explain certain phenomena related to migration patterns. It is unlikely that you will be asked about this on the AP Human Geography multiple choice portion of the exam. How else are you studying for the AP Human Geography Exam? Let us hear your suggestions!

Heartland Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

Are you having trouble remembering everything you learned in your AP Human Geography class? Do you remember what the Heartland Theory is?

Key Parts of the Heartland Theory

The Heartland Theory is a form of geopolitics. Geopolitics are politics influenced by geography. Since human geography is about how humans are impacted by geography, we would say geopolitics have a lot to do with APHG. The Heartland Theory is important to anyone taking the AP Human Geography exam.



Heartland Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

This theory was proposed by Sir Halford Mackinder in his 1904 essay, “The Geographical Pivot of History.” There is a lot to this theory and its importance, so let’s outline some key terms:

1. Heartland=Eastern Europe
2. Pivot Area=Heartland
3. World Island=Europe, Asia and Africa
4. Periphery=Rest of the world (including the Americas)

Keep in mind that big historical figures, like Hitler, believed in the Heartland Theory, and this theory was at the heart –no pun intended—of the politics in both World Wars, the Vietnam War and the Cold War. Plus, it discusses a little something called *world domination*. Are you starting to see why this is a BIG deal?

Mackinder thought that whoever controlled Eastern Europe –the Heartland—would control the world. The idea was that whoever gained control of Eastern Europe, controlled the Heartland –also known as the Pivot Area—and whoever controlled the Heartland, could easily gain control of the World Island (Africa and Eurasia). Naturally, if someone could control all that, they could easily take over the world, as they say.

What is the big deal with the Heartland? How does controlling that lead to world domination?

Why is the Heartland Important?

Eastern Europe holds some of the greatest resources in the world in terms of raw materials and agriculture – the basic ingredients you need to control a large military. A large military would make it easy to gradually take over the rest of the world. It sounds crazy, but the USSR actually tried this during the Cold War. Previously, many people thought world conquest would come through sea power, but this theory proposes that land power can lead to world power.

Heartland Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Mackinder thought that after gaining control of the Heartland and all its resources, one could easily gain the World Island by controlling the coasts and warm water ports, or the key areas that made international trade possible.

What about the rest of the world? The Periphery? The Americas? Well, Mackinder assumed that once the World Island was all under one power the Americas and Oceania regions would quickly fall under that one power. Now, if this seems crazy, it is.

You see, Mackinder didn't account for a lot of things that we consider to be a part of our everyday world, and these things are what challenge his theory. In 1904, the wealth and military we Americans take for granted, the extreme power of the United States, was yet to be seen. This makes the idea of the Americas easily falling under the power of the World Island harder than Mackinder believed.

Mackinder also didn't foresee the kinds of military technology we would have in the future, like nuclear weapons, high tech missiles, military air craft, etc. that complicates any scheme of taking over the world through the Heartland Theory. Perhaps this is why the USSR and Hitler eventually failed in their plots.

Do you see now why something like the Heartland Theory could likely pop up on the AP Human Geography multiple choice or FRQ? How can you remember all these points about the Heartland Theory on exam day? Don't worry, we'll tell you how.

Remembering the Theory for the AP Human Geography Exam

Let's think for a second why Mackinder may have used the word "Heartland" to describe Eastern Europe. Picture where Eastern Europe is on the map. Eastern Europe is sort of in the top middle part of Eurasia. Your heart is at the top of your chest and also towards the middle (but slightly more to one side than the other). The heart also pumps the much needed blood throughout our bodies, and Eastern Europe has many good resources that can fuel an army as blood helps fuel our bodies.



Heartland Theory: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Without the heart, our bodies can't continue to be powered by our brains. Think of your brain as the one power that controls everything your body does, including what the heart does. Without controlling the Heartland, it was believed one power could not control the whole world, in our example the body. Continue with this idea of the heart for a bit longer.

As we said, the heart pumps blood from it out to the rest of the body, all the way to your toes and fingers. In the Heartland Theory, someone would gain power over Eastern Europe, and then their power would spread out from there until it covered the whole earth, like blood pumping out to power up the rest of the body. Just like the Heartland Theory, our bodies are susceptible to weapons that sometimes prevent the heart from controlling the rest of the body, like a nuclear bomb to the Heartland Theory. A bullet to a heart is enough to challenge the idea of the heart being able to result in supreme power of everything else.

If you think about the position and the role of your heart in your body, you can remember details about the Heartland Theory for the AP Human Geography Exam.

Nomadic Herding: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

Are you taking AP Human Geography? There are many terms you need to know. How can you tell which ones are more important? We know one. Nomadic herding! You can't remember what that is? Let us help you.

Nomadic herding is one of the many concepts you will be tested on in the multiple-choice or FRQ (free response question) portions of the AP Human Geography test. The CollegeBoard even mentions it in their [course description](#) guide for AP Human Geography. If the CollegeBoard—the creator of the AP tests—thinks nomadic herding is important, so should you.



Nomadic Herding: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

What is Nomadic Herding?

Nomadic herding is not used much anymore, but many years ago it used to be very popular.

Nomadic herding is the controlled movement of domestic—as in not wild—livestock from area to area. Nomadic herders move their livestock around in order to provide them with fresh food, like grass. These herders don't have processed feed for their animals like you may have for your cat or dog, or the types of feed many modern day farmers have.

That means these people have to take their animals to a field to eat grass. What happens when the animals eat all the fresh grass? You can't wait for more to grow. The animals need it now! You have to move them to a new meadow, pasture, field, and so on.

It gets worse—nomadic herders have to constantly find sources of water for their livestock, too. Keep in mind these animals have no other food source. Their survival, and therefore the people's survival, depends on finding food and water for the animals.

As we said, nomadic herding is mostly a thing of the past, which was 10,000 years ago.

This is crazy, we know, but people still do this today. Not everyone has modern day farming or these agribusinesses that we have in the United States. There are still many people in Asia and Africa that use nomadic herding, particularly in places with high altitude.

Here is the real kicker for you. Not only is it likely you will need to know about nomadic herding for the AP Human Geography exam, but you may see it referred to using other terms. Nomadic herding is also known as pastoralism and nomadism.



Nomadic Herding: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

You might be wondering how you can possibly study all these terms you need to know to answer the multiple-choice. Especially when concepts, like nomadic herding, have multiple names they go by.

Here are some tips to help you at least remember nomadic herding and its synonyms.

Remembering AP Human Geography Terms

Look for clues within the word. “Nomadic” derives from the word “nomad”. Nomads are people who do not have a permanent residence and have to wander from place to place to find new pastures for their livestock. Many people are more familiar with the word nomad, so nomadic should then trigger your brain to think of the lifestyle of nomads, which involves nomadic herding. Remembering that nomads wander will help remind you that nomadic herding involves wandering.

The second word, “herding,” should make you think of herds or packs of animals. Turning “herd” into a verb hints at the idea of moving animals in the form of herds. When humans or nomads herd animals, they are *herding*. Nomadic herding is then when humans herd animals in a wandering search for food and water.

As for the term nomadism, just remember again to look at the parts of the word. We’ve gone over “nomad” already, and “ism” often has to do with a type of practice. Nomadic herding is part of the practice of being a nomad.

Are you looking for another little trick for nomadic herding? This one might be harder to see, but it might be the one to work for you. Focus on the first letters of each word: “no” and “h.” The people who practice nomadic herding are nomads and have *no home*. Because they have no permanent dwelling, they have to wander with their animals to keep both of them fed. “No” and “h” can stand for no home and remind you of the lifestyle of nomads.



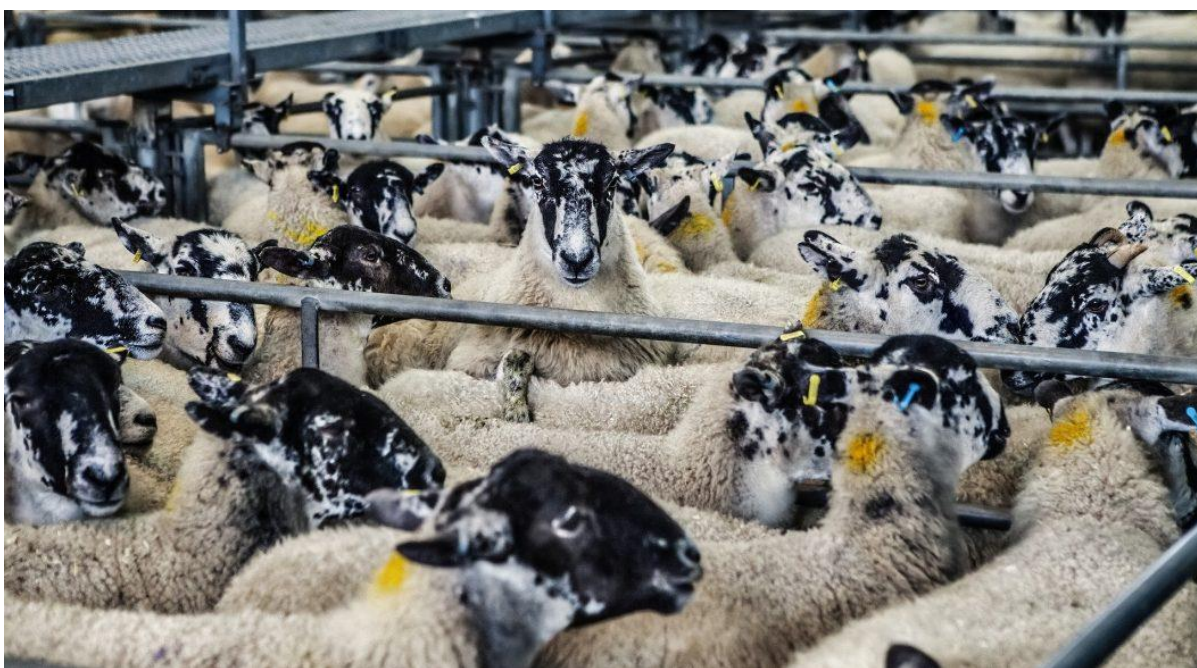
Nomadic Herding: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Now for pastoralism. This one may be the trickiest, but say the word out loud. “Pastor” sounds a lot like “pasture.” In pastoralism, nomads have to constantly find new fields, or pastures for their livestock. “Ism” means practice, so think of it as the practice of finding pastures for animals. Plus, if you know the meaning of “pastoral” —a word used to describe land used for the grazing of animals—you should have no problem remembering what this word means.

Taking the AP Human Geography exam may be stressful, but taking a moment to pick apart the meaning of words will help you guess better answers on the multiple-choice section, since it relies heavily on knowing the definitions of [vocabulary words](#). It only takes a few seconds to look at the different parts of the key words in the questions. With 75 multiple-choice questions in an hour, you have 48 seconds for each question (which is a lot more time than you think it is). Taking three seconds to remember the definitions of key words can only help you.

Will you remember words, like nomadic herding, on exam day?

Livestock Ranching: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Pixabay](#)

Livestock ranching is an important agricultural process that has a significant impact on economies all over the world. In this article, we will examine what livestock ranching is, where it is most predominant, why it is so vital to a region's economy, the challenges that it currently faces, and how it relates to the AP Human Geography exam's multiple-choice and free-response question (FRQ) sections.



Livestock Ranching: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

What is Livestock Ranching?

Before we define the full term, let's break it down into its component words to see what exactly it is using simpler terms. Livestock refers to animals that are considered an asset. This can be that they are used to produce commodities such as food and clothing. Livestock animals include poultry, cattle, and fish. Ranching is the act of running a ranch, which is essentially an extensive farm for the sole purpose of raising livestock and crops. Ranches are usually owned by a single family, and the raising and harvesting of livestock and crops constitute its livelihood.

Therefore, we can bring the two definitions together to define livestock ranching as the breeding of animals, for the purpose of food or clothing production. The meat and milk from certain animals, such as cows, is used for food production while the skin of other animals, such as sheep wool, is used for clothing production.

Livestock Ranching and its Implications

The first evidence of livestock ranching was observed between 8,000 to 10,000 years ago during nomadic times ([Nomadic Herding](#)) and continues to be a primary source of food today. It became especially popular in the 19th century in Western Europe, the northeastern United States, and other areas of predominantly European settlement. Now, it is found all over the world, especially in South America, the western United States, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand's South Island, and South Africa.

Livestock ranching is, and has historically been, more prominent in wealthier countries as meat is often viewed as a luxury due to the complexity of the production process, as opposed to harvesting vegetables which is a much simpler and more straightforward process. This is why livestock ranching was most prominent in areas of European settlement and have only now become widespread in other parts of the world as they gain more wealth.



Livestock Ranching: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

As countries are developing, their meat consumption rises sharply due to the newfound wealth in the economy. Therefore, we can conjecture that meat consumption in a particular country or region is a reliable indicator of wealth in that geographical area. If you read stories from older time periods, you will notice that people transacted and bartered with livestock. In effect, the more livestock someone owns, the wealthier someone is. This explains why developing countries such as China have had a sharp rise in meat consumption over the past 40 years due to its rapid economic growth while consumption in developed countries, although still increasing, has seen slower growth.

Another reason why livestock ranching has become more widespread is due to the improved transportation infrastructure. Now, even the most remote areas in the world have access to the most concentrated (urban) markets due to the enhanced transport over land and sea. Other technologies such as refrigeration and meat canning have helped to ease the process as well, making it more feasible for ranchers to partake in livestock ranching and accessibility for consumers to purchase fresh goods that result from livestock ranching.

There are differing viewpoints as livestock ranching becomes more popular as countries become wealthier and can begin to afford consuming more meat on a regular basis. Many applaud this as evidence that the standard of living in the world is increasing, and people are beginning to live more comfortably with more purchasing power, allowing them to indulge in meat and expensive food of that sort. However, there are those who disagree.

Neo-Malthusians, who embody a more modern version of the Malthusian school of thought created by Thomas Malthus, say that although the world overall is getting wealthier, there are still areas that are incredibly impoverished. As the demand for meat increases, more of the existing facilities will be reallocated for meat production rather than crops or food grains, the main constituents of the diets for the poor. Instead of using existing grains to feed poor people, they will be used to feed livestock to raise them to be suitable for consumption.



Livestock Ranching: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Also, ranching, because it was originally a nomadic practice, requires vast space. In that area, the animals graze and feed extensively on the existing agriculture and grass, deteriorating the land. Once the area is degraded, the rancher must move somewhere else to conduct his or her farming activity, where another extensive patch of land is required that is due to deteriorating promptly as well.

In each deteriorated piece of land, use for any other activity such as agriculture for the poor is gone due to its barren nature, so that land is essentially wasted until it can recover, which can take centuries. More developed countries have implemented technology to slow the deterioration process or quicken the revitalization process. However, this technology has not made its way to developing countries yet, where livestock demand is rapidly rising. Neo-Malthusians cite this as yet another reason why the growth of livestock ranching is a problem.

Livestock Ranching and the AP Human Geography Exam

So now that you know what livestock ranching is, where it came from, why it is important, and where it came from, let's get back to the real reason why you're here. We're going to go over livestock ranching in the context of the AP Human Geography Exam. We are going to cover what you need to know both for the multiple choice and FRQ sections of the AP Human Geography exam.

In the AP Human Geography curriculum, livestock ranching falls under the section on Agriculture, Food Production, and Rural Land Use. More specifically, students are to understand that major agricultural regions reflect physical geography and economic forces. Within this, the relevant learning objective for livestock ranching is to analyze the economic forces that influence agricultural practices.



Livestock Ranching: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

What all of that means is that you must understand what livestock ranching is, its economic importance, its relationship with physical geography, and its implications, all of which have been covered in the above sections. Livestock ranching is a good indicator of economic prosperity in a nation and provides food and clothing, two of the largest, if not the two biggest, commodities in the global marketplace. However, it consumes large amounts of physical space and resources, and it is currently growing at an unsustainable pace, especially in the developing world. This takes away from land for crop farming, which is essential to the diets of the poorest people.

It is crucial that you understand livestock ranching and its implications because it is such an integral part of our lives. It is literally the food that we consume and the clothes that we wear. As such, you can expect plenty of questions on both the AP Human Geography multiple choice and FRQs about it.

Outside of understanding the simple concept of it, make sure you have an understanding of the geographic regions in which livestock ranching is prominent (mentioned above in this article). That could be a trick question that CollegeBoard throws at you because they may give you a map with different color codes or patterns and ask you to describe the activity occurring in that region or ask which pattern represents livestock ranching.

As an example, we can look at [question 2 from the 2004 AP Human Geography FRQ on livestock ranching](#):

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.*

Livestock Ranching: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

For part A, you can talk about how population increases in the world, in addition to a more globalized economy that encourages exporting and importing, increases the demand for poultry. You can also discuss how an increase in the standard of living in many developing countries has increased demand for poultry imports as well.

To answer part B, you can discuss how the poultry industry has become more modern and that livestock ranching has become more scalable due to technological advances, as well as how many farms have specialized in poultry production.

For part C, you can discuss how livestock ranches are concentrated in particular areas in the United States and how these areas are usually close to transportation corridors.

Note that these answers aren't exhaustive and only relate to what we've explicitly discussed in this article. There are plenty of other acceptable answers for this question, outlined in the scoring guidelines [here](#).

Wrapping Up Livestock Ranching

Livestock ranching is an important activity because it provides food and clothing. However, it is also an activity that takes up lots of space and degrades the land it uses. Large-scale livestock ranching was initially limited to areas of European settlement, but is now spreading to other parts of the world. Make sure you have a good understanding of it because you will definitely be asked at least one multiple choice question on the AP Human Geography exam. In terms of the FRQ, there is a possibility that you may get a full question dedicated to it.



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Monoculture: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



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Hey you AP Human Geographers! Do you want to know what the big deal is about monoculture? Well for starters, the CollegeBoard thinks it is a big deal. In their [AP Human Geography Course Description](#), they outline the major concepts/keywords featured in the multiple-choice questions on the exam. For example, the CollegeBoard plans on using key concepts and words on Agriculture, Food Production and Rural Land Use, words like monoculture, for 13-17% of the multiple-choice questions on the AP Human Geography exam. That could be almost a fifth of your multiple-choice questions. Now, we realize topics like agriculture and food production may not seem very exciting to you.

Here's the deal—if the CollegeBoard thinks it's important, so should you. But why should you pay more attention to monoculture than some of the other words?



Monoculture: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

What is Monoculture?

Monoculture is, most simply, the growth of one crop. But it's more complicated than that.

Monoculture is when people plant the same crop—let's say corn—over a large area. Meaning that this crop becomes important to their survival. Not only may their diet rely on this crop, so may their economy. In our example, no corn means no food or money, which could mean starvation or sickness from lack of food. It could also lead to problems when there's no money to buy anything else. What about when all the neighboring groups of people get their corn from you and now there is no more?

Also, when you grow the same thing in the same spot, year after year, it drains the soil of the nutrients that the crop uses. This can make it harder to have a good harvest every year. It can also make it easier for the crop to get diseased and for that disease to wipe out the whole field. Diseased crops are more likely to be invaded by pests as well.

These problems can be avoided if the farmers plant a different crop each year or rotate between a few crops, such as planting all corn one year and planting all wheat the next year. Just planting a different crop does not always solve the problem, though. Sometimes different crops use the same nutrients. The trick is to rotate crops that use different nutrients, allowing the soil to replenish with nutrients the previous crop used.

This knowledge of the nutrients that different crops get from the soil, or that monoculture can deplete the soil of necessary nutrients was not known back when people first started using monoculture. The modern knowledge of farming may have contributed to the rise in crop rotation.

Do you see why this is a big deal?



Monoculture: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

No wonder the CollegeBoard thinks monoculture is important! It's a key word in one of the major categories on the exam, and for the people who use monoculture, it can really impact their lives. Now, we realize that monoculture is only one of many [vocab words](#) that will be on the AP Human Geography test and that it can be hard to remember all of them. Let's at least go over some tips for how to remember monoculture.

Monoculture on the AP Human Geography Multiple-Choice

Multiple-choice questions are much simpler than FRQs and require less knowledge. Often, just knowing the definitions of the concepts and words in the question will be enough to guess the answer. Let's look at ways to remember the simple definition of monoculture.

At first, monoculture may not sound a lot like what it means, but if we break it down, we can find some clues. The first part, "mono," means one. Monoculture is the growth of one type of crop. Now the second part is harder because "culture" doesn't seem to have a lot to do with farming. Focus on the sound of the word "culture." It kind of sounds like "cultivate," which is what monoculture involves, cultivating a crop.

These clues hidden in the word itself can help you remember the basic definition, which might be all the information you need on an AP Human Geography multiple-choice question. It gets harder though.

Monoculture on the AP Human Geography FRQs

The FRQs will require you to be able to write small essays on topics, like monoculture, and critically think about these topics. How can you remember the more complicated concepts involved with monoculture in order to answer an FRQ?



Monoculture: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Let's focus again on the first part of the word: "mono." Have you or any of your friends ever had mononucleosis or "mono", as you probably know it as? Mono is a type of disease. Monoculture can often lead to diseased crops because over time it takes nutrients out of the soil, making it easy for the crop to become diseased.

Also, monoculture can lead to people getting sick. If their main food source or economic source is taken from them, they will either have a lack of the nutrition they need from ingesting the crop to survive, or they will not have the money to buy food they need. Either way, the lack of food can lead to a lack of the nutrients and vitamins needed by the human body to fend off diseases.

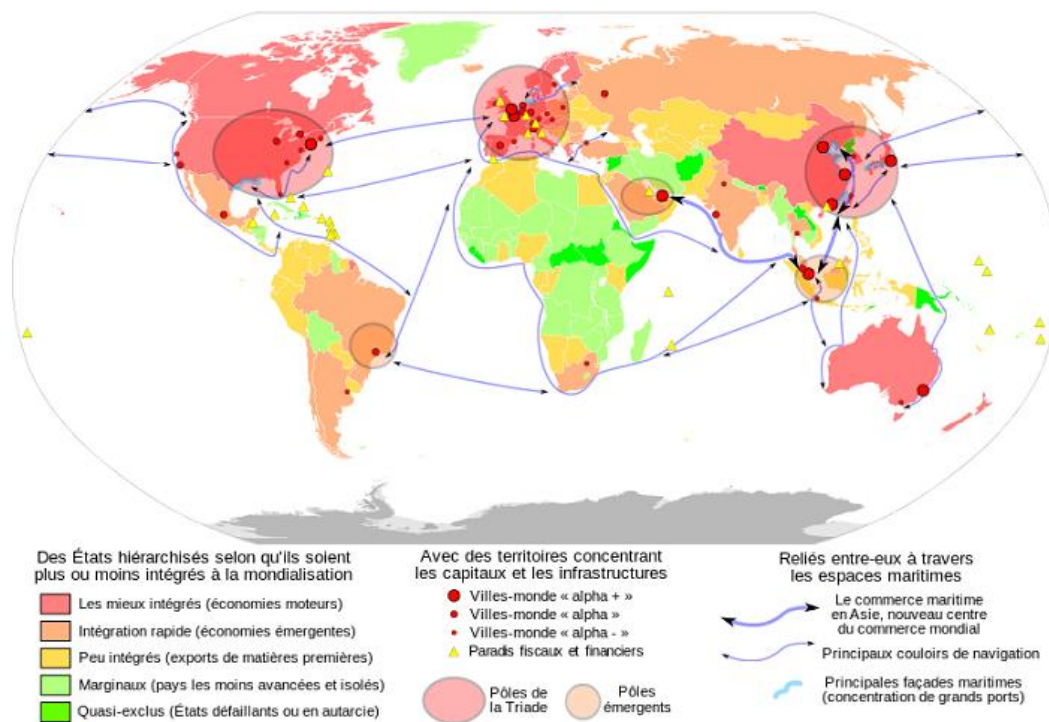
When you write about monoculture, remember that mono is also a disease, and monoculture can result in diseases in the crop, as well as in the people who depend on it.

Will you remember what monoculture is on exam day?

Globalization:

AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

The world around us is growing and developing in a number of different ways. That means that more people are traveling between different countries and bringing their concepts and ideas of the world to different places. This is the beginning of the concept of globalization and how it has begun to make a difference in the lives of everyone around the world. Throughout the course of this AP Human Geography study guide, we will focus on the concepts that relate to globalization as well as the major ways that it is impacting the world.



Globalization: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

What is Globalization?

Globalization is defined as the connection of different places around the world. When someone travels from one country to another and brings with them the food and culture of their home country, they are aiding in the process of globalization. On a larger front, however, globalization is the way that different countries interact with one another and create trade agreements or trade routes or the way that large concentrations of immigrants travel to a new country, such as the way that the American colonists traveled from Great Britain.

When large groups of people travel together, they have a larger impact on the culture and concepts that take place in their new home. This can lead to a larger level of globalization, and it accelerates globalization. Not always is this a positive aspect, in some ways globalization can actually result in problems for the countries that are left and the countries that are traveled to. The key is making sure that we understand when this happens and why it happens to mitigate problems that may occur.

The Problems with Globalization

In most ways, globalization has a positive impact on the population. However, it can be detrimental in some ways to the people who are bringing the new culture and the people who are already in the area. One of the biggest problems that former residents of a particular region find with globalization is the loss of their own identity and their own culture when the new culture begins to come into effect. Cultures that have been around for a long time tend to suffer in this regard because the new culture may almost entirely eradicate it.

Those who are journeying to a new area are concerned about globalization as well, but they are concerned that it may not work in their new area. These individuals are generally interested in sharing their knowledge and their culture with others, but they may not receive the same welcome from others and may find that it is difficult to aid in globalization or, contrarily, they may find that globalization cuts down on their assimilation into the society.



Globalization: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

If the people bring with them too much of their own culture, beliefs and ideas they may not be able to assimilate into the current culture as easily as they may want to.

The Benefits of Globalization

On the other hand, there are a number of ways that globalization can be a benefit to society as a whole. The biggest benefit of globalization is the level of change that can be brought about. Because people from different places have different experiences, it is highly likely that they will bring new thoughts that could improve the area that they live in (or move to). They may also bring new cultures and improve the melting pot that America is best known for. But when it comes to the economy this can be even more important.

Globalization has strong benefits within the economy because it allows for different countries and different parts of the world to interact with one another not only socially but also economically. Companies and individuals are able to purchase goods from different parts of the world, contributing to the world economy and increasing their personal globalization as well. Not only that, but globalization has allowed many countries to prosper in ways they otherwise would not have been able to because it allows them to interact with those in other parts of the world.

Trade Agreements and Trade Routes

These are both extremely important aspects of globalization, and they allow goods and services to be transported between parts of the world. One of the most famous trade routes in history was the Silk Road, which spanned the distance between China and the Mediterranean sea, bringing not only trade goods but also knowledge between the two different regions, which was then passed on through further trade routes.



Globalization: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

The Industrial Revolution was a time in history when globalization began to run rampant as travelers came from all over the world and goods were transported from even further reaches. The goods were produced and then sold back to those multiple different countries and regions of the world, sending new products, ideas, and knowledge to the far reaches. This was only the beginning of what would become some of the most advanced globalization, however, and only the start of the ease that globalization would one day reach.

Modern Globalization

Today it is extremely easy to globalize ideas, thoughts and products because of the new range of communication preferences and capabilities. It is no longer necessary to take a trip on a boat for months or to send a letter that would take at least as long just to contact someone in another country. Instead, plane trips take mere hours and communication via phone or the internet is instantaneous. As a result of these new forms of communication and interaction, globalization has reached new heights and continued to advance.

New trade agreements are constantly reached and because of the ease of transporting goods and services these agreements are more extensive and reach further than ever before. People around the world are able to communicate with one another about anything they want and are able to continue the globalization process amongst those in other countries without ever actually visiting the country for themselves. It's definitely an amazing opportunity and it's allowing every country around the world to begin to open themselves to new opportunities and ideas.



Globalization: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

What's Happening here in The United States?

Many cultures are venturing in the United States not only because of the increase in travel and the larger numbers of people traveling into and out of the country, but because of a growing interest in said cultures. Japanese comic books and anime are becoming extremely popular. Indian films, cultural cuisine, and a whole lot more are continuing to become even more popular as time goes on and the people in the United States are requesting more and more of these cultural experiences in their own country.

Because these aspects of the culture are venturing into the country, it is not even necessary for the individuals themselves to travel. Rather, the things they find important or that they experience in their own lives are coming without them, and this is leading to an increase in globalization. It is leading to added trade agreements and trade routes within the economies of all countries around the world, and it is increasing the level to which people are interested in globalization and continued change within their own country. There is no telling what could come through the chain next.

International trade agreements are leading to free trade agreements because of the immense interest that the people have in certain products or cultures, and all of these agreements are leading to an interest in the politics of countries abroad. Because the political economy is so deeply entrenched in the economy of other countries, each country wants to have a say on what the others are doing. This is leading to increased cooperation and integration between different governmental systems.



Globalization: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Conclusion

Overall, there are a number of ways that globalization is beginning to affect the country that we live in and the rest of the world as well. There are a number of ways that the country continues to develop and evolve as a result of globalization, and there is no doubt going to be more of that as time goes on as well. As countries continue to interact with one another, they will continue to integrate, and this will cause even more globalization. As various cultures, ideas, thoughts and people continue to move throughout different parts of the world, whether physically or virtually, they will continue to impact the culture, ideas, thoughts and people of the world around them. Globalization will continue to occur.

In your AP Human Geography exam, you will likely be required to expound upon the ways that globalization has affected the world and also what it means. You may also be required to consider different aspects that are globalized such as trade, cultural beliefs, foods, products and anything that can be transported, including ideas.

Physiological Density: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Flickr](#)

Many people know what it means to refer to population density, but few have actually heard the term **physiological density**. The reason is that population density is actually a broader category of understanding the amount of people in a given area, while physiological density is one of three different methods of doing just that. As a result, most people refer only to population density and not the method used to understand it. In this **AP Human Geography Review** we will look at a physiological density definition to know what it really is and just how it relates to population density as a whole.

Physiological Density: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

How Population Density is Measured

The first method used to measure population density is the **arithmetic density**, which is the total number of people in any given area as compared to one square unit of land. The total number of people is divided by, for example, one kilometer, to determine the average density on that acre. **Agricultural density** measures the number of farmers specifically on each unit of farmland. This means people who work the earth on specific plots of land that are used for this. It may still measure by kilometer, but it only measures kilometers of farmable land.

Physiological density is located right in the middle of these. It measures the total number of people and divides them between the total amount of farmable land. So the amount of land to be used is much smaller than for arithmetic density but the amount of people is much larger than what is used in agricultural density. All three of these are used to get a more accurate understanding of the population density of any given area, but they will then be used in different ways according to the type.

Understanding Physiological Density

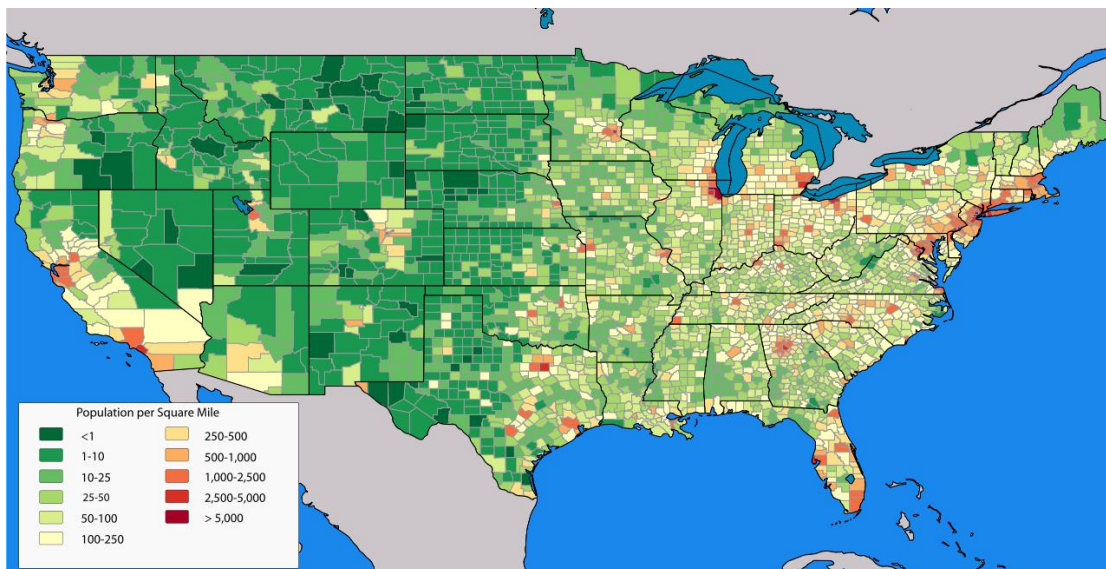
To understand a physiological density definition, let's look at an example. Let's say we have City X, which is home to 10,000 people, 6,000 of whom are farmers, and has a square area of 10,000 kilometers and a farmable square area of 4,000 kilometers. If we look at the arithmetic density, we come up with a population density of 1 person per kilometer ($10,000/10,000$). If we look at the agricultural density we come up with 1.5 people per kilometer ($6,000/4,000$). Finally, if we look at the physiological density, we come up with 2.5 people per kilometer ($10,000/4,000$). Each of these numbers tells us something different.

The key is making sure that we measure each of the methods because they are all going to be important to understand the rest of the world and how we will go about getting the food and shelter needed for the number of people in each country or city.

Physiological Density: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

By better understanding who is relying on each region of the world, we can better allocate resources and understand how current resources are already being allocated. By better understanding the amount of food that is being used in any given area or the amount of food that may be still needed in order to support the people already living there and the total amount of people and the total amount of land, we can better understand (approximately) how crowded the people are in the country. Of course, it's important to remember that the population density is an average, not a direct relation.

Why We Measure Physiological Density



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The physiological density of the area helps us better understand how many people are relying on a certain area of land. We are better able to understand how much food is being produced in the area and just how many people it really needs to feed. In our example, one kilometer of farmland needs to be able to feed 2.5 people.

Physiological Density: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

We use physiological density as a way of understanding just how long a certain region of farmland (also known as arable land) is going to be good for. The higher the population density we find from this method, the faster the arable land is going to be used up or reach its output limit. That means there won't be enough land for the people that are coming into the area. In our example, if 100,000 more people moved to the same area, we would end up with a physiological density of 27.5 people per square kilometer and as the numbers continue to go up and up we start to consider whether there's really enough food for everyone.

Physiological Density Around the World

Singapore tops the list when it comes to countries with the highest physiological density, at nearly 4 times that of the second highest (Hong Kong); Singapore has a density of 440,998 per square kilometer of arable land. When we view Hong Kong, we see 131,101 and Djibouti gets us 51,861. Remember, this is the number of people who are relying on one square kilometer of land to get all their food (though there is a lot of imports in these countries as well), and these numbers continue to rise.

Other countries have extremely low physiological density. For example, Australia has a density of only 43 people per square kilometer of arable land. Kazakhstan has only 69, and Canada is at only 78. This means that there are fewer people living in the country compared to the amount of farmland that they have. In these countries, farmland is more plentiful than in many of the higher density countries, which tend to have more urban areas and a lot less farmland. After all, when we look at the overall population density (the arithmetic density), we come up with 6,483. While still high, that's a far cry from 440,000.

Physiological Density: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Physiological Density and Averages

It's important to keep in mind that averages play an important role in physiological density. When we say that the physiological density of Canada is 78, that does not mean that 78 people live in every square kilometer of arable land. What it means is that for every one square kilometer of arable land in the country, there are 78 people somewhere in the country. After all, there's no way that you could have people living only in the arable land area of a country. There wouldn't be enough room in many of them, and that would leave large open spaces.

Keep in mind Singapore with its 6,483 person arithmetic density and 440,998 physiological density. Singapore has an arable land percentage of only 1.47%, which means that of all the land in the country, less than 2% is arable. People are still living in the other 98%, but they can't farm it. Also, there's no way even of using arithmetic density as a direct method of understanding the number of people in each kilometer of land, because the actual density is going to be different in each one.

Physiological Density on the AP Human Geography Exam

One of the most helpful portions of each AP Human Geography Crash Course Review is our focus on the AP Human Geography exam. On your AP Human Geo exam, you may be asked to consider different types of population density. You're likely going to need to define what exactly physiological density is and why it's important for each country to understand theirs, so you will need a working physiological density definition. For example, study questions have considered a number of factors. **Physiological population density is viewed as a superior measure of population density for what reason?** *It is more reflective of population pressure on arable land.* Make sure you also know how physiological density is affected, for example, by countries that have lower levels of arable land or higher levels of population (or both).

Physiological Density: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Conclusion

This guide considers population density and how it relates to physiological density specifically. The different types of density are each important to understanding a specific area of the world, but physiological density is often considered **real population density** because it provides a better understanding and overview of the country it relates to. This can be used in entire countries or it can be used on a smaller scale, but in general, it should be considered one of many different ways to understand how people are being cared for within a specific region. This **AP Human Geography study guide** aims to help you understand what you might need to know when you take the AP exam.

So, what do you think is going to be the hardest part about understanding physiological density?

Urban Geography: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



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Urban geography is a subfield of geography that looks specifically at more densely populated urban areas, such as cities and their suburbs. Within such areas, urban geography allows us to study the functions of cities and their economic role in organizing territory, urbanization as it occurred in the past and as it is continuing in different countries today, and the internal geography of cities. Internal geography describes the distribution within the city limits of housing, industry, and commerce and also looks at other aspects of urban life across different cultures.

Urban Geography: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Trends Toward Urbanization

Urban geography is important to understand due to the implications that urbanization has for the future. Several thousand years ago, when humans were in nomadic hunter-gatherer societies, there wasn't a concept of cities. People lived in small tribes and were spread out, and due to their nomadic nature, they never settled anywhere, so spatially organized [agglomerations](#) of people such as villages, towns, and cities were not typical.

Why have cities begun to develop then? As people started to move away from that nomadic lifestyle and began to settle down, cities and other agglomerations began to grow. Also, due to improvements in transportation technology, more people have been able to move to cities and centers of opportunity, and the cities have been able to accommodate, for the most part, this influx of people with advanced infrastructure.

A new modern phenomenon is the development of conurbations, which is when urban areas that have developed separately have begun to merge to form one major collection of cities that operate together. The most famous one in the United States starts in Boston and extends all the way down to Washington DC, and includes the major urban areas of New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore as well as the numerous amounts of smaller cities and urban areas that are in that region. That conurbation specifically is known as a Megalopolis.

Another example of a conurbation exists in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia in northwestern Germany. This one includes the cities of Bonn, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Duisburg, Wuppertal, Essen, and Dortmund. These cities all developed separately. However, they share many transportation systems with one another.



Urban Geography: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

The world is rapidly urbanizing, and this brings about many challenges for cities all across the world, those in developing and developed countries. For those in developed countries, infrastructure is aging and needs to be properly maintained and in some cases completely redesigned due to inefficiencies. For those in developing countries, better infrastructure needs to be put in place to accommodate the influx into urban areas. It doesn't help that many of these developing countries have rapidly growing populations overall.

Regardless of whether the city is a developing or developed country, they are urbanizing, and urban geography is necessary to understand to help deal with the trend toward urbanization and the problems that it may cause. It is also important to realize that this trend isn't occurring only in certain countries. It is occurring in ALL countries. Even in countries whose populations may be declining, the percentage of the population living in an urban area is increasing.

According to United Nations estimates, approximately 30% of the world's population lived in urban areas in 1950. In 2007, that number became about half of the world's population. In the grand scheme of history, 57 years is an incredibly short period of time, and in that short period, hundreds of millions of people have moved to urban areas.

Implications of Urbanization

The reason why many people seek to live in cities is due to the relative ease of finding opportunity compared to rural areas. Why is this the case? This is because of the fact that cities are agglomerations of people, which means that there are more people per square mile. As a result, that means that there are more opportunities per square mile as well. This means that opportunities are more densely packed, and that they are more readily available to people.

That is a significant positive impact of urbanization. When people are exposed to more opportunities, they can begin to work their way up the ladder and improve their standard of living. The more urbanized a country is, the more the opportunities the people of that country have.

Urban Geography: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

This isn't to say that there aren't opportunities in rural areas. We all know that countries need rural areas too. Otherwise, there would be no farmland, nature, or wildlife, all things that are necessary to sustain a population. However, those in rural areas tend to have their sights set on these kinds of opportunities from very early on in their lives. Those who move to urban areas desire a variety of opportunities, something that rural areas cannot provide.

When individual standards of living are raised on a large scale that means a country's overall standard of living is raised as well. The country is more economically developed and can provide for its residents. People are happier, and fewer are marginalized. In that way, we can see that urbanization, if accommodated properly, can help a country develop.

However, it is the accommodation part of urbanization that can be difficult. The reason why this is more easily done in developed countries is that there is usually already the infrastructure in place for this to happen and that if any infrastructural network needs to be expanded or maintained, the respective jurisdiction usually has the resources to do so. Also, because the populations aren't growing much, if at all, the influxes into the city aren't as drastic.

In the developing world, however, there are plenty of challenges with which urban jurisdictions must cope. These developing countries have high populations or population growth, with the exception of the former Soviet states. As a result, these urban jurisdictions must accommodate a large influx into their areas. Before the influx, these jurisdictions generally had very little experience and significant difficulty dealing with existing infrastructure. Therefore, a population influx into the cities poses an exceptionally difficult challenge. So, not only do they have to develop infrastructure with limited resources, but they must also do so for a very large population.



Urban Geography: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Implications of Urbanization Case Study

To allow you to see urbanization in action and its effects, we will look at the city of Bangalore, India. Bangalore is located in the southern part of India on the Deccan Plateau and has a pleasant climate. It was once known as the Garden City of India due to the vast number of parks and greenery located within the city limits. It was also a spotless city. In 1991, the city had about 2 million people and was a very slow-moving city. There was hardly any traffic, and the city was a quiet, peaceful place to live.

In the 1990's, many tech companies were starting up and saw the potential financial benefits of outsourcing labor to India. Many selected Bangalore as the headquarter city of their Indian operations due to its pleasant climate. The population immediately started to flourish and doubled to 4 million by 2001. Traffic congestion was becoming a problem, but it was still under control. However, the dot.com boom continued to grow within the city, and migrants from other, poorer areas of India began to arrive in Bangalore in waves and many people from these Western tech companies also began to set up shops. By 2011, the population was approximately 8.5 million.

During this rapid growth, Bangalore has experienced extreme traffic congestion, leaving some residents to expect a 2-hour commute just to travel 10-15 miles. The bus system is quite efficient; however, they are also prone to traffic conditions. The city is working on building a metro system to get around this problem. Due to bureaucracy and corruption, this has taken some time and is being built slowly, while the population continues to burgeon. Some other effects on the infrastructure include more frequent water and power shortages, more slums, and a dirtier city.

To help plan for such growth, the understanding of urban geography is crucial. It will allow people to see the different dimensions that occur in a city, which is especially important now that more people are moving to cities. It is especially a problem for developing countries.



Urban Geography: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Urban Geography and the AP Human Geography Exam

Urban geography is a broad category in the AP Human Geography curriculum and has different concepts within it that need to be understood. You need to make sure you understand why urban geography is important, and why it is becoming more important as we head toward a more urban future.

For the multiple-choice section of the AP Human Geography exam, expect several questions regarding urban geography and for the AP Human Geography FRQ, make sure you have a thorough understanding so that you can elaborate clearly for the grader.

There is an entire unit dedicated to urban geography that CollegeBoard denotes as Cities and Urban Land Use. You are expected to understand several key concepts within this section.

These concepts include the form, function, and size of urban settlements that are always changing, models that help to understand the distribution and size of cities (such as the [gravity model](#)), and models of internal city structure and urban development that provide a framework for urban analysis. Also, you are expected to understand that built landscapes and social space reflect the attitudes and values of a population and that urban areas face economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental challenges.

Expect several questions on the AP Human Geography multiple choice section regarding urban geography and perhaps even a full question on the AP Human Geography FRQ about it. Study the individual concepts within it in detail.



Urban Geography: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Wrapping Up Urban Geography

Urban geography is a broad field of geography that relates mostly to cities and their different dimensions. It is becoming increasingly important because the world population is becoming more urban, and understanding its fundamental principles is crucial in cities being able to accommodate the population influx. This is particularly the case for developing countries that generally have weak infrastructure and high populations. On the AP Human Geography exam, both on the multiple choice and FRQ sections, expect several questions regarding this important subject.



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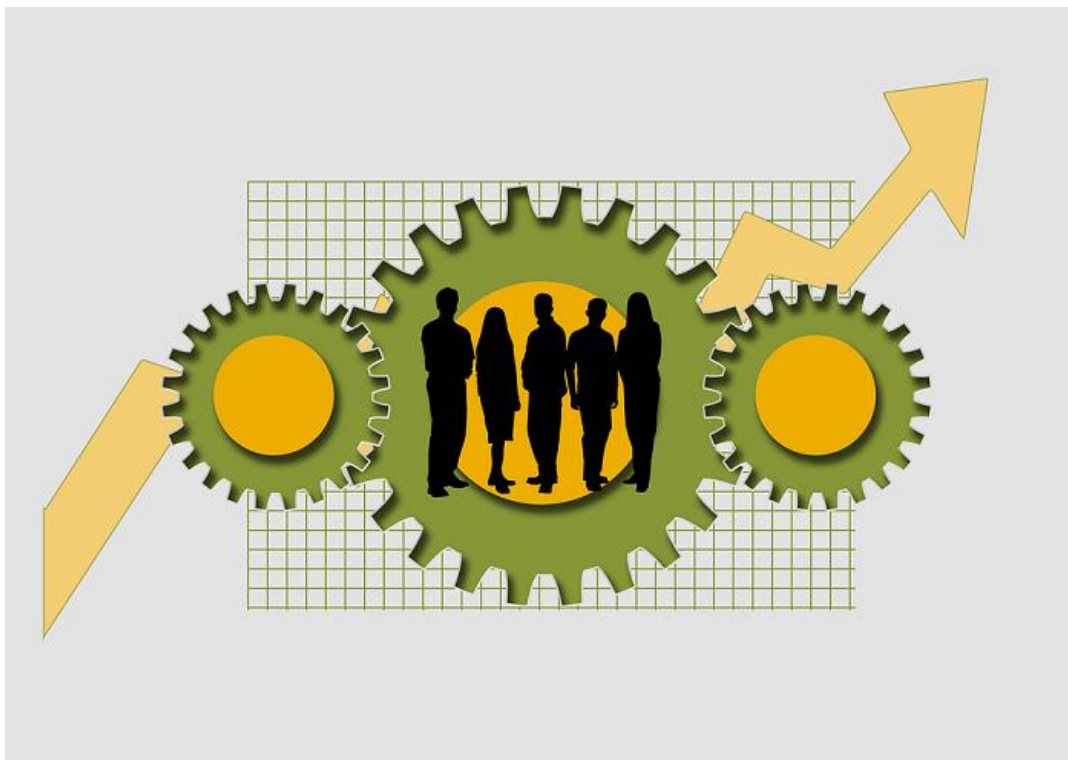
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Economic Development: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



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The quality of life for just about anyone in the world is an important concept. Governments spend large amounts of money attempting to improve it for everyone. This concept, is considered economic development, working to improve the way that all of the people in a certain region or even in the entire world live their lives. Throughout this AP Human Geography study guide, we will seek to describe and explain the concept of economic development as well as the way that its improvement has been carried out over time and within the United States.

Economic Development: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

What is Economic Development?

Economic development is any efforts made by a government or organization to improve the economic well being or quality of life of the people within a set community. This could relate to a number of different factors that aren't just about money directly, but about how that money is created within the area. For example, it could be related to the creation of jobs or the increase of income from those jobs. It could even consist of methods to keep jobs in the area or increase the number of people located there. Through these methods (and others) it's possible to improve the economy as a whole.

In fact, economic development can relate to factors that are actually not directly involved in the economy. For example, anything that can improve the quality of life can be considered part of the economic development process including improvement of literacy rates and decrease of the poverty rate. Even improving the life expectancy can advance economic development and that's always going to be a good idea for changing the outcome of the community. Many governments and organizations continue to look for ways to improve the economy in any way possible, and it's become even more important over time.

How Economic Development Works

There are a number of different ways that the government can work to improve the economy of their community, but most of the policies used are going to fit into one of three different categories. This is because these three types of policies are able to improve the largest number of economic factors and even when applied to smaller communities they can do a lot in the way of improving the lives of the people nearby. The larger the organization involved, the more people are going to be helped in the process of these policy changes.

Policies for economic objectives are the first type that is created by government officials. These policies focus on things like employment rates and pricing stability. They might regulate trade, change monetary rules or even change taxes.

Economic Development: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

These things directly relate to money, and they seem like obvious ways that we would be able to change the economic capabilities of a region. They directly improve the community, and they are easy to look at and understand what they could do and why they are so important.

The second type of policy is geared towards infrastructure and services. These policies relate to the things in the area rather than focusing on the people or even directly on the money. Policies in this area may focus on improving the quality or quantity of highways and parks. They might increase the amount of affordable housing or even create new programs and projects that allow the people in the community to get involved and find ways to improve their own area. These policies are less direct but can have an immense amount of impact at the same time.

Finally, the third type of policy is directly related to jobs. In this policy type, the organization focuses on how they can bring more business into the area and how they can retain jobs and businesses that have been located in the area. The policies are geared towards helping small business development or improving the workplace training and skills of the people in the area. In this way, business is improved, and more people within the community are able to find the jobs that they need in order to support their family and transition more money back into the community.

Economic Development: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

Collaborative e-Democracy

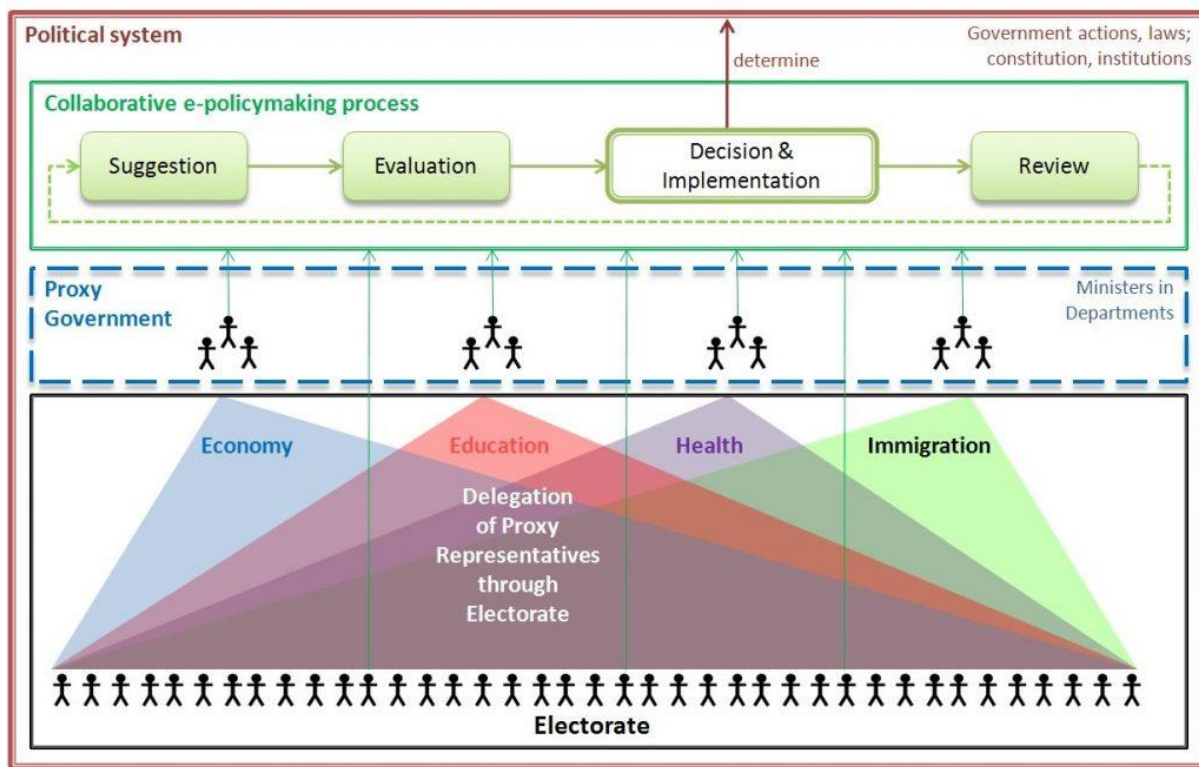


Image Source: Wikimedia Commons

Who is Involved in Economic Development?

There are actually many people involved in the process of economic development because there are people who need to develop the programs, to initiate the programs and of course to utilize the programs at the same time. This means that there need to be professionals responsible for conducting research into the current programs as well as the types of programs that are most in need with regards to the general public. These individuals would then pass the information on to others who would develop programs or propose policy changes to government officials.

Economic Development: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

The government is also involved in the process of economic development, whether they are hosting the research and recommending the plans or simply receiving recommendations from outside organizations. The people who then aid in the running of the program are also important to the overall success. Also, the people who participate in those programs and follow those new policies or even create the new jobs are extremely important for the overall success of the entire community. As these programs are utilized or these policies are followed, government and other organizational officials will continue to monitor and adjust or develop new policies and programs. The more people aid in these programs, and the more policies are created, the more it will do in regards to improving the outcome for those in the community.

Economic Development on the AP Human Geography Exam

There have been some examples of economic development related questions on the AP Human Geography FRQ. In fact, one question in 2006 requested that students explain three disadvantages to using call centers for a type of economic development. In this question, it was important for students to consider different ways that call centers would not be effective in improving the region. The factors that were being sought were things like the low wages, minimal addition of jobs, or the lack of spin-off development.

In 2001 another question considered a number of different development methods from transportation, housing production, landscape preferences and social and demographic trends. Students were required to discuss how three of these factors impacted the development of suburbs in North America. The scoring was then based on the discussion of major elements from three of the four aspects. For example, describing how freeways improved the accessibility to suburbs in regards to transportation or how the reorganization of housing production led to greater affordability of suburbs were acceptable ways to answer this free response question. Suburbs also benefited from landscape preference by reducing pollution and incorporating natural environmental elements into their design. These actions removed the “big city” feeling that future suburbanites wanted to escape.

Economic Development: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

Through the course of the AP Human Geography exam, it is also possible that you will see a number of multiple choice questions that ask about development as well. These questions may not actually use the phrase ‘economic development’ but may refer to improvements, the standard of living or development on its own. Consider any of these questions as though they were related to economic development and think about the question in this way. You may be asked to consider ways that economic development did or did not work in certain situations or the best aspects of economic development in general.

Consider all forms and make sure that you express clearly what you mean by each. If you are asked for a specific number of points, focus on that number. For example, if the question asks you to explain three points, the grading criteria will focus on the first three points that you expressed. The graders will not consider anything else that you use, so don’t spend a lot of time writing extra points that are not going to apply to the question or won’t be used when the grading begins. You want to focus on what’s going to help you succeed in the test and then get on to the other questions.

Conclusion

The AP Human Geography exam is going to test the way that you understand humanity and the way it relates in different aspects of the community. By understanding economic development and how you can use it to your advantage, you will be much better off when you start taking your exam. You have to make sure that you understand not only what economic development means but exactly how it’s being applied in different communities and what could be done to improve it potentially in specific areas. By understanding each of these aspects, you will be ready for multiple choice as well as free response questions.

Zero Population Growth: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review



[Image Source: Pixabay](#)

Zero population growth is a rare and special case of population growth. However, it is one that you should understand. As the name implies, there is no growth in population, and this is because the birth rate of a country plus its net immigration rate is equal to its death rate. The implication of this is that the amount of people being born in a particular country plus the net immigration into that country is equal to the number of people who are dying in that country.

Zero Population Growth: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

In order to break it down for you, net immigration takes into account the number of people who immigrate and emigrate from that country and is the number of people who emigrate subtracted from the number of people who immigrate. Therefore, the net population growth is zero, because, for every person who dies or emigrates, someone is born or immigrates to replace that person in whatever time frame is chosen to measure these statistics.

In this article, we will further explore zero population growth, discuss why it is important to understand, and its examine implications. We will also discuss how it relates to the AP Human Geography exam.

What is Zero Population Growth and what are its Implications?

As we mentioned above, zero population implies that the birth rate of a country plus its net immigration rate over a period (usually a year) is equivalent to its death rate, resulting in no growth in population. Although it is hard to achieve, it can refer to a state of a constant population where the population does, in fact, grow or decline, but by a negligible margin. When looking at it regarding the fertility rate, which is the average number of children born per woman, zero population growth refers to matching the replacement fertility rate, which is 2.1 children per woman. Therefore, the population will be continuously replaced when people die or emigrate, and there will be no population growth or decline.

There are plenty of implications, both positive and adverse, of having zero population growth in the world. On the positive side, the state of having a constant population in a particular country can be appealing. If you were to lead a country, and you are able to maintain a certain amount of people within your borders, you can plan for that amount with more ease without having to worry about unexpected population growth or decline.

Zero Population Growth: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

Therefore, if you can properly plan for a particular population, you can raise the standard of living for all by appropriately allocating resources which, in other conditions, would either be strained or unfairly distributed. Proponents of this say that the sooner the earth reaches this state, the better due to the increased ease of establishing higher standards of living for all inhabitants of that country.

We can expand this model to a global scale as well. If the entire earth experiences zero population growth, all people of the planet can also begin to experience a higher standard of living. Naturally, when discussing zero population growth on a global scale, immigration is not accounted for because all migration occurs within the frame of reference. We will assume that as of the time that you are reading this, aliens have not begun to immigrate to our planet or that there has been an easy and convenient way to emigrate to planet Pandora. So, with all of that out of the way, if the world can maintain this level of growth, supranational organizations such as the United Nations or the European Union (assuming it stays around for much longer) can plan similarly to the central authority within a country.

Those who oppose zero population growth and say that it has negative ramifications assert that its implications are similar to those of population decline, specifically regarding social and economic consequences. These adverse effects are based mostly around the idea that, on the path to zero population growth, which can only be achieved through population decline for most of the world, there are not enough young people to support the aging population, increasing the dependency ratio and putting a higher burden on the central authority to provide services to the older population.

An example of this would be if the United States sought to achieve zero population growth, there would not be enough young people to pay the social security tax to provide social security services and pensions for the older population. Therefore, it would put a strain on the American government to try and come up with money to avert this crisis and be able to support the older population. So when you graduate college and get a job, each dollar you earn is increasingly significant for the older population.

Zero Population Growth: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

Zero population growth has occurred in some parts of the world already, namely the former Soviet states such as Russia and Ukraine, and in some countries in Western Europe, such as Germany and Austria. Some of these have gone to experience population decline.

For the former Soviet states, this was a result of the planned economy during communism that led to extreme poverty in these areas. As a result, families were unable to support children and saw no point in having them at all due to the communist society.

In Western Europe, the opposite was the case. These countries were affluent and highly educated, with women studying and working at higher rates that postponed or negated pregnancies. They were less family oriented and more career oriented, therefore dropping the birth rates.

Zero Population Growth and the AP Human Geography Exam

On the official course description of the AP Human Geography Exam written by CollegeBoard, zero population growth is never explicitly mentioned. However, as you are probably aware, CollegeBoard likes to ask implicitly about these terms. Therefore, if you have to use the concept of zero population growth on the AP Human Geography Exam, it will most likely be masked by a typical population growth or decline type question.

On the AP Human Geography curriculum, population appears in several different areas, any of which are fair game for mentioning zero population growth. The first is the unit on population and migration. In this unit, it falls under the section where you are required to have knowledge that the geographic patterns and characteristics of human populations facilitate understanding of cultural, political, economic, and urban systems.

Zero Population Growth: AP Human Geography

Crash Course Review Cont.

Within this section, it falls under the subsection of the analysis of population composition, where you use population pyramids to project population growth and decline and to predict markets for goods and services. In this context, you may be asked to use zero population growth to analyze the population pyramids. You should be able to identify the pyramid for the respective population trends. For example, population growth should show a wider base with a narrower top, zero population growth should show a relatively even distribution among the age cohorts, and population decline should show a wider top that narrows down to the younger cohorts.

In the same unit, zero population growth can also be found under the section relating to the growth and decline of population over time and space under two different learning objectives: explain contemporary and historical trends in population growth and decline and evaluate various national and international population policies.

Under the former objective, you would study information similar to that mentioned above about how the former Soviet States and some Western European states experienced this phenomenon, and why. For the latter, you can explain the motivations behind the one-child policy in China, which arose out of fear of overpopulation, and how its aim was to achieve zero population growth during this century.

In the multiple-choice section of the AP Human Geography exam, from what is available online, CollegeBoard doesn't seem to mention zero population growth at all. However, that doesn't mean it won't be in future multiple choice sections and that it hasn't done so in previous multiple choice sections that are not available to the general public.

Make sure you understand the concept of zero population growth as well as how and why it has manifested itself in certain parts of the world as well as national policies. These kinds of questions are fair game as they are explicitly outlined in the objectives of this course despite zero population growth not having been done so.

Zero Population Growth: AP Human Geography Crash Course Review Cont.

You won't be asked a free-response question (FRQ) about zero population growth either, as part of the overall question or any parts of the question. However, there is a high likelihood of you being asked a question about population growth. If the situation calls for it, you can use zero population growth to support your answer or argument. Here is an example from the [2011 FRQ \(Question 2\)](#):

In 1798 Thomas Robert Malthus published An Essay on the Principle of Population in which he argued that population growth will inevitably outpace food production, resulting in widespread famine.

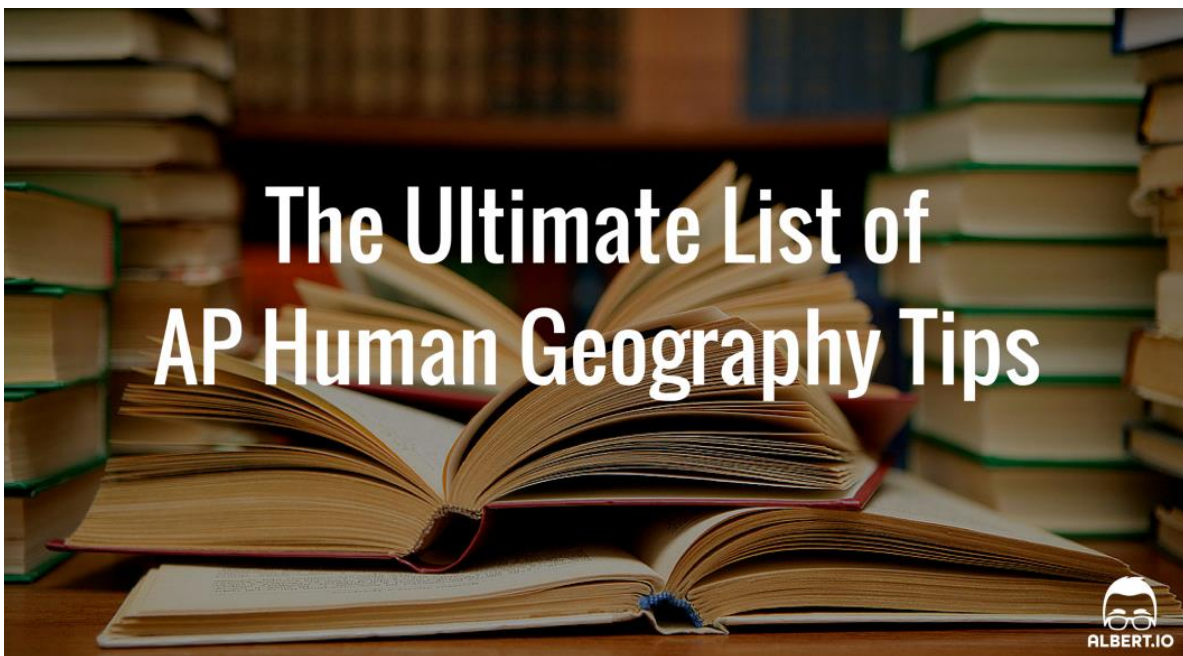
- A. Identify and explain TWO reasons why some geographers today believe Malthus' theory can be used to predict future population issues.*
- B. Identify and explain TWO reasons why some geographers today believe Malthus' theory cannot be used to predict future population issues.*

You could incorporate zero population growth into your answer for part B of this question by saying that Malthus' theory is no longer valid because zero population growth and even negative population growth (or population decline) has already occurred in some parts of the world. Malthus argues that population will always increase, and to say that population has decreased in parts of the world and can do so in others, with the ultimate goal being worldwide zero population growth, you can support these geographers who no longer believe in the Malthusian prediction.

Wrapping up Zero Population Growth

Zero population growth means that population within given borders is in equilibrium, implying that births, deaths, immigration, and emigration essentially cancel each other out. Examples have occurred in the former Soviet States and in Western Europe. It will most likely not be explicitly asked about on the AP Human Geography exam, however you can use this concept to support answers on the FRQ and as comparisons for population pyramids on the multiple choice section.

The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips



Do you want to score a 4 or 5 on your AP Human Geography exam? If the answer is “yes,” you’re probably wondering how you can prepare and study for the exam. You’re also probably overwhelmed with all of the information, study guides, and tips out there. Luckily, this comprehensive list of AP Human Geography tips, covering everything from multiple-choice study tips to important exam information is here to help you get through your coursework and feel confident about your geographical thinking.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

To put things into perspective, it can be helpful to know how past students have scored on the AP Human Geography exam. In 2015, only 12.1% of test takers earned a score of 5. 20.5% of students received a 4, 21.2% scored a 3, 16.8% scored a 2, and 29.4% scored a 1. This means that nearly half of all test takers received a 1 or a 2 on the exam! This shows you just how difficult the exam can be. However, as long as you put the time in, stay focused, and remain confident, you'll have all the tools you need to get a great score!

Get ready... you're about to see the ultimate list of 50 AP Human Geography tips!

Overall How to Study for AP Human Geography Tips

1. Understand the structure of the exam. Before you even start studying for the AP Human Geography exam, it's helpful to know how the exam is structured. There are two sections on the exam, each counting for half of your score. In Section I, you have 60-minutes to answer 75 multiple-choice questions. Section II consists of 3 free-response essay questions, with a time limit of 75 minutes. Knowing the structure of the exam will help focus your studying and noting the time limits you have on each section will help you know what to expect.

2. Don't procrastinate! You've probably heard this tip many times before – but that's because it is one of the most important study tips ever. Too often, students say things like "I'll review that later," or "I'll read that chapter next week." If you find yourself saying these things often, you are probably procrastinating. The thing is, you can't afford to procrastinate in an AP course. Of course, it's okay to put things off every once in a while. We aren't perfect. But if you're doing it regularly, you need to reevaluate and come up with a plan. Try to study a little bit each day. It sounds terrifying to have to study for one class every single day, but it doesn't have to be a two-hour long study session each day. Aim to go through a pile of flashcards for 15 minutes every day. Try to read a few pages of an AP Human Geography review book after you've done your homework for the night. Go over your class notes after sports practice. Just try to incorporate studying into your everyday routine to combat procrastination.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

3. Use a review book. Taking notes in class and reading your class's assigned textbook is helpful, but sometimes an outside review book can give you a more comprehensive look at what the AP Human Geography exam covers. Not only are they a great way to learn the material, but they are almost essential when it comes to reviewing for the exam. There are a huge variety of APHG review books out there, so how do you choose one? Check out this article on [The Best AP Human Geography review books of 2015](#) to narrow down your search.

4. Make flashcards. Don't go out and buy pre-written flashcards. The act of writing them out yourself actually helps you to retain the information. Make it interesting by color-coding your flashcards – red for words you've never heard before, green for words you're comfortable with, and purple for words you still need to practice. Don't stop at just adding the word and its definition, either. Add things to help you memorize the word – whether that's diagrams, drawings, connections to other words, or specific examples. The CollegeBoard has a great aggregate list of all the [APHG vocabulary terms](#) you should know. Aim to [make flashcards](#) on all of these words.

5. Talk out loud when studying. As long as you're not in a library, this technique could work for you. There is research that shows studying out loud can help improve information retention and memorization. This is especially true if you are an auditory learner. You may feel ridiculous at first, but try it out next time you're studying in your bedroom. Take a flashcard and read the word out loud three times. Now read the definition of the word out loud three times.

6. Join or form an AP study group. Sometimes studying alone can become tedious. You can start to lose focus, get distracted, and just have a hard time motivating yourself to even start studying. That's why study groups are beneficial. Ask some of your AP Human Geography classmates if they want to meet once or twice a week to go over the materials. Your teacher may even want to join in and offer after school study sessions. Overall, study groups are a great way to add accountability and can help break up some of the monotony of studying by yourself.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

7. Follow/like AP Human Geography social media accounts. Whether you use Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, or all four, there are teachers and students who run social media accounts dedicated to AP Human Geography. By following or liking these accounts, you will be incorporating APHG facts, study resources, videos, and graphics into your everyday life. These accounts aren't always boring or dry, either – you can find humorous takes on the exam, read about personal experiences, and get first-hand knowledge from real AP Human Geography teachers. So get out there and start following some accounts! Try following [@APHumanGeog](#) on Twitter, this [AP Human Geography board](#) on Pinterest, and [Thornton Academy's AP Human Geography Facebook page](#). Do some research of your own to find accounts that you find helpful and interesting.

8. Watch AP Human Geography videos on YouTube. If you're a visual learner, sometimes it can be hard to focus or understand concepts when you're reading a textbook. It can be nice to change up your study technique and get your nose out from behind your review books. Look up YouTube videos about certain topics in Human Geography. Use keywords like "crash course" or "review" when searching for videos. There are entire playlists dedicated to AP Human Geography, as well as student-made videos, and videos created by teachers.

9. Read/watch the news regularly. Since global politics is such an important part of AP Human Geography, watching the news or reading the newspaper regularly is a habit you should form in the buildup to the exam. It's important to get your news from several different sources, so watch channels such as CNN, PBS, FOX news, MSNBC, read online publications such as the *New York Times*, and listen to NPR's "The World" regularly. Keep a journal of current events that strike a chord with you. By accumulating all of this current event knowledge, you're giving yourself potential examples to use on the exam and expanding your ability to make connections between events.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

10. Listen to AP Human Geography podcasts. Another way to get your daily dose of APHG is to listen to podcasts. A quick Google search comes up with a wide variety of free AP Human Geography podcasts, which cover certain topics. Listen to them while you're at the gym, before bed, on your bus ride to school, or whenever you have extra time. Studying for the AP Human Geography exam is all about accumulating knowledge from different sources. This keeps things interesting and stops you from feeling bored.

11. Know geographic models and theories inside and out. Many past FRQs and multiple-choice questions have been about specific geographic models and theories. Make sure you know more than just the definitions, but also the significance and how the models and theories apply to real-life situations in the past and present.

12. Figure out your learning style. Study smarter, not harder. You need to find out what learning style works best for you. This is the key to being an efficient learner. If you don't know what your learning style is, test out different ways of learning the material. Try listening to audio lectures, watching AP Human Geography videos, reading on your own, and taking notes. Which method helps you understand the material better? Once you've found your ideal learning style, stick with it!

13. Manage your stress. It can be very easy to become stressed out when preparing for the exam, which is why positive affirmations, confidence, and trusting in your abilities are important when studying.

The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

AP Human Geography Multiple-Choice Review Tips

1. Focus on specific themes. It's helpful to know that the multiple-choice questions on the AP Human Geography exam follow a pattern and are *not* just randomly selected. Based on previous exam, the breakdown goes like this:

Topic	Percentage of Questions
Geography: It's Nature and Perspectives	5-10%
Population and Migration	13-17%
Cultural Patterns and Processes	13-17%
Political Organization of Space	13-17%
Agriculture and Rural Land Use	13-17%
Industrialization and Economic Development	13-17%
Cities and Urban Land Use	13-17%

2. Pay attention to keywords and commands in the question. When you first look at a multiple-choice question, circle the commands (EXCEPT, NOT, ALL, BEST, etc.). Sometimes, questions can trip you up if you don't read them correctly. By circling the commands, you're making sure you don't misinterpret the question or confuse yourself. Similarly, underline keywords in the questions, such as words that relate to places, people, vocabulary words, etc. This will help keep you focused and maybe even help jog your memory. By picking apart the questions, you can get a better understanding of it.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

3. Don't skip any questions! On the APHG exam, there is no guess-penalty. This means that you don't get docked for answering a question incorrectly. It goes without saying that even if you have no idea what the answer to a question is, just make an educated guess! The key here is an *educated guess*, which will give you a better chance of getting the correct answer than if you just circled an answer willy-nilly.

4. Take lots of practice tests. Taking practice exams is an extremely beneficial way to determine your strengths and weaknesses. When you're first staring out studying, don't be too concerned with the 60-minute time limit. Just take however long you need to finish the questions. Once you've finished, grade the test and really take a look at the answers you got wrong. Why was your answer wrong? Make flashcards of the terms in the questions you answered incorrectly and make a note to study them in more depth. As you get more experience taking practice tests, you will need to factor in the time limit. Set a timer for 60-minutes each time you take a mock multiple-choice exam. Practicing under the same conditions as the actual exam will help show you what to expect on exam day.

5. Don't spend too much time on any one question. Think about it this way: if you manage to answer all 75 multiple-choice questions, within the time-limit, and get *most* of them right, you can end up with the same score as if you answered only 60 questions and got *all* of them right. Using this fact, make sure you're not spending too long on any one question. Your goal is to answer every single question, which can be difficult in the 60-minute time limit. Don't get stuck choosing between two options. Rule out answers, look at your remaining options, and take an educated guess. The goal here is to be efficient, without sacrificing accuracy.

6. Know the types of multiple-choice questions. It's important that you familiarize yourself with the types of questions on the AP Human Geography exam.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

There are several types of multiple-choice questions you will encounter, which are detailed in the following table

Type of Question	Example
Definitional	<p>According to central place theory, the threshold is defined as the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A.economic base of a central placeB.distance away from a central placeC.gross value of the product minus the costs of productionD.minimum number of people needed to support a serviceE.point at which consumer movement is at a minimum
Cause and Effect	<p>As a country becomes increasingly developed, economic activities become dominant in which sector?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A.Primary sectorB.Tertiary sectorC.Non-basic sectorD.Secondary sectorE.Basic sector

The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

Type of Question	Example
Sequencing	<p>Which of the following correctly lists the four major ancient culture hearths?</p> <p>A. Central Asia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mesopotamia B. Central Asia, India, Nile Valley, Southern Europe C. Egypt, Mekong Valley, Middle East, Western Africa D. Ethiopia, Ghana, Machu Picchu, Mongolia E. Indus Valley, Mesopotamia, Nile Valley, North China</p>
Generalization	<p>It is generally agreed that the current trend in climate change is caused by:</p> <p>A. sea-level rise B. increased use of fossil fuels C. reduction in biodiversity D. tilt of Earth's axis E. changes in the velocity of ocean currents</p>

The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

Type of Question	Example
Solution	<p>Which of the following is an example of a supranational organization with the main mission of increasing economic integration?</p> <p>A.The North Atlantic Treaty Organization B.The European Union C.The United Nations D.The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement E.The United States Federal Reserve</p>

The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

Type of Question	Example
Hypothetical Situations	<p>If four languages have similar words for numbers and the names of fish, but different names for a certain disease, what might be concluded about the time at which the disease first diffused?</p> <p>A. The disease spread among a population that later divided and evolved into four different languages.</p> <p>B. The population divided and evolved into the four different languages, and then the disease spread.</p> <p>C. The disease spread to two different populations that later divided into two different languages.</p> <p>D. The disease and language spread to four different regions at the same time at the same rate.</p> <p>E. There can be no conclusions drawn about the initial diffusion of the disease based on language.</p>

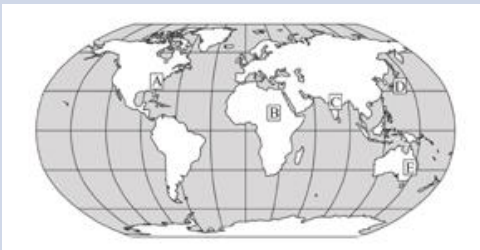
The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

Type of Question	Example
Comparing/Contrasting	<p>Compared with more developed countries, which of the following statements is true of less developed countries?</p> <p>A.A higher percent of the labor force is engaged in food production. B.The population pyramids exhibit narrower bases. C.The per capita consumption of energy is higher. D.The natural increase of the population is lower. E.Fertility rates are lower.</p>
Multiple Correct Answers	<p>Which of the following is a characteristic of American suburbs?</p> <p>A.Many suburban developments are eating up agricultural land. B.Some suburban areas have developed small cities within themselves. C.Many of the inhabitants of suburban areas participate in gentrification as they flee cities for quieter lifestyles. D.Both A and B E.All of the above</p>

The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

Type of Question	Example
Negative	<p>All of the following statements about the geography of meat production in the United States and Canada are true EXCEPT:</p> <p>A. Industrial farmers are raising ever-increasing numbers of animals on their farms.</p> <p>B. Animal slaughtering and meat-processing activities are dominated by a few large corporations.</p> <p>C. The development of the poultry industry has made chicken the least expensive kind of meat consumed in the United States and Canada.</p> <p>D. Fast-food restaurants have created a demand for increased standardization and homogeneity of animals raised for meat.</p> <p>E. Consumer demand for organic foods has significantly decreased the amount of meat produced by most agribusiness firms.</p>

The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

Type of Question	Example
Graph/Chart/Map	 <p>On the map above, which one of the following boxes is in an area where the population density is high and the level of economic development is low?</p> <p>A.A B.B C.C D.D E.E</p>

Source: [CollegeBoard's AP Human Geography Course Description](#)

For more practice multiple-choice questions like these, check out [Albert.io](#).

7. Write your own multiple-choice questions. This can be a helpful trick to give you a better understanding of certain key terms and concepts. Pick an area that you're struggling with, or need to know more about, and create questions based on vocabulary words within that area. Have your friends or classmates write questions, too, so that you can take each other's tests. The act of writing out questions helps the information stick and the more practice tests you take (even if they're written by a classmate!) can only help.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

8. Know how to interpret graphs, maps, charts, and illustrations. More than likely, there will be at least one multiple-choice questions on the APHG exam that deals with a graphic of some sort. Questions with graphics can sometimes seem overwhelming since you have to look at both the visual element *and* the question and relate them. As long as you practice answering these types of questions, know how to interpret graphs and maps, and have a good understanding of the concept in question, you should do well on these types of questions.

9. Take good notes. Reading textbooks and review books is not enough to actually *learn* the material. On the multiple-choice section, you absolutely have to know your stuff. Because of this, you need to actively, not passively, learn the material. As you're reading your text or review book, take *meaningful* notes. If you take well-organized and informative notes as you're reading, you can use your notes as a study guide, instead of having to go back and re-read everything again. Even better, the simple act of writing out notes helps the material sink in better than if you were to just read the information. Keep your notes in a large binder, sorted by theme. You'll be thankful you did it when it comes time to review in the weeks before the exam.

10. Teach concepts to your friends or family members. When you come across a particularly tough concept while learning the material, jot the theme/concept/vocab word down. Find a way to dumb it down so that a friend (who is not taking the course), or a family member, can understand it. By doing this, you can pinpoint which parts of the concept you're not understanding and find ways to explain them. By teaching others, you're making the information stick and learning a lot about your strengths and weaknesses.

11. Read the question and think of the answer. Before you even look at the possible answer choices, think of what answer you would give if the question were a fill-in-the-blank type question. This can help you select the correct answer without being distracted or swayed by too many possibilities.

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The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

AP Human Geography Free Response Tips

1. Practice previous free-response essay questions. Practice makes perfect. The single most important FRQ tip for the AP Human Geography exam is to practice, practice, practice. The [CollegeBoard website](#) has valuable resources to help you do just that. There, you will find past free-response essay questions, scoring guidelines, and sample responses. Take advantage of this resource! Read through a few of the questions and the sample responses. Understand what makes an essay an 8 and what makes an essay a 4. Then, start practicing. Before you look at the scoring guidelines or the sample responses, attempt to write the essay yourself, closed book. Then, compare your essay to the sample responses and look through the scoring guidelines. Have your teacher or classmate objectively grade your practice essays for you. Learn what you need to improve on and what you're doing right. It's okay to start practicing without a time limit at first, but make sure you're writing essays under time limits, too.

2. Read and reread the question several times. Do not start writing immediately! Too often, students jump right into writing, without really understanding what the prompt is asking you. You need to carefully read and reread the question to make sure you know what's being asked. Spend a good 5 minutes planning out each essay, always referring back to the question to make sure you're staying on topic.

3. Locate the verb in the question. Locating the verbs in FRQ questions can really help you understand which action you should take when forming your response. The following verbs are common on AP Human Geography FRQs:

Analyze: Using *at least* 2 sentences, find the relationship between two events or concepts. Explain this relationship and come to a conclusion using solid evidence, details, and specifics.

Assess/Evaluate: Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of something using specific examples.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

Identify/Define: Using examples, craft a simple list (in narrative form) of factors or characteristics, or give well thought out definitions.

Explain: Using specific details, discuss the logical connections or cause and effects of concepts, themes, or events.

Discuss: Taking both points of view, debate about something using details. Use *at least* 3 sentences in your response.

As you can see, no matter what the question asks you to do, always use *specific* details and supporting evidence.

4. Figure out what geographic themes you can incorporate. Once you've read and reread the question and have a full understanding of the prompt, start to consider what geographic themes you can use in your response. You must remember that the exam is a *Human Geography* exam, which means you have to use geographic themes in your response. Incorporate information from maps or diagrams given to you. Write down evidence you learned during your studying that you think relates to the question. Find a way to connect these themes and ideas. Be sure to use "for instance" and "for example" in your response, so that you know you're including evidence and specific details.

5. Answer the question and nothing more. It may be tempting to just write down everything you know about a given topic in the hopes that at least one or two of your answers are correct. This is called a brain dump and you should *not* do this! Only answer the question and nothing more. If a question asks for two examples, do not give three in your response and do not restate the question in your answer. The APHG FRQ is not about adding flowery language and opinions (do not include "I think" or "in my opinion" in your response). You need to be succinct, while still making sure you're answering the question fully.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

6. Remember that AP Human Geography FRQs are NOT 5-paragraph essays. It can be sort of confusing to refer to FRQs as essays. In reality, APHG FRQs are more like short-responses. You do not need to write a formal essay with a thesis, body, and conclusion. However, your response does need to be in a narrative format, meaning you can't simply respond with bulleted lists or listed facts.

7. Don't panic if you don't know how to answer the question. We've all been there. You read a question and you have absolutely no idea how to answer it. Maybe you don't understand the question, or maybe you just didn't focus enough of your study time on that particular topic. It's easy to freak out in these sorts of situations. Do not panic! Take a deep breath and reread the question. Break it down. Figure out what you *can* answer and answer it. Look at the map or charts given to you and try to find context clues. Move on to an essay prompt you're more comfortable with. This can help boost your confidence and even jog your memory. Whatever you do, don't leave the essay response blank. Answer the question any way you can, adding examples you *think* might relate to the prompt. You never know, you could make a lucky guess!

8. Think geographically. It's important to remember that the AP Human Geography exam is a geography test, not a history test. You need to think about the interconnections between people and places. Location, scale, time, and spatial perspective are important. You should think about your viewpoint when answering FRQs, meaning use local, regional, and global examples.

9. Make it easy for the reader to follow your thoughts. Remember that AP readers have to go through large volumes of FRQ responses. Make it easy for them to follow your answer. Label and number each part of your response in the margins of your answer booklet. Underline key terms and words you are defining. When using maps or charts in your response, use corresponding labels in your answer. It's also extremely important to keep your handwriting neat and legible. If the AP reader cannot read your response, you won't get the points, regardless of whether or not your answer is correct.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

10. Manage your time wisely. Since you're given a large block of 75 minutes to complete 3 essays, it is imperative that you manage your time effectively. The best way to do this is to dedicate 5 minutes of planning for each essay and 20 minutes of writing for each essay. Make sure you bring a watch on exam day to monitor your time. Do not be tempted to spend more time on any one exam. It may be helpful to write the essays you're most comfortable with first because you might be able to write those faster, leaving more time for essays that are more difficult.

11. Be specific. This is one of the most important tips for the AP Human Geography FRQ. Make sure you are giving *specific* examples in your response. This means names of geographers, models, theories, concepts, and vocabulary words. Do not be vague. If a sentence does not include something specific, it does not need to be there.



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

Tips by AP Human Geography Teachers

1. Participate in class discussions. By speaking up during class discussions and listening to what your classmates and teacher have to say, you are opening yourself up to higher level thinking and can integrate yourself with the material on a richer and more meaningful level. Thanks to Mr. Z. at Windermere Preparatory School for the tip!

2. Focus on content in your FRQ responses. AP readers do not deduct points for spelling or grammar errors that do not detract from the meaning of the writing. Feel free to cross things out if necessary. Focus on content, not proper grammar and spelling. Integrate appropriate geographic terms whenever possible! Thanks to Sara D. at Stillwater Junior High School for the tip!

3. Read daily and go above and beyond when completing coursework. Read and reread all of your reading assignments, using both your textbook and a review book. Actively participate in class discussions, read guides and daily notes, and look for supporting details. Thanks for the tips from Mr. M. at Creekside High School!

4. Watch BBC World News. Watching the BBC World News helps you know what is going on in the world, which is important for understanding the AP Human Geography material. Thanks for the tip from Mr. S. at Murrieta Mesa High School!

5. Keep a yearlong media journal. Each week, find a current event news story that relates to human geography. In your journal, summarize the news story (who, what, when, where, why, how, etc.). Then, ask yourself, “How does this connect to Human Geography?” Try to explain this by using appropriate vocabulary words. Next, think about your opinion on the story. Try to make a personal connection to the story, beyond just “I liked it.” Overall, media journals give you a better insight into what is going on in the world and can give you a wealth of examples to use in your APHG essay responses. Thanks to Mrs. M. from Kellam High School for the tip!



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

6. After a test or quiz, write out the questions you missed with the correct answers. This can help you understand *why* you got the question wrong and make sure you don't get it wrong again. Thanks to Ms. W. from South Effingham High School for the tip!

7. Be open to learning something new. Content mastery is not going to be an easy journey. Do not be afraid to make mistakes or falter when learning about geographic models, techniques, and theories. The great thing about AP Human Geography is that you will learn a lot of new information, but you need to take the time to gain a full understanding of the information using the materials given to you. Thanks to Mrs. K. from Livingston High School for the tip!

8. Read outside materials. Don't just stick to textbooks and review books. Venture out into current books about culture, economics, and politics. Examples of interesting books to read during the APHG course are:

- [*Confucius Lives Next Door*](#) by T.R. Reid
- [*Guns, Germs, and Steel*](#) by Jared Diamond
- [*Collapse*](#) by Jared Diamond
- [*The Lexus and the Olive Tree*](#) by Thomas L. Friedman
- [*The City of Joy*](#) by Dominique Lapierre
- [*The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom*](#) by Slavomir Rawicz
- [*Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*](#) by Andres Duany, et al.
- [*Freakonomics*](#) by Steven D. Levitt

Thanks to Ms. Whitney W. from Lafayette High School for the tip and reading list!

9. Answer the question in the same format that it's written. For the FRQ, make sure you are answering the question in the correct format. For example, if the question has three parts labeled A, B, and C, write your response in the same format. Thanks to Mr. Robert C. from Pearland High School for the tip!



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

10. Write out definitions in your own words. If you can't put something in your own words, you don't know what it means. Do NOT use a glossary to look up vocabulary terms. Glossaries give you definitions without context or examples. This is not helpful for learning or understanding the word. Instead, use the text to learn the meaning of vocabulary words. Thank to Ms. Leslie G. at Vandergrift High School for the tip!

11. Study confidently. It is not enough to study frequently. You must also believe that you can be successful. Having the right attitude of being diligent to the point of confidence in mastery is a huge key to success. Thanks for the tip from Mr. H. at Elk River High School!

12. Cut the fluff in your FRQ responses. You will not receive points for filling your essay with flowery language and filler. Stick to the facts and make sure you are writing towards the answer, not away from it. Support your statements with proper examples. If you can throw in a concept, geographer's name, vocabulary word, or model in your answer, do it! Thanks to Mr. James C. at Eustis High for the tip!

13. Know where countries, global cities, and major landforms are located. The most important tool for geographers is a map. Consider purchasing a World Atlas to study from. Print out blank maps and practice labeling them with countries, important cities, landforms, rivers, etc. By learning where important areas are located, you'll be more successful on the AP Human Geography exam. Thanks to Waubonsie Valley High School for the tip!

14. Review concepts from earlier chapters. Don't just stop studying a topic because you're onto the next topic. Work concepts from earlier chapters/units into the topic you're currently studying. Find ways to connect and relate them together. Thanks for the tip from Mrs. Sharon S. from John Metcalf Junior High School!



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

15. Skip lines when writing your FRQ. When you're answering your FRQ, skip a line in between each line of your response. This gives you space if you need to go back and add additional information. Thanks to Mr. Ken K. from Mashpee High School for the tip!

16. Be sure to outline your FRQs using graphic organizers. By doing this, you will ensure that you at least answer every part of the FRQ.

For example:

From the 2010 FRQ, part B of number 3. Discuss ONE positive impact of EACH country's population structure on its economic development.

The outline should be a T chart with a on one side and B on the other.

From the 2011 FRQ, part A of number 1 says to Define the following terms and describe how each relates to Mexico's urban geography.

Students should also do a T chart with definition on one side and a description on the other.

Lastly, from the 2009 FRQ, part C says to 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.

For this, students should create an four squared ESPN (economic, social, political, environmental) chart and jot down some economic, social, and political consequences and pick one from each category so they don't overlap, therefore losing points for double-dipping.

Thanks for the tip from Justin H.

The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

17. When you study for a test or national exam, mimic test conditions. Sit up, no distractions, no drinks unless water. Helps to decrease nerves. Thanks for the tip from Brooke O.

18. One strategy that I use getting ready for the test is teaching the students how to grade the FRQ using the rubric. I show the action words to look for so that they may anticipate how many points each question is worth. I then have them write FRQs throughout our review time and use their ID numbers so they may do peer grading using the rubric. Students must grade the FRQ and then have another student grade the same FRQ. If they do not agree, they must get together and discuss why the FRQ did or did not get points. This creates great academic conversations and gets them talking about content. Thanks for the tip from Randall W. from Irving High.

19. Think back what you learned from your history courses. The notes and materials you got probably covered more than 25% of what you need to know for AP Human Geography. Thanks for the tip from Pui Lam C.

20. When writing Free Response Questions, imagine that you are talking to a younger child or explaining the concept to a grandparent with no knowledge of the subject. In this way you can make sure that you are explaining the concepts and examples more fully. And as I often say, “You never lose points for adding details.” Thanks for the tip from Tom L. at Virtual Virginia.

21. When in doubt on a written response the Demographic Transition Model can almost always be used. Since AP Human Geography is so “human” oriented talking about the finer points of the DTM: population growth, distribution, diffusion, or how the question is influencing these, could get you some points even if your totally guessing. Thanks for the tip from Jonathan S. from Somerset College Preparatory School.

22. Use the FRQs from previous years as class assignments. Be sure to review them in class. Allow them to correct their paper, discuss answers and help their classmates. Thanks for the tip from Sandra B..



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

23. My one tip would be for students to know the vocabulary. Thanks for the tip from Pete L.

24. Apply the concepts and topics to real world situations as much as possible. Find case studies that will give further understanding on real world application. Thanks for the tip from Kevin M.

25. It's all in the FRQ – M/C reflects your average M/C in class tests, but FRQ will make or break in the final AP exam. Break down the possible ways in which objective points could be awarded within a question – aim for 10 points – remember no points for opinion and its applying knowledge – so good rule of thumb – if you're answering the question in a way you might have answered the question before taking the class its probably wrong. APPLY WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT! Thanks for the tip from John M. at Morgan County High.

26. Watch or listen to global news daily. Thanks for the tip from Christina E.

27. Have students practice reading short articles from the Economist. This will help students keep updated on current events, it includes different types of maps and it covers high interest topics. Thanks for the tip from Yarazet O.

28. The main event, of course, is to know the vocab. Not just memorizing terms, but using and relating them to the world. A less obvious tip would be to listen to NPR (Public Radio) in particular a show called "The World". And a show that I continue to watch and learn from is Fareed Zakaria GPS on CNN on Sunday's mornings. Thanks for the tip from Pam H.

Are you a teacher? Do you have an awesome tip? [Let us know!](#)



The Ultimate List of AP Human Geography Tips Cont.

When it comes down to it, the AP Human Geography exam is not going to be easy, but it is definitely possible to get a great score as long as you keep these tips in mind. The main things you need to focus on are: understanding key vocabulary words, learning how to think geographically, and knowing how to connect events, themes, and concepts together in different ways. In addition to the material and content, you also need to be familiar with the format of the exam and know how to answer free-response questions in the correct way. Achieving a score of a 4 or a 5 is not a far-away dream – it can be a reality!

[Start your AP Human Geography Prep today](#)

How to Study for AP Human Geography

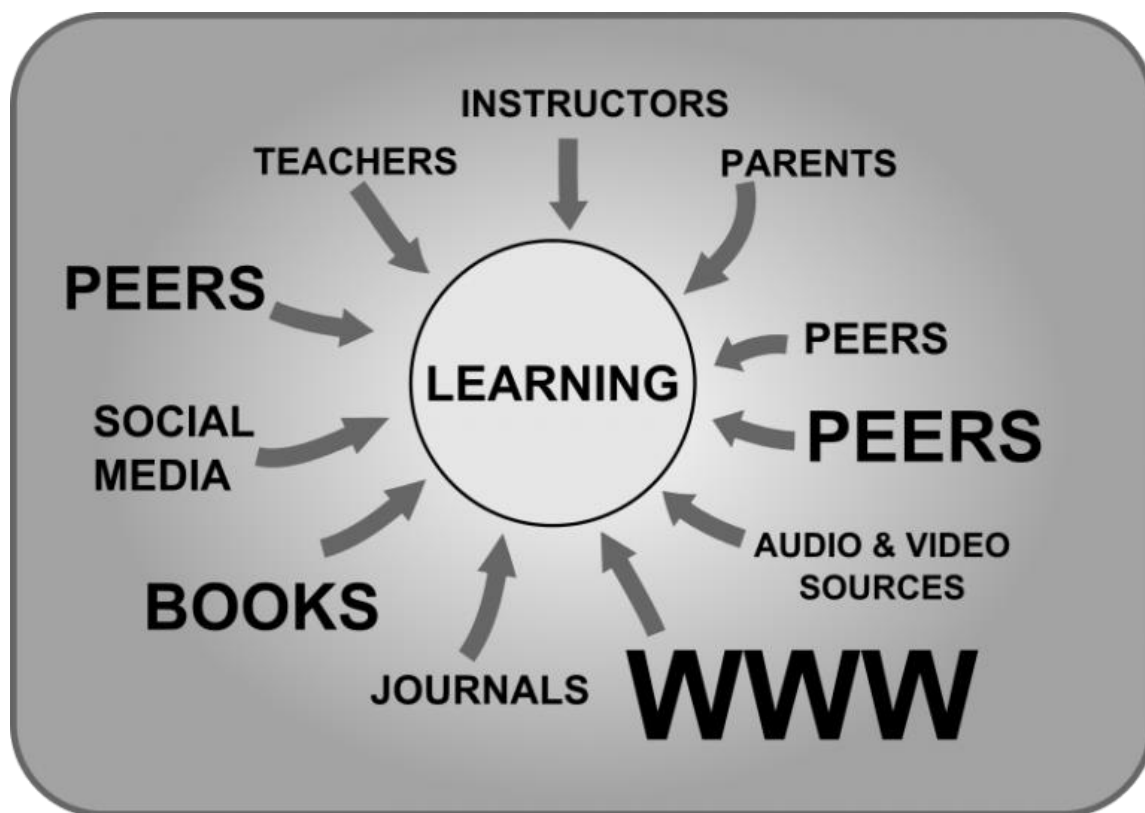


[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

If you are reading this article, then either you are researching whether AP Human Geography is a class that interests you or are trying to figure out where to start studying for the course. Fortunately, we have prepared a simple plan for you to follow to better direct your efforts. AP classes and their respective exams are not something to be taken lightly due to the sheer volume of material. AP Human Geography also covers greater amounts of information compared to other classes since the class itself is so broad. Don't worry, though, with this AP Human Geography study plan; you will be ready to tackle the necessary review to get a 5 on the exam.

How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

As you read through this AP Human Geography study guide, we are going to follow three easy steps: what content is going to be covered in the class and on the exam, familiarizing yourself with the format of the test, and developing a rigorous review process to better remember the material. We know what you are thinking: these steps seem too easy, and you are correct. However, don't underestimate the power of simplicity. This guide will allow you to take on AP classes and exams. This AP Human Geography study plan covers all of the topics you are going to need. As you read the article, you will find the information and resources that will put you on track to get that 5. Why don't we get started!



[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons](#)

How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

Step 1: Figure Out What's on the Exam

Your first step is to determine exactly how the exam is structured and what to expect when you begin your learning or reviewing. This not only allows you to figure out where your strengths and weaknesses are, but also gives you a chance to prep yourself mentally for when you sit for the exam. By exposing yourself to the types of questions you are going to see, you give yourself a better chance of choosing the right answers simply because you have seen similar concepts so many times.

AP Human Geography Topics and Learning Objectives

When you first begin developing your AP Human Geography study plan, you will want to look at the course curriculum. AP Human Geography is composed of seven wide-ranging topics, and they will all appear on the AP Human Geography exam in some form or another, whether it is a multiple-choice question or a free-response question. A major issue we are going to help you with is how to properly divide your time among the seven topics to spend your time more efficiently. In the following list, we are going to provide the seven topics the AP Human Geography exam focuses on. Along with each respective section, we are also going to provide supplementary study materials (i.e. flashcards or a review video). By giving you a greater context of all the topics, you'll be able to divide the seven issues into two lists: strengths and weaknesses.

Topic 1: Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives

Approximate percentage of the exam: 5-10%

This is the smallest section of the AP Human Geography exam, but that does not mean it is any less important. It forms the foundation for the course and delves into the idea of human effects on geography and how geography affects us. When you are studying geography, you are doing more than looking at a map. You also study different climates humans inhabit.

How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

Important concepts include the ecosystems of different areas and the roles nature plays in their formation and maintenance. You will also be looking at the tools necessary to study geography and how information is collected. Then you will look at how the world is divided into different regions. According to CollegeBoard, this particular section can be further split into six subsections:

1. Geography as a field of inquiry
2. Location, Space, Place, Scale, Pattern, Nature and Society, Regionalization, [Globalization](#), and Gender Issues
3. Key geographical skills
4. Using geospatial technology like GIS, Remote Sensing, GPS, etc.
5. Sources of geographical information and ideas: the field, census data, online data, aerial photography, and satellite imagery
6. Identification of major world regions

Use these resources below to enhance your studies!

- [Flashcards](#)
- [Review Video](#)

Topic 2: Population

Approximate percentage of the exam: 13-17%

Since AP Human Geography focuses on the study of humanity and their environment, one of the major topics you will study is population. You will want to have a basic understanding of how societies develop, change over time, and their effects on the micro and macro levels of the environment it inhabits. One of the areas you will be directing your efforts is the population of humans over time and how it has changed regarding density, the area populated, and the reasons for them. Time plays a big role in population growth because human history is riddled with portions where our ancestors struggled against their surroundings to prosper. From then till now, people have experienced an exponential population growth that brings its set of unique problems.



How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

You will also want to review migration and how different movements over different duration of time have created community centers all over the world. According to CollegeBoard, these are the areas you need to focus on when studying population:

1. Geographical analysis of population
2. Population growth and decline over time and space
3. Migration

Use these resources below to enhance your studies!

- [Flashcards](#)
- [Review Video](#)

Topic 3: Cultural Patterns and Processes

Approximate percentage of the exam: 13-17%

This topic will take you through the concept of culture: how it is defined, its different traits, as well as its dimensions. Examples of its various features include language, religion, ethnicity, and gender. Sections will cover the idea of language families and how populations within an area can have languages that are related and may even sound similar.

Religion and ethnicity are also key features of culture in that they often shape human interaction with the world. Furthermore, you will examine these parts as they developed and changed over time. This will be an in-depth look at the growth of traditional values in a society and how they can be usurped by radical forces from within or external pressure from the outside. You will also look at the development of culture across geography and how distance creates nuance across populations. Cultural practices are often created because of human interaction with the land around them; this can lead to patterns that are common throughout a region.

How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

According to CollegeBoard, the following topics are the focus of this section.

- Concepts of culture
- Cultural differences and regional patterns
- Cultural landscapes and cultural identity

Use these resources below to enhance your studies!

- [Flashcards](#)
- [Review Video](#)

Topic 4: Political Organization of Space

Approximate percentage of the exam: 13-17%

You will learn about how political organization develops at different levels, whether local or international. Politics typically follows the idea of how a population occupies a territory and leads to various developments, such as the monopoly of power within a geographic space, and how borders develop, marking territory belonging to certain groups. Examples of this include sovereign nations and their relationships with other countries but can also mean the usage of force to subject a different country, leading to topics like colonialism and imperialism. A major part of the political organization is the interaction of nations across the international stage. This can come through armed struggles or economic battles. They can also go through official channels when countries appeal to international bodies to create peaceful solutions. Examples include the United Nations or the International Court of Justice. Here are the areas you should focus on, as determined by the CollegeBoard.

1. Territorial dimensions of politics
2. Evolution of the contemporary political pattern
3. Challenges to inherited political-territorial arrangements

How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

Use these resources below to enhance your studies!

- [Flashcards](#)
- [Review Video](#)

Topic 5: Agricultural and Rural Land Use

Approximate percentage of the exam: 13-17%

When we discuss populations, politics, or even culture, a primary catalyst for these developments in human history is food. Or rather, how we create food. In this section, you are going to look at how we transitioned from a hunter-gatherer existence and, instead, began to domesticate plants and animals.

You will usually start with the Agricultural Revolution and study how the transition from hunting to farming changed human society at a fundamental level. You will also examine the global breadbaskets of the world, the central agricultural regions of the world today, and the different ways in which they utilize the land. An example would be looking at different farming techniques employed in China versus the United States or the reliance of developing nations on specific crops. Finally, you will cover the various models created to examine patterns associated with the agricultural use of land and its impact on economics and culture. The following are the important issues discussed according to CollegeBoard.

1. Development and diffusion of agriculture
2. Major agricultural production of regions
3. Rural land use and settlement patterns
4. Issues in contemporary commercial agriculture

Use these resources below to enhance your studies!

- [Flashcards](#)
- [Review Video](#)

How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

Topic 6: Industrialization and Economic Development

Approximate percentage of the exam: 13-17%

You will focus on different economic models, like Rostow's stages of economic growth, which explain the economic nature of the world. You will also learn about the effects geography plays on industrialization and [economic development](#) and vice versa. A major focus of the study is the rise of [globalization](#) its effects on the economy of every nation, and how widespread its reach is. Whether it is a multinational company based out of the United States or a small farmer in Honduras, globalization has created the world where each nation has begun to focus its manufacturing on a single good.

This section also takes a look at how [economic development](#) is measured and its effects on the new international division of labor. Then when faced with economic development and growth, this section then examines the rise of inequality in communities ranging from the local level to the national and even international stage. Finally, when talking about economic development, you also need to look at its environmental impact. Changes in society, like industrialization and [globalization](#), have significant, tangible changes on the environment. Here are the ideas you will be studying according to CollegeBoard

1. Growth and diffusion of industrialization
2. Social and economic measures of development
3. Contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development

Use these resources below to enhance your studies!

- [Flashcards](#)
- [Review Video](#)

How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

Topic 7: Cities and Urban Land Use

Approximate percentage of the exam: 13 – 17%

The last topic you will see is the concept of cities and urban land use. When we talk about cities, this can cover several aspects, such as the location, their political and social functions, how cities communicate, and the idea of settlement geography. Cities are massive population centers that are becoming the defining features of an area, or even a country. Take for example New York City. While it is not the only city in the state of New York, for many people it is the first thing that comes to mind in the state.

Next, there is the structure of a city and the different factors of land use, segregation, transportation, and architectural traditions. All of these structures are facets of a city that can affect its growth in either a beneficial or a detrimental way. You will be using both quantitative and qualitative data to draw conclusions about a city's formation and development. An example of this would be observing the growth of a city's population density and its correlation to potential health hazards in an area.

Once you have completed a history of urban growth, you will begin to look at the cutting-edge of urban land use, like edge cities, smart growth, and neighborhood gentrification. According to CollegeBoard, the following is the content you want to focus on.

1. Development and characters of cities
2. Models of urban hierarchies: reasons for the distribution and size of cities
3. Models of internal city structure and urban development: strengths and limitations of models
4. Built environment and social space
5. Contemporary urban issues



How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

Use these resources below to enhance your studies!

- [Flashcards](#)
- [Review Video](#)

Step 2: Understand the Exam Format

Another important thing to keep in mind is getting familiar with the structure of the AP Human Geography exam. In case you do not know the AP Human Geography format, this study guide breaks it down. The AP Human Geography exam is broken down into two major parts. The first part is the multiple-choice section. The multiple-choice section has 75 questions that will draw from the seven sections we have discussed earlier in the article. The second part of the AP Human Geography exam is the free-response section, which is further divided into three parts. In total, you will have 2 hours and 15 minutes to finish taking the AP Human Geography exam. For the multiple choice section, you will have a total of one hour, and for the free-response section, you will have 75 minutes. In regard to how much each section contributes to your final score, both the multiple choice and free-response section are worth 50%.

In the first section, the CollegeBoard says you will, “define, explain, and apply geographic concepts” and “interpret geographic data.” This means you may have to identify and define concepts from your AP Human Geography study guide to interpreting maps, charts, and diagrams you were exposed to in class and during your reading. The second section requires a little more effort. The CollegeBoard says that the student will be asked to do the following:

- Synthesize different topical areas
- Analyze and evaluate geographical concepts
- Supply appropriately selected and well-explained real-world examples to illustrate geographic concepts
- Interpret verbal descriptions, maps, graphs, photographs, and/or diagrams
- Formulate responses in narrative form



How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

Everything we have listed above, you will have learned throughout your study during the course, but it does give you a better idea of where your weaknesses might be if you have not already identified them. If this all seems intimidating, do not worry. Next, we are going to discuss the best [AP Human Geography tips](#) for you to prepare for and take the exam.

AP Human Geography Tips for Study: Vocabulary is Key

As you may have already seen from the topics listed in this AP Human Geography study plan, you will be studying a broad spectrum of human knowledge. We believe it is fair to say that you will be using skills from all of your courses to prepare properly for this exam. Everything from reading long passages of texts to analyzing vast bodies of data and diagrams, these are all features of the AP Human Geography exam that you need to be prepared for. However, we believe that one of the biggest issues you are going to encounter is the great volume of [vocabulary](#) that spans such dissimilar topics. While they are all related, they have their own set of vocabulary that play a big role in understanding distinct material. Because of all the vocabulary, we think it is in your interest to create some sort of mnemonic training plan. This does not necessarily mean creating flashcards for every word you encounter that you do not recognize. Only you know how you study and what words are your weakest areas. While you may not like flashcards, there are definitely ways to practice vocabulary that matches your learning style.

AP Human Geography Tips for the Exam: Multiple Choice

We have given you the number of questions in each section and the amount of time you are going to have for each phase of the test. With a simple bit of math, it is easy enough to find out that for each question in the multiple-choice section, you have about 48 seconds to find the correct answer. While this does not seem like enough time to find the right answer, it is actually more than you will need. If you have studied and prepared properly, then you will likely spend less than 30 seconds on each question.



How to Study for AP Human Geography Cont.

When you encounter a question that needs a little more time than 48 seconds, you have one chief thing to keep in mind: you do not lose any points for guessing! This is so important because, if you find a question that stumps you, you are more than likely at least able to narrow it down. This increases your chances of guessing the correct answer! So, when this happens, make sure to eliminate at least two of answer choices. A question where you have a 50-50 chance of guessing the correct answer is a better option than leaving it completely blank.

AP Human Geography Tips for the Exam: Free Response

If essay writing is not your strong suit, don't feel nervous. In this section, we discuss efficient time management for your essays, proper question answering methods, and developing a strong argument.

As we said earlier, you will have three questions in the free response section. Make sure you read each question closely because this part of the AP Human Geography exam typically is at the end. You are probably already a little tired from the multiple-choice section after sitting for an hour, so make sure you completely understand what the free-response questions are asking you. Once you have finished that, look at the length of each question and determine how much time each one is going to need. Some questions may be divided into parts A, B, C, etc. Make sure that you answer each part of the question so you do not miss any points. Keep track of the time! 75 minutes may seem like a lot of time but you will be surprised at how quickly the time passes when you are in the middle of writing an essay.

For each of the three questions in the free response section, you will be expected to demonstrate a particular understanding of a topic as well as an ability to build a thoughtful response. You can tell what a question is asking by looking for keywords like compare and contrast or explain. By looking for these words, you will have a better idea of what you need to do to answer each question properly. A question that asks you to discuss wants you to provide an answer, and then, using either information they have provided or material you have learned in the course, defend your answer.



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A question that asks you to identify or define means it is asking you to simply provide the definition of a concept or idea and maybe provide an example or two. You want to be as concise as possible, but not so concise that you fail to answer the question at all.

Step 3: Test Yourself!

Once you have reached the end of the course, or even before, the one thing you want to keep constant is a habit of review. Review will make sure that you are keeping track of not only your strong points, but it will help you discern areas that you need to focus on. It's also a useful skill to have for just about any aspect of school or even life. First, you will want to allot enough time before the actual exam for review, typically a month is adequate but if you have been keeping up with your reviewing schedule then you may only need two weeks.

You will want to begin by gathering all of your AP Human Geography study materials together. Flashcards, old tests, articles, practice diagrams and data. After that, look at everything you want to make sure that everything looks familiar. If it does not, then spend a little bit of time with that particular piece of information and are reacquainted. After you have completed your initial survey of the course material, start testing yourself. There are plenty of places to find practice tests for the AP Human Geography exam. The CollegeBoard even offers access to old free-response questions to give you a better representation of the exam.

Begin by taking a practice test without timing yourself. Answer the questions as best you can, taking much time you need. Once you have completed the practice test, go back and identify your problem areas. We guarantee that you most likely are not going to get a perfect score the first time so go back and find out which questions you missed. Figure out why exactly you answered incorrectly, whether it was tricky wording, or simply not knowing the information the question was asking these are all issues that can be solved.



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Rinse and repeat this process. Then keep a running tally of the questions you miss with each practice exam you take. You will find that as time passes you are missing less and less. Eventually you may even take a practice exam and get a perfect score.

AP Human Geography Practice Test Resources:

- On the CollegeBoard website, you will find [a course description for AP Human Geography](#) that gives you a few sample questions starting on page 60.
- CollegeBoard also gives you access to older free-response questions [here](#).
- Here is a guide to [the best review books](#) for preparing for the AP Human Geography exam.
- If you want to take a [closer, more in-depth look](#) at certain topics, we have blog that consistently puts out new articles related to AP Human Geography.
- The [Albert.io AP Human Geography section](#) offers an even more in-depth look at the exam with sample questions, articles, and an expansive library of study material.

Conclusion

Now that you have read this whole article, you probably have a better idea of how to prepare for the AP Human Geography exam. It will not be easy, but it will be worth it when you receive your 5 in the mail. We have organized the seven main topics, given you plenty of resources to look at, and kick start your studying methods. The rest is up to you. Good luck!



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