

1.7 Regional Analysis

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **regions** 区域 and regional analysis.

You must be able to:

- distinguish **formal** 正式区域, **functional** 功能区域, and **perceptual** 感知区域 regions
- give an example of each region type
- explain that regions are defined by people for a purpose
- recognise that regional boundaries can overlap and change

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Formal (uniform) region

A **formal region** shares a measurable trait throughout —a country, a climate zone, or an area where one language is official.

■ Functional (nodal) region

A **functional region** is organised around a node/focal point —a city's commuter zone, a pizza delivery area, or a newspaper's circulation area.

■ Perceptual (vernacular) region

A **perceptual region** exists in people's minds, based on feelings and identity —'the South', 'the Middle East' —with fuzzy, disputed borders.

2 Practice

2.1 Define a functional region and give one example.

[2]

2.2 State one difference between a formal and a perceptual region. [2]

2.3 Classify each region type.

(a) A country where French is the official language. [1]

(b) The area served by one airport. [1]

(c) 'The Sunbelt' as people imagine it. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A metropolitan area defined by its commuter flows to a downtown is a [1]

- A formal region
- B functional region
- C perceptual region
- D map projection

3.2 A climate zone where the same temperature and rainfall pattern occurs throughout is a [1]

- A functional region
- B formal region
- C perceptual region
- D cartogram

3.3 People argue about exactly where 'the Midwest' begins and ends.

(a) What type of region is 'the Midwest'? [1]

(b) Explain why its boundaries are disputed. [1]

4 Go further

- work through the **1.7 Regional Analysis** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Thinking Geographically** section of the AP Human Geography handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 an area organised around a central node; e.g. a city's commuter zone / a delivery area.

2.2 a formal region shares a measurable common trait; a perceptual region is based on people's feelings/identity, with fuzzy borders.

2.3 (a) formal. (b) functional. (c) perceptual/vernacular.

3.1 B. organised around a node (downtown) by flows = functional region.

3.2 B. a shared, measurable trait throughout = formal region.

3.3 (a) perceptual/vernacular region. (b) it is based on people's differing mental images/identity, not a fixed measurable line.