

2015 AP® HUMAN GEOGRAPHY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

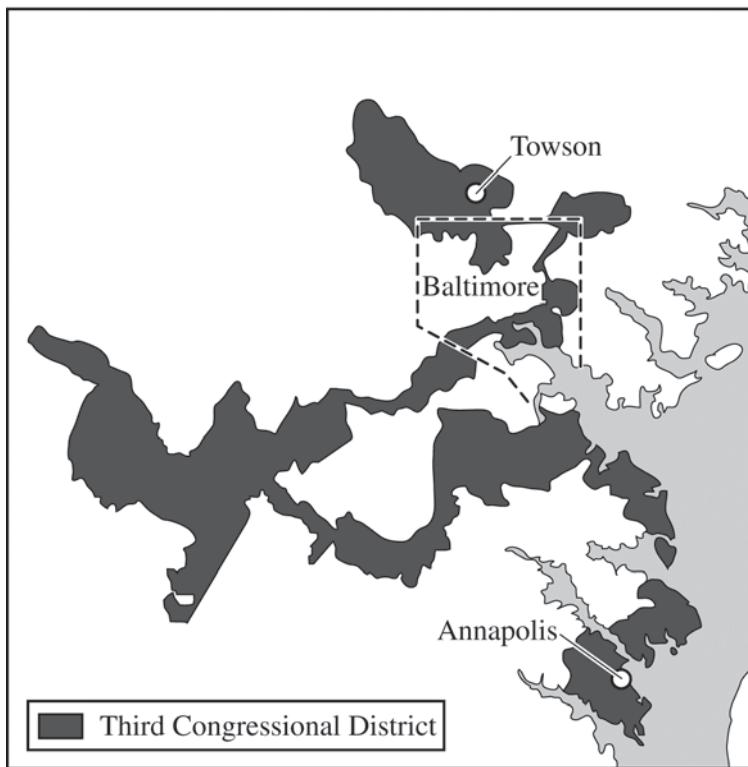
SECTION II

Time—75 minutes

Percent of total score—50

Directions: You have 75 minutes to answer all three of the following questions. It is recommended that you spend approximately one-third of your time (25 minutes) on each question. It is suggested that you take up to 5 minutes of this time to plan and outline each answer. You may use the unlined space below each question for notes. Be sure to write your answers on the lined pages immediately following each question.

MARYLAND'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

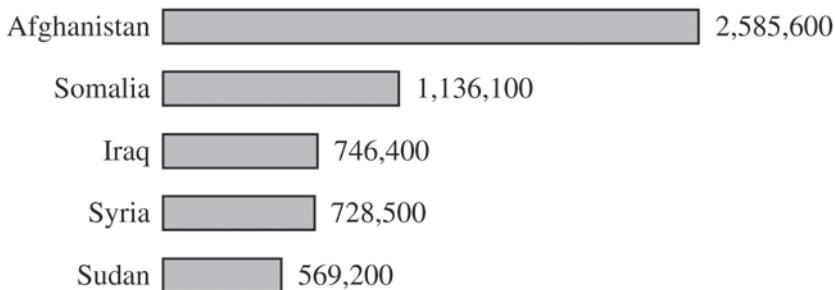


1. In the redistricting that occurred in 2012, voters in Maryland approved a redrawn Third Congressional District, as shown in the map above. A geospatial analysis firm named it the least compact district in the nation.
 - A. Identify the political phenomenon represented on the map.
 - B. Explain the relationship between redistricting and the census.
 - C. Identify and discuss TWO political consequences that could result from redistricting.

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2. English is the most widely used language in the world, thus becoming the world's lingua franca.
- Define the term "lingua franca."
 - Identify and describe ONE historical factor that contributed to the worldwide use of English.
 - Identify and explain TWO examples that show how globalization is contributing to English becoming the world's lingua franca.
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SELECTED REFUGEE POPULATIONS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 2012



Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

3. In recent years, the number of refugees has been increasing. However, most refugees come from just a few countries.
- Define the term "refugee."
 - Discuss ONE political, ONE social, and ONE environmental reason why refugees flee their country of origin.
 - Using the chart shown, select a country of origin; then identify and explain ONE reason why refugees have left the country.
 - Explain TWO economic impacts that refugees can have on a receiving country.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 1

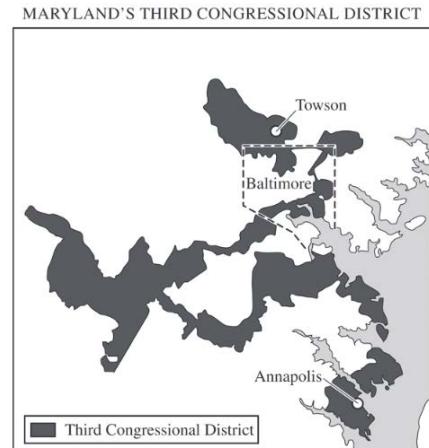
In the redistricting that occurred in 2012, voters in Maryland approved a redrawn Third Congressional District as shown in the map above. A geospatial analysis firm named it the least compact district in the nation.

- A. Identify the political phenomena represented on this map.
- B. Explain the relationship between redistricting and the United States Census.
- C. Identify and discuss **TWO** political consequences that could result from redistricting.

Part A: (1 point total)

1. **Gerrymandering**

Also acceptable: packing, cracking, wasted-vote, excess-vote, stacked-vote.



Part B: (2 points total)

Redistricting and the census

(1 point for basic or partial explanation; 2 points for full explanation)

1. **Proportional Representation:** U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years to reset proportional representation in the House of Representatives.
2. **Allocating the number of seats:** Census results are used to reapportion the number of seats allocated to each state in the House of Representatives.
3. **Redraw boundaries:** Census results are used to examine demographic changes to redraw district boundaries.
4. **Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** Census data is analyzed by state political parties and political consultants using GIS programmed to determine the most advantageous house district boundary alignments.

Part C: (4 points total)

Two consequences

(1 point for identification + 1 point for discussion) + (1 point for identification + 1 point for discussion)

1. **Partisan Power:** Redistricting by state governments often results in elections that strengthen/weaken the power of a particular party. This creates party-safe districts and may create/break congressional gridlock.
2. **Lack of Social Cohesion/Sense of Community:** Gerrymandered districts can be represented by a congressperson who lives far from other district residents or is not of the same ethnic or socioeconomic background as most district residents, resulting in greater tension or disillusionment.

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Question 1 (continued)

3. **Advantage/Disadvantage to individual candidates:** Redistricting plans designed to protect or weaken the seats of incumbent candidates; weaken or improve the election possibility for challengers. Candidates can become more politically extreme.
4. **Advantage/Disadvantage for a voting bloc:** Gerrymandered districts can strengthen the political power of certain voting blocs. It can disenfranchise at-risk communities and citizens from the political process. It links or divides areas of voters with similar characteristics (race/ethnicity, socioeconomic, labor, religious, urban/suburban/rural, etc.).
5. **Create or preserve minority-majority district:** To create a district favoring an ethnic group, or to accommodate surrounding minority-majority districts.
6. **Lower voter participation:** Confusion over the changing spatial patterns of districts, or the elimination of candidates who were redistricted out; can discourage some voters from participating in the political process.
7. **Judicial challenges:** States can be sued over the shape and contiguity of redistricting plans once they are signed into state law. Courts can order district boundaries to be redrawn under judicial supervision.
8. **Preclearance:** Prior to 2013, redistricting plans in some states had to be “precleared” by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) or a three-judge panel in DC, due to past federal discrimination cases regarding violation of the Voting Rights Act. The U.S. Supreme Court ended this practice in specific jurisdictions on June 25, 2013. DOJ and judges still have the power to preclear or intervene in redistricting plans but rules are unclear (as of 9/25/2013).