

2004 AP[®] HUMAN GEOGRAPHY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

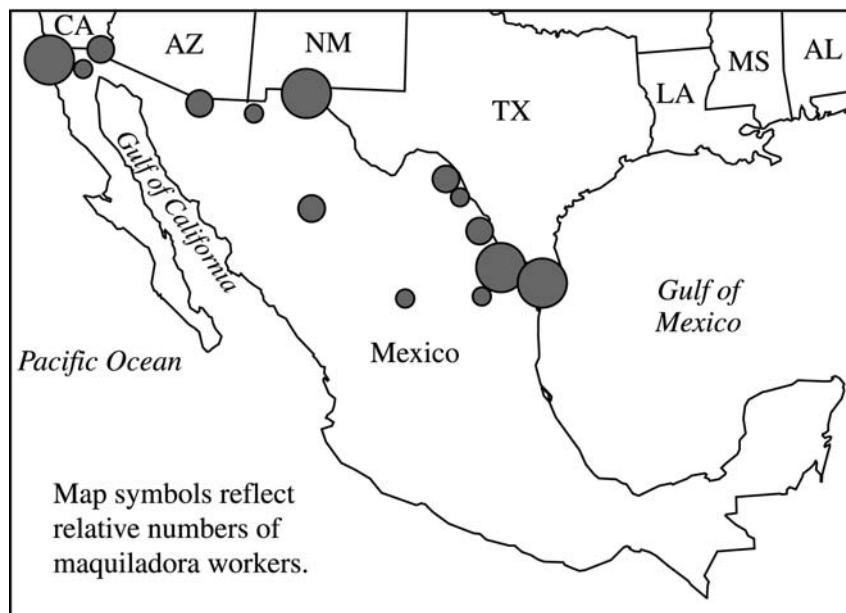
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

SECTION II

Time—60 minutes

Percent of total grade—50

Directions: You have 60 minutes to answer all three of the following questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-third of your time (20 minutes) on each question. Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed and your understanding of geography. Make certain to number each of your answers in the pink booklet as the question is numbered below.



1. The map above shows the main maquiladora centers in Mexico in the year 2000.
 - A. Define a maquiladora.
 - B. Refer to the map above to explain the spatial distribution of maquiladoras within Mexico.
 - C. Discuss FOUR factors that explain why Mexico has emerged as an important location in the current global system of industrial organization.

2. 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.

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Question 1

This question is concerned with the manifestation of changing global economies on the landscape.

A. Define a Maquiladora: (2 points) 1 point for any 2 bulleted items, 2 points for 3-4 bulleted items

- Foreign owned plants located in Mexico (outsourcing)
- Advantage of cheap labor (sweatshops can serve as a synonym for cheap labor)
- Export of assembled products to the US (export processing zones)
- Import of product components (**not** acceptable: manufacturing without assembly and use of raw materials)

B. Refer to the map to explain the spatial distribution of maquiladoras within Mexico: (2 points) 1 point for location on the border of the US (e.g., Ariz., Calif., New Mexico, Texas) & Mexico, 1 point for explanation why maquiladoras are located on the border

Acceptable:

- Close to major cities/ points of entry to the US
- Ease of transportation into the US
- Mexican government originally insisted that maquiladoras be within 35 miles of the US border

Not acceptable:

- Low cost labor
- Ocean ports
- Physical environmental factors

C. Discuss FOUR factors that explain why Mexico has emerged as an important location in the global system of industrial organization: (4 points) 1 point for each factor

Labor:

- Inexpensive labor costs in Mexico: New/global international division of labor

Political/Economic:

- NAFTA
- Weak environmental regulations in Mexico
- Tax incentives/ No Mexican tariffs on imported parts or for exported products
- Mexico's stable government
- Mexico's stable economy
- Mexico's proximity to US market
- Mexico's expanding middle class/ urbanization/skilled labor
- Exploitation of less developed countries/ core-periphery model
- Rise of transnational corporations
- Use of oil as leverage in international market (equity for international loans)
- US shift to a tertiary economy
- Tourism as a source of foreign currency

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Question 1 (cont'd.)

Location/Infrastructure - Mexico/US:

- Transportation connections between US and Mexico
- US transportation structure

Not Acceptable:

- Landlocked countries/land bridge to South America
- Abundant labor source
- Climate
- Maintaining a global inequality of income (dependency theory argument)