

2007 AP® HUMAN GEOGRAPHY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. At the same time that English is solidifying its role as the world's premier lingua franca, lesser-used minority languages (such as Welsh, Basque, and Inuktitut) are undergoing revival.

Discuss three distinct factors promoting the revival of minority languages in the face of globalization.

3. Economic restructuring is transforming the world economy.

- A. Define and discuss the key features of the new international division of labor (also known as global division of labor).
- B. Explain an impact of the new international division of labor on the socioeconomic structure of the United States.
- C. Explain an impact of the new international division of labor on the socioeconomic structure of developing countries such as Mexico, China, and India.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 3

Economic restructuring is transforming the world economy.

Part A

Define and discuss the key features of the new international division of labor (also known as global division of labor). **(2 points)**

"... the reorganization/relocation of economic activities (e.g., jobs) from a national to a global scale."

Economic interdependence/globalization	Dependence of the core (MDC) on lower-cost production from the less-developed countries (LDCs) for mass-produced goods.
Transportation/communications	Time-space compression via communications and transportation efficiencies leads to separation of production and consumption.
Comparative advantage	Advantages to locations that combine lower operating costs (labor, taxes, relaxation of environmental regulations, specialization efficiencies) resulting in trade/sale opportunities.
Outsourcing/offshoring	Specialized jobs contracted to companies/locations in order to achieve comparative advantages.
Profit drive	Transnational/multinational corporations need to reduce costs.
Trade agreements	Formal agreements such as NAFTA and company/country pacts that reduce trade barriers (tariffs, borders).
Foreign management	Upper management is from MDCs and not the local economy.

Part B

Explain an impact of the new international division of labor on the socioeconomic structure of the United States. **(2 points)**

Unemployment	Job losses affect the middle class. The remaining management and service jobs increase the income gap.
Deindustrialization	Regional unemployment requires retooling/reeducation into tertiary/quaternary sector jobs.
Profit	Drive for profits via division to LDCs has combined with consumerism to swell retail jobs. However, these jobs are largely at the part time/nonbenefit level.
Internal migration	Migration from areas of unemployment to areas of employment (Rust Belt to Sun Belt)

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Question 3 (continued)

Labor relations	Decrease in membership in and influence of labor unions.
Consumption	Availability of less-expensive goods changes the standard of living.

Part C

Explain an impact of the new international division of labor on the socioeconomic structure of developing countries such as Mexico, China, and India. **(2 points)**

Added job opportunities	Positive addition to personal and national income that raises societal status, family income, etc.
Gender	Entry of women into work force means added income for household support, which improves the standard of living and lowers population growth rate.
Child labor	Use of child labor discourages further education.
Wage gap	Increased wage gap between the local "haves" and "have nots."
Migration	Migration of nationals to specialized manufacturing areas improves personal economic positions but weakens family and traditional cultural ties—coastal China, maquiladoras or Mexico.
Environmental	Relaxation/lax enforcement invites new health ailments/problems.
Regional growth	Location of new jobs fosters regional growth and concentration of wealth, pollution, etc. Uneven nature of growth creates a spatial gap between "have" and "have not" areas.
Cultures change	Westernization of production, management, etc., changes the social and cultural relationships (e.g., women in the workplace, language, cultural disruption).