

2001 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. (a) (i) Define the term “Green Revolution” as used during the period 1945 to 1985.
(ii) Explain the principal agricultural practices/technologies associated with the green revolution.
(iii) Name TWO regions, in different parts of the world, where the green revolution has had a significant impact on crop yields.
- (b) Identify and discuss TWO social, political, or cultural conditions necessary for the success of the agricultural practices/technologies of the green revolution.
- (c) Identify and discuss TWO significant economic or ecological factors that may limit the long-term success of the agricultural practices/technologies of the green revolution.
2. The development of suburbs in North American metropolitan areas has greatly accelerated since the 1950’s and 1960’s.

Discuss how THREE of the following have contributed to this acceleration.

- (a) Transportation
- (b) Housing production
- (c) Landscape preferences
- (d) Social and demographic trends

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Question 1

1. (a) (i) Both of these elements for 1 point

- New strains with higher yields; increases in agricultural productivity
- Changing agricultural practices (e.g., commercialization, shift from subsistence to commercial farming)

1. (a) (ii) Any two of these for 1 point

- Artificial fertilizer
- Irrigation
- Insecticides and herbicides
- Mechanical machinery (e.g., tractors)
- Hybridization; crossbreeding (e.g., “. . . for disease resistance”)

1. (a) (iii) 2 points

Asia			Latin America		Northern Africa
South Asia	Southeast Asia	East Asia	South America	Central America	
India	Indonesia Vietnam Philippines	China		Mexico	

Not credited:

- Europe, Africa, United States
- An answer based on an incorrect linkage of a country with a crop; no credit even though region is on credited list (e.g., “coffee in Colombia,” “apples in China”).

Credited:

- A response that names India and China, though arguably in the same “region,” will receive 2 points; this will probably be the only exception to this rule.
- Countries within a region will be credited for that region.
- No overlapping (e.g., “China and Asia,” “India and South Asia”).

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1. (b)

Credited:

- Availability of credit/banks, money (e.g., international aid, finance, seeds, etc.)
- Political stability
- Receptive political environment
- Middle class (independent) farmers
- Market economy
- Transportation system
- Cultural acceptance of crops and practices (e.g., “Culturally, the society must be willing to part ways with old fashioned methods of farming”).
- Knowledge, education

4 points possible, to be determined as follows:

Condition 1	ID only	= 1 point
Condition 1	ID + Description	= 2 points

Condition 2	ID only	= 1 point
Condition 2	ID + Description	= 2 points

Not Credited:

- Availability of space
- Crop rotation

1. (c) 4 points

These must be CAUSES — not effects — and the discussion must say why the factor(s) may limit the long-term success of the practices/technologies.

- Increased costs of artificial fertilizer, herbicides, insecticides, fuel
- Decline in soil quality (fertility)
- Water pollution
- Finite supply of water → Water table
→ Drought
- Some groups (e.g., women) cannot obtain credit (equality)
- Crushing debt load (e.g., for farmers, nations, governments, etc.)
- Operation of commodity markets (e.g., “global economy”)
- Availability of funds (e.g., for additional equipment, seeds, etc.)
- Climatic factors (e.g., erosion, desertification, etc.)
- Limited amount of arable land (for 1 ID point only)
- Potential loss of biodiversity (1 point for assertion that one crop will disappear;
2 points only if there is a convincing argument about how loss of biodiversity will increase the costs of agricultural practices to limit its success)

Not Credited:

- Political instability (unless tied to economic factors)