

2011 AP[®] HUMAN GEOGRAPHY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

AUTOMOBILE FACTORIES BUILT IN THE UNITED STATES BEFORE 1986



AUTOMOBILE FACTORIES BUILT IN THE UNITED STATES BETWEEN 1986 AND 2006



3. Industrial location models are used to explain geographic patterns of economic activity. The maps above show automobile factories built before and after 1986 in the United States.
- Identify TWO changes in the geography of automobile factory construction shown by the maps.
 - Identify and explain TWO factors related to industrial location that may have contributed to the changes.

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STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 3

Industrial location models are used to explain geographic patterns of economic activity. The maps above show automobile factories built before and after 1986 in the United States.

Part A (2 points)

Identify TWO changes in the geography of automobile factory construction shown by the maps.

1. International-based change in the geography of plant construction
 - a. Increase in the number/investment of foreign-owned automobile plants **OR**
 - b. Increase in both small and especially larger-size, foreign-owned automobile plants

Note: Students cannot earn 2 points for listing two international-based changes.

2. Domestic-based change in the geography of plant construction
 - a. Increase in the number/investment of automobile plants in the South or Southeast part (Sun Belt) of the United States
 - b. Increase in number/investment of automobile plants built away from the traditional core of the American manufacturing belt (Rust Belt)
 - c. Decrease in the number of American-owned automobile plants
 - d. Decrease in the number/investment of automobile plants west of the Mississippi River

Notes

- Students cannot earn credit by simply counting the change in number of plants per state.
- Students may earn 2 points for identifying TWO domestic-based changes.

Part B (4 points)

Identify and explain TWO factors related to industrial location that may have contributed to the changes.

Identification (1 point each)	Explanation (1 point each)
1. Low-cost labor (not low-skilled or uneducated workforce)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More nonunionized labor in the South (or Southeast or Sun Belt).• Right-to-work states in the South (or Southeast or Sun Belt).
2. Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More foreign-owned companies to minimize shipping costs (cheaper transportation costs).• More foreign-owned companies to avoid paying federally imposed tariffs.• United States represents one of the world's largest markets for automobile consumption.
3. Deindustrialization (North only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shifting or relocation of automobile plants because of high labor costs (unions) in the North.• Obsolete infrastructure in the North (or Rust Belt).• Outsourcing — domestic companies shifting from states in the North to Mexico.

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Question 3 (continued)

4. Government policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic and development incentives — pro-industrial policies.• Connection to preexisting infrastructure systems — e.g., access to interstate highways, rail spurs, water/sewage/electricity.• State and local taxes — lower in the South, higher in the North.• Variances on zoning and environmental regulations.
5. Cheap land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessible and available sites in the South cost less than accessible and available sites in the North.
6. Available infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost-efficient interstate highway systems in the South (or Southeast or Sun Belt).• Cost-efficient rail system in the South (or Southeast or Sun Belt).• Allows quick and inexpensive assembly of supplies for the manufacture of automobiles and efficient distribution of automobiles to car dealerships.• Facilitates just-in-time production.
7. Cheap energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abundant, inexpensive supplies of energy in the South.• South (or Southeast) is below the national average for \$/kWh.

Note: No identification or explanation points should be awarded for the mention of raw materials.