

2012 AP[®] HUMAN GEOGRAPHY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

SECTION II

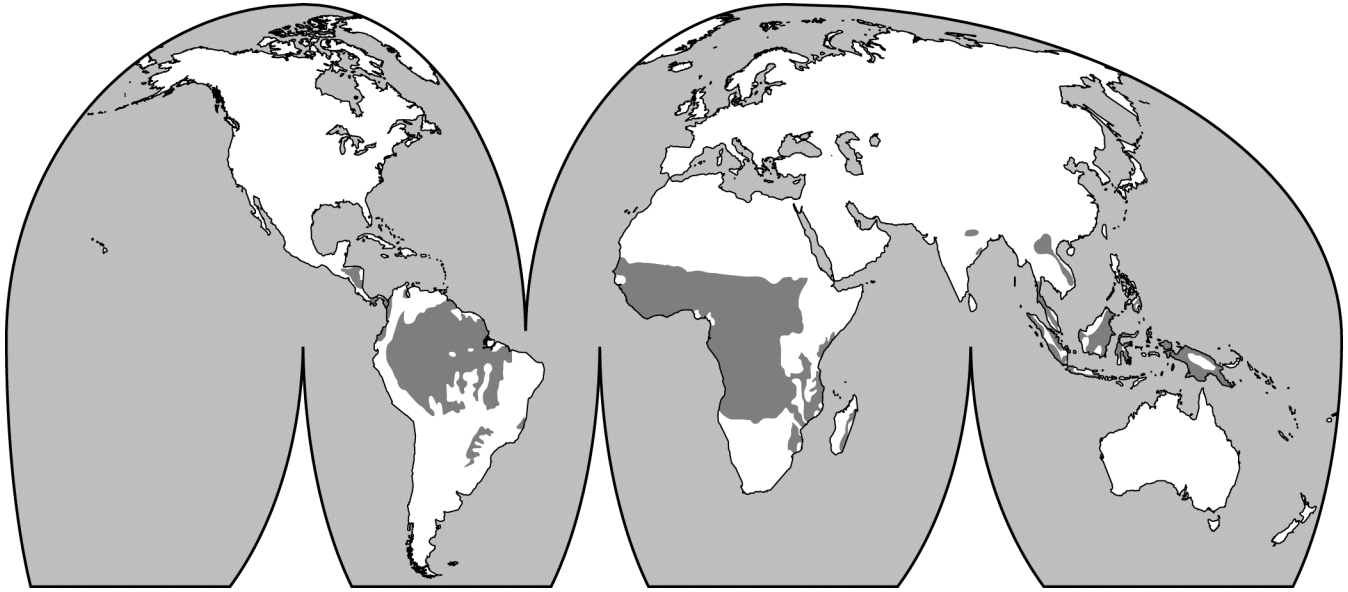
Time—75 minutes

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. While a formal essay is not required, it is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. Illustrate your answers with substantive geographic examples where appropriate. Be sure that you number each of your answers, including individual parts, in this booklet as the questions are numbered below.

1. Walls and other barriers built by countries to establish their borders are some of the oldest and most controversial elements in the cultural landscape.
 - a. Identify three examples of walls or other barriers built by countries in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
 - b. Explain the purpose of one of the examples you identified in part a.
 - c. For each of the categories listed below, discuss a consequence faced by countries as a result of walls or other barriers established along their borders.
 - i. social or political
 - ii. economic
 - iii. environmental

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2. The map above shows areas of shifting cultivation, a form of subsistence agriculture.
- A. Define subsistence agriculture.
 - B. Describe the practice of shifting cultivation.
 - C. Explain one reason why shifting cultivation was sustainable in the past.
 - D. Explain two reasons why shifting cultivation is expected to diminish during the twenty-first century.

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Question 1

Walls and other barriers built by countries to establish their borders are some of the oldest and most controversial elements in the cultural landscape.

Part a (3 points)

Identify three examples of walls or other barriers built by countries in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Examples of walls or other barriers that have been controversial and were constructed during the designated time frame (1 point each)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S.–Mexico wall• Berlin Wall (East Berlin–West Berlin)• North Korea–South Korea Demilitarized Zone• Israel–Palestine (or Israel–West Bank or Israel–Gaza) wall (Green Wall)

Part b (1 point)

Explain the purpose of one of the examples you identified in part a.

Purposes of the examples identified in part a
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S.–Mexico wall: to slow/control the flow of illegal immigrants/goods from Mexico• Berlin Wall (East Berlin–West Berlin): to prevent East Germans from fleeing to the West• North Korea–South Korea Demilitarized Zone: to act as a buffer zone in order to reduce the likelihood of violence• Israel–Palestine (or Israel–West Bank or Israel–Gaza) wall (Green Wall): to reduce the threat of terrorist activity

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Question 1 (continued)

Part c (3 points)

For each of the categories listed below, discuss a consequence faced by countries as a result of walls or other barriers established along their borders.

- i. social or political
- ii. economic
- iii. environmental

Social or political consequences (1 point)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased tension between neighboring countries or among citizens within a “walled” country (e.g., East Berlin)• Increased isolation (reduction in the diffusion of culture)• Stigmatizing of excluded population (either internally or externally)• Promotes nationalism, reduces foreign influences, increases xenophobia• Illegal crossing of the border becomes more dangerous• Separation of families, friends, relatives, cultural groups• International censure• Increased protection/security from either real or perceived threats• Reduced face-to-face interaction between people of neighboring countries• Increased virtual communication between people of neighboring countries• Generates increased creativity in terms of how to get past the barriers• Reduced seasonal migration
Economic consequences (1 point)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost of construction, maintenance, staffing• Creates jobs: construction, maintenance, staffing• Reduction in flow of illegal goods• Reduction in flow of illegal labor and potential savings in social costs• Loss of job opportunities for those excluded, less money earned/sent home, reverse remittances• Loss of cheap labor• Increased cost of smuggling (humans, drugs, other goods)• Reduced seasonal migration
Environmental consequences (1 point)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interrupts the migration of various species (plants or animals or both)• Impact on natural habitats as a result of barrier construction or new smuggling routes through pristine areas, or both• Visual scarring on the landscape (aesthetics, urban blight)