

2001 AP® HUMAN GEOGRAPHY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

3. According to the Rostow model, countries move through the following five stages of economic development:

- Stage 1: Traditional
- Stage 2: Preconditions for takeoff
- Stage 3: Takeoff
- Stage 4: Drive to maturity
- Stage 5: High mass consumption

Explain the usefulness of the model in understanding contemporary social and economic change with reference to any THREE of the following:

- (a) A country's role in the world economy
- (b) Colonial transportation networks
- (c) Cultural differences
- (d) Local social and class structures

Be sure to support your answers with examples from any of the following regions:

- Latin America
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South Asia

END OF EXAMINATION

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Question 3

Generic Rubric

3 points maximum per section and 3 points for examples.

Some students attempt answers to all four sections; always use the best three.

3 points	Good process oriented understanding of how ONE factor links Rostow to contemporary economic and social change OR a more limited discussion of two or more factors
2 points	Discussion of one factor that is incomplete in some way
1 point	Identification of relevant factor without relevant/accurate discussion
0 point	Attempt to answer but no relevant content
–	Off task

Examples: 3 points maximum

A single country may be used as an example for more than one part of this question if it is appropriate.

3 points	Good appropriate example (almost always at the country level) for two or more parts of the question
2 points	Less convincing mostly country level examples for two parts of question OR a good example for only one part
1 point	Example countries not exactly appropriate
0 point	All examples are very general and inaccurate

Factors

3. (a) A country's role in the world economy

Good process-oriented understandings will be positive, neutral, or negative when describing the usefulness of Rostow.

- Rostow stage equates role to shift from resource export (early stages) to rise of industrial economy and mass consumption
- Core-periphery vs. Rostow
- Membership in supranational organization (e.g., NAFTA, OPEC)
- Labor exporting region (e.g., Mexico)

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3. (b) Colonial transport networks

Most good process-oriented understandings will be negative on Rostow.

- External orientation to colonizer, e.g., transportation focused on ports with links to centers of resource exploitation — most important function is to link resource exploitation area to world market or local labor supply to world market
- Limits the internal growth of transportation system and related settlement pattern (urbanization) to nature of colonial transport network — no reason for colonial power to develop complete transportation network or modernize it hence neither economic diversity nor growth is encouraged

3. (c) Cultural differences

Most good process-oriented understandings will be negative on Rostow.

- Religion — Hindus (although more than a religion) may hinder development of middle class because of caste system preventing upward mobility
- Language — different languages may provide barriers to information flow and full participation in economic processes
- Political beliefs — governments may wish to isolate their population from westernization to exert greater control over their subjects and territory
- Profit motive — some populations may not move through the stages because of a lack of interest in cash profit
- Colonial legacy — departed colonial rulers left behind a social and economic system (neo-colonial) that concentrates the majority of wealth in the hands of a few and/or did not create a social infrastructure capable of allowing the population to engage in new forms of economic activity
- Gender — gender roles in cultures limit participation of entire population in economy thereby limiting growth potential
- Instability and violence/war — direct destruction of necessary population, infrastructure, wasting local wealth and discouraging investment from outside

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3. (d) Local social and class structures

Most good process-oriented understandings will be negative on Rostow.

- Class divisions — small elite group may control vast majority of wealth and have no incentive to invest in new forms of economic activity or may prevent training of majority of population
- Lack of emergence of middle class — in countries with no middle class it is hard to have skilled labor and business people emerge who will carry economy to later stages or limited national market for locally produced products.
- Gender — gender roles within a state may create regional variations in economic participation or result in population growth that retards affects economic development
- Ethnicity — inter-group hostility may create situations where infrastructure is destroyed, population lost, or some groups prevented from economic participation thereby preventing the country from moving from one stage to another; OR a group may refuse to participate and they may hinder the rest of the country's population from achieving the conditions necessary for advancement