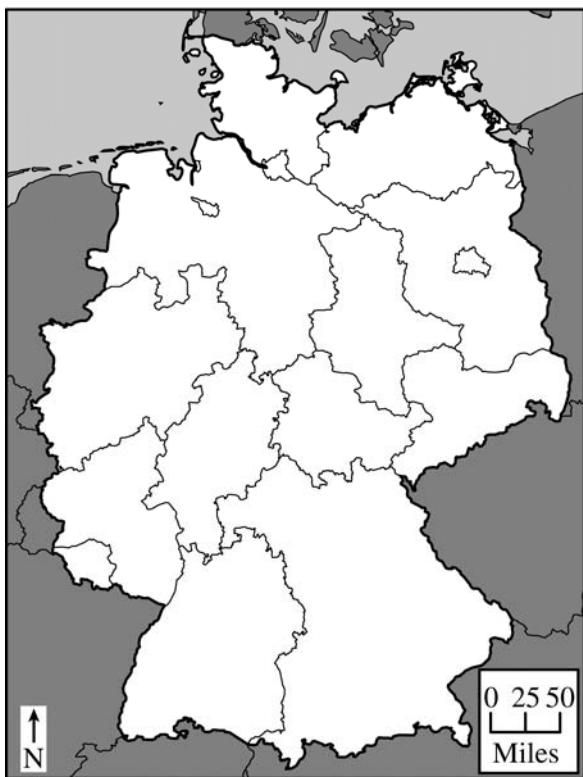
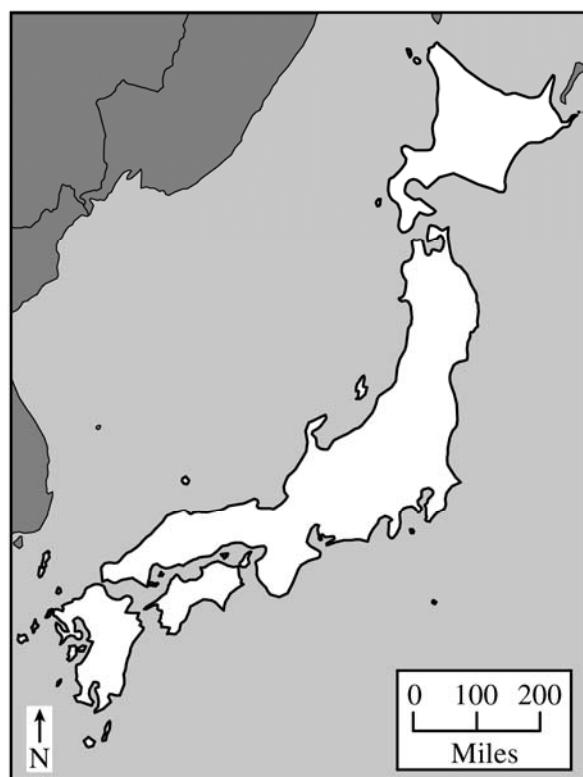


2017 AP® HUMAN GEOGRAPHY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

GERMANY



JAPAN



3. Political geographers classify most countries as either unitary states or federal states.
- Define unitary state and identify the country shown that fits the definition of a unitary state.
 - Explain ONE positive and ONE negative impact of a unitary system.
 - Identify and explain ONE reason why some countries are governed as federal states.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 3

6 Points: (2 + 2 + 2)

A. Define unitary state and identify the country shown that fits the definition of a unitary state.

2 points (1 definition + 1 identification)

• **Definition:**

- a country organized in such a way that most power is placed in a central government, or there is limited political power at subnational scales of governance

• **Identification:** Japan

B. Explain ONE positive and ONE negative impact of a unitary system.

2 points (1 positive + 1 negative)

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Standardization of laws and their implementation across the country2. Patriotism or pride in one's country is bolstered due to uniformity3. Efficiencies are achieved through less duplication OR faster countrywide implementation of laws or governmental services across multiple scales4. Fewer government or taxation agencies, or fewer scales of government or taxation5. The potential for corruption of local government reduced6. Creation of a national identity that reduces the potential for devolutionary processes <p>The term centripetal force alone is not worthy of a point unless there is an explanation related to one of the positive impacts listed above.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Centralization of power can lead to a disconnect with local areas, minority groups, regional political parties, or disparate regions2. Marginalization of local cultures through standardization at a country level3. Central government may not effectively provide services on a subnational scale4. Decisions and policies of the central government could become dominated by interests of the politically or culturally dominant group5. Central government bogged down by competing local problems OR slow response to local issues. (e.g., natural disasters, infrastructure, public services) <p>The term centrifugal force alone is not worthy of a point unless there is an explanation related to one of the negative impacts listed above.</p>

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Question 3 (continued)

C. Identify and explain ONE reason why some countries are governed as federal states.

2 points (1 identification + 1 explanation)

Identify	Explain
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Multiple nationalities, ethnicities, or cultures2. To address devolutionary forces arising from physical, economic, or political differences3. Larger countries, or territorial control over large or fragmented area	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Diverse states (e.g., politically, economically, regionally, culturally) devolve power in order to reduce separatist tendencies or to enhance loyalty to the country.b. Federal governments are able to maintain national cohesion by bridging physical or cultural barriers or providing means for resolving conflicts between subnational areas.c. Large countries devolve power to subnational units in order to maintain legitimacy with local citizens, or allow subnational units to more effectively provide governmental services or address local issues.d. As distance increases from a national capital, people tend to feel better served by decision-makers who are closer to home.