

Exercise walk-through

1.5

Human-Environmental Interaction

AP Human Geography

The cultural landscape provides evidence



Land use and choices

Housing and roads show human modification of land. The image alone does not show every planning decision, environmental effect or resident's motive.

Photo: Blacklick, Ohio, Pi.1415926535, CC BY-SA 4.0. Describe visible evidence before explaining a process.

Two theories, different claims

Environmental determinism

Claims that the physical environment determines cultural development. The course traces a move away from this account.

Possibilism

Environmental constraints and opportunities interact with technology, culture and social choices. Resources and power also shape the options.

The environment matters without mechanically determining one cultural outcome.

Your turn: explain a response

Original practice — attempt before the check

A fictional settlement faces water scarcity. Some residents can invest in water-saving technology while others cannot. Explain this through possibilism and identify a sustainability question.

Check: constraints and unequal options

Possibilist explanation

Scarcity constrains activity, but technology and decisions influence responses. Unequal resources limit who can choose each option.

Sustainability

Ask whether water use can meet needs over time without exhausting the resource or shifting costs to others.

A cultural landscape is the visible result of interaction; sustainability requires evidence about resources and effects.

Exercises 2.1-2.3

2.1 State the main idea of possibilism.

[2]

2.2 Define sustainability.

[2]

2.3 A society builds irrigation to farm a dry region.

(a) Does this support determinism or possibilism? Explain.

[2]

Exercises 2.1-2.3

2.1 State the main idea of possibilism. [2]

2.1

- the environment sets limits/offers possibilities; people choose how to respond, aided by culture and technology
-

2.2 Define sustainability. [2]

2.2

- meeting present needs without preventing future generations from meeting theirs
-

2.3 A society builds irrigation to farm a dry region.

(a) Does this support determinism or possibilism? Explain. [2]

2.3

(a)

- possibilism – people used technology to overcome an environmental limit rather than being controlled by it

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The now-rejected idea that climate determines whether a society will succeed is [1]

☐

- A possibilism
- B environmental determinism
- C sustainability
- D distance decay

3.2 Using a fishery only as fast as fish can reproduce is an example of [1]

☐

- A environmental determinism
- B sustainable resource use
- C time-space compression
- D a perceptual region

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The now-rejected idea that climate determines whether a society will succeed is [1]

☐

- A possibilism
- B environmental determinism
- C sustainability
- D distance decay

3.1 B

- that the environment determines development is environmental determinism

3.2 Using a fishery only as fast as fish can reproduce is an example of [1]

☐

- A environmental determinism
- B sustainable resource use
- C time-space compression
- D a perceptual region

3.2 B

- using a resource without depleting it is sustainability

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 Two societies live in similar mountain environments but develop very differently.

(a) Which theory does this best support?

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

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(a) Which theory does this best support?

[1]

(a)

- possibilism

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Two societies live in similar mountain environments but develop very differently.

(b) Explain your choice.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Two societies live in similar mountain environments but develop very differently.

(b) Explain your choice.

[1]

(b)

- the same environment led to different outcomes, so people's choices – not the environment alone – shaped development