

Exercise walk-through

4.1

Introduction to Political Geography

AP Human Geography

States and nations

Entity	Meaning
state	Territory, permanent population, government and sovereignty : authority to govern independently of another state.
nation	A community identifying as a people, often linked to shared history, culture or language.
nation-state	A close match between a nation's territory and a state's borders. An approximation, not proof of cultural uniformity.
Political geography	examines the organisation and control of space.

Overlapping political entities

Entity	Distinction
multinational state	One state includes multiple national communities.
stateless nation	A nation lacks its own independent state; its members may still have citizenship elsewhere.
Multistate nation	One national community extends across several states; can overlap with stateless nationhood.
Autonomous region	Exercises specified self-government within a larger state; autonomy does not itself mean independence.

Examples and the limits of labels

Canada is a federal state. In 2006 its Parliament recognised the Québécois as a nation within Canada: a nation need not be a separate country.

The Kurds are commonly taught as a stateless nation spread across several states. This differs from claiming every Kurdish person lacks citizenship.

Japan is often used as an approximate nation-state example. Its indigenous Ainu people show why the label must not imply everyone shares one identity.

Political entities: attempt

Original fictional Country A

An independent government controls the territory. Two communities identify as different nations. One elects a regional legislature but has no independent foreign policy.

Identify the state, national communities and regional unit. Does this evidence establish two independent states?

Political entities: worked check

Evidence	Interpretation
Independent government	Country A is the state; it can also be multinational.
Two national identities	The communities are nations; identity does not itself create another sovereign state.
Regional legislature	Some autonomy below the state level; determine its powers from the constitutional arrangement.
No independent foreign policy	Consistent with a subnational unit. Do not substitute the presence of a legislature for sovereign statehood.

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State the difference between a state and a nation.

[2]

2.2 Define a stateless nation and give one example.

[2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State the difference between a state and a nation. [2]

2.1

- a state is a sovereign territory with a government; a nation is a people with a shared culture/identity
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2.2 Define a stateless nation and give one example. [2]

2.2

- a nation with a shared identity but no sovereign state; e.g. the Kurds

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Country X contains several distinct national groups under one government.

(a) What term describes Country X?

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- a multinational state

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Country X contains several distinct national groups under one government.

(b) State one challenge it may face.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Country X contains several distinct national groups under one government.

(b) State one challenge it may face.

[1]

(b)

- internal division / demands for autonomy or independence

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A politically organized territory with a permanent population, defined borders, and sovereignty is a [1]

☐

A nation

B state

C region

D cultural landscape

3.2 A nation with no sovereign territory of its own is a [1]

☐

A nation-state

B stateless nation

C multistate nation

D federal state

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A politically organized territory with a permanent population, defined borders, and sovereignty is a [1]

☐

- A nation
- B state
- C region
- D cultural landscape

3.1 B

- a sovereign bordered territory is a state

3.2 A nation with no sovereign territory of its own is a [1]

☐

- A nation-state
- B stateless nation
- C multistate nation
- D federal state

3.2 B

- a people without a state = stateless nation

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A single nation's people live across the borders of several neighbouring states.

(a) Name this concept.

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- a multistate nation

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A single nation's people live across the borders of several neighbouring states.

(b) Explain how it differs from a multinational state.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A single nation's people live across the borders of several neighbouring states.

(b) Explain how it differs from a multinational state. [1]

(b)

- here one nation spans many states; a multinational state has many nations inside one state