

Exercise walk-through

4.6

Internal Boundaries

AP Human Geography

Internal boundaries and redistricting

Internal boundaries organise jurisdictions, public services, electoral representation and data collection.

Redistricting redraws electoral districts. **Gerrymandering** manipulates district boundaries to advantage a political group; not every redraw is gerrymandering.

Packing concentrates opponents in fewer districts. **Cracking** splits them across districts where they are outvoted. Examine the map and rules, not just the election result.

Voting model: original attempt

A fictional town has 20 adjacent cells arranged in four rows of five. Every row contains voters **A, A, A, B, B**. Each cell contains one voter, and everyone votes.

Create four contiguous districts of five voters, each returning one seat by simple majority.

Plan R makes every row a district. Predict its winners. Then count the alternative Plan P on the next slide.

Voting model: same voters, different boundaries

Plan R: row districts

A1	A1	A1	B1	B1
A2	A2	A2	B2	B2
A3	A3	A3	B3	B3
A4	A4	A4	B4	B4

Plan P: changed districts

A1	A1	A3	B3	B3
A1	A1	A1	B3	B3
A2	A2	A2	B4	B4
A2	A2	A4	B4	B4

Letter = voter's party; number = district. Count five connected cells per district. Which party wins each seat?

Voting model: worked counts

Plan	Result
R: districts 1–4	Each has 3 A and 2 B. A wins four seats.
P: districts 1 and 2	Each has 5 A and 0 B. A wins two seats.
P: districts 3 and 4	Each has 1 A and 4 B. B wins two seats.
Boundary effect	Party totals stay 12 A and 8 B. Plan P packs A into two districts; R spreads B voters among A-majority districts.

Votes, seats and evidence

$$\text{A vote share} = \frac{\text{A voters}}{\text{all voters}} \times 100$$

$$\text{A vote share} = \frac{12}{20} \times 100 = 60\%$$

$$\text{A seat share} = \frac{\text{A seats}}{\text{all seats}} \times 100$$

$$\text{A seat share in R} = \frac{4}{4} \times 100 = 100\%$$

$$\text{A seat share in P} = \frac{2}{4} \times 100 = 50\%$$

The model isolates boundary effects. Real legal judgments also need rules, voter geography and evidence of manipulation; unequal shares alone are insufficient.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State one reason a country creates internal administrative boundaries. [2]

2.2 Explain why districts must be redrawn as population changes. [2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State one reason a country creates internal administrative boundaries. [2]

2.1

- to organize government/services and to run elections/representation
-

2.2 Explain why districts must be redrawn as population changes. [2]

2.2

- populations shift over time; redrawing keeps each district roughly equal so representation stays fair

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A federal country gives its provinces control over their own schools and police.

(a) State how this differs from a unitary state.

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- a unitary state keeps such powers central

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A federal country gives its provinces control over their own schools and police.

(b) State one benefit of strong internal units.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A federal country gives its provinces control over their own schools and police.

(b) State one benefit of strong internal units.

[1]

(b)

- local needs are better met / power is shared, reducing tension

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Redrawing internal voting districts after a census mainly aims to

[1]

☐

A favour one party

B keep representation roughly equal

C erase relict boundaries

D raise carrying capacity

3.2 Internal units with real, constitutionally protected power indicate a

[1]

☐

A unitary state

B federal state

C stateless nation

D relict boundary

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3.1 Redrawing internal voting districts after a census mainly aims to

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A favour one party

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3.1 B

- redistricting keeps district populations roughly equal for fair representation

3.2 Internal units with real, constitutionally protected power indicate a

[1]

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A unitary state

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3.2 B

- empowered internal units = federal state

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A country's regions demand more say over local matters.

(a) State one way internal boundaries help meet this demand.

[1]

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(a) State one way internal boundaries help meet this demand.

[1]

(a)

- giving regions their own governments/powers (federalism/devolution)

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A country's regions demand more say over local matters.

(b) Explain how ignoring the demand could threaten unity.

[1]

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[1]

(b)

- unmet demands can fuel centrifugal forces and calls to break away