

Exercise walk-through

5.1

Introduction to Agriculture

AP Human Geography

Purpose and intensity are different dimensions

Dimension	Evidence to collect
Agriculture	Deliberate growing of crops and raising of animals.
Subsistence agriculture	Mainly supplies household needs; some output may also be sold.
Commercial agriculture	Mainly produces for sale, at many farm sizes and income levels.
Intensity	Compare labour or capital inputs per unit of land. Total machinery or total area alone is insufficient.

Mechanisation: what can we establish?



Combine harvester cutting wheat

The photograph shows a harvesting method.

Sales records establish commercial purpose. Labour hours and hectares establish labour intensity.

The photograph alone cannot establish yield, income or inputs per hectare.

A hand tool does not establish subsistence



Farmer using a hoe

Hand cultivation can produce food for use or sale.

Ask where the harvest goes. To measure intensity, also ask how much labour is used over what area.

A tool is evidence of a method, not a complete farm classification.

Classifying farms: original attempt

Farm A uses much hand labour on two hectares and keeps most rice for household consumption.

Farm B uses machines across 1,000 hectares, sells its grain and uses fewer labour hours per hectare than A.

Classify purpose and compare labour intensity. Can these facts also establish which farm uses more capital per hectare?

Classifying farms: worked check

Evidence		Conclusion
A retains most output		Subsistence purpose in this scenario; commercial sales can still occur.
B sells grain		Commercial purpose, independent of its size.
Labour per hectare		A is more labour-intensive; B is more labour-extensive in the comparison.
Capital intensity		Not established. Divide relevant capital inputs by area; total machinery alone is insufficient.
intensive	and extensive	concern inputs per land area.

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State the difference between intensive and extensive agriculture. [2]

2.2 Explain how climate limits the crops a region can grow. [2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State the difference between intensive and extensive agriculture. [2]

2.1

- intensive = high input (labour/capital) on a small area; extensive = low input over a large area
-

2.2 Explain how climate limits the crops a region can grow. [2]

2.2

- each crop needs certain temperature/rainfall; a region can only grow crops suited to its climate

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A family grows just enough food to feed itself on a small plot.

(a) Is this subsistence or commercial farming?

[1]

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(a)

- subsistence

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A family grows just enough food to feed itself on a small plot.

(b) Is it more likely intensive or extensive? Explain.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A family grows just enough food to feed itself on a small plot.

(b) Is it more likely intensive or extensive? Explain.

[1]

(b)

- intensive – much labour on a small plot for maximum food

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Cattle ranching on huge areas of dry grassland is best described as

[1]

☐

- A intensive subsistence
- B extensive commercial
- C intensive commercial
- D plantation

3.2 The main physical factor limiting agriculture in a cold, dry region is its

[1]

☐

- A relative location
- B climate
- C sex ratio
- D toponym

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Cattle ranching on huge areas of dry grassland is best described as

[1]

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- A intensive subsistence
- B extensive commercial
- C intensive commercial
- D plantation

3.1 B

- low input over a vast area, for sale = extensive commercial

3.2 The main physical factor limiting agriculture in a cold, dry region is its

[1]

☐

- A relative location
- B climate
- C sex ratio
- D toponym

3.2 B

- climate limits what can grow

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A farmer sells all his produce to a national supermarket chain.

(a) Name this type of agriculture.

[1]

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(a)

- commercial agriculture

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A farmer sells all his produce to a national supermarket chain.

(b) State one physical factor he must still consider.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A farmer sells all his produce to a national supermarket chain.

(b) State one physical factor he must still consider.

[1]

(b)

- climate/soil/water suited to his crop