

4 States, nations and boundaries – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	Write it 3 times (English)		
state	_____	_____	_____
nation	_____	_____	_____
nation-state	_____	_____	_____
multinational	_____	_____	_____
state	_____	_____	_____
stateless nation	_____	_____	_____
Sovereignty	_____	_____	_____
Self-determination	_____	_____	_____
Compact	_____	_____	_____
Elongated	_____	_____	_____
Fragmented	_____	_____	_____
Perforated	_____	_____	_____
Prorupted	_____	_____	_____
landlocked	_____	_____	_____
antecedent bound- ary	_____	_____	_____
subsequent bound- ary	_____	_____	_____

English**Write it 3 times** (English)

superimposed

boundary

relict boundary

geometric

physical

Definitional

Locational

Operational

Allocational

Recall

You know that the world is divided into countries, that borders exist, and that some borders are disputed.

This sheet gives you the precise vocabulary – because in this unit “state”, “nation” and “country” mean different things.

New ideas**■ 1 State, nation, nation-state**

A **state** is a politically organised territory with a permanent population, defined borders, a government, and sovereignty – recognition by other states.

A **nation** is a group of people with a shared cultural identity, who see themselves as belonging together. It is about people, not territory.

A **nation-state** is a state whose borders closely match a single nation. Iceland and Japan are near examples; most states are not.

A **multinational state** contains several nations (Russia, Canada). A **stateless nation** is a nation with no state of its own – the Kurds are the standard example.

■ 2 Sovereignty and its limits

Sovereignty is a state's right to govern its territory without outside interference. It is qualified in practice by membership of supranational organisations, by treaties, and by economic dependence.

Self-determination is the principle that a nation has the right to govern itself. It is the argument behind both decolonisation and modern separatist movements, and it collides directly with the sovereignty of existing states – which is why these disputes are hard.

■ 3 Shapes of states

The shape of a state has real consequences for governing it. **Compact** (roughly circular, easiest to govern). **Elongated** (long and thin – transport and communication are costly). **Fragmented** (in separate pieces, sometimes across water). **Perforated** (completely surrounds another state). **Prorupted** (a compact core with a corridor extending out, often to reach a resource or the sea).

A **landlocked** state has no coastline and so depends on neighbours for sea trade. An **enclave** is a territory entirely inside another state; an **exclave** is part of a state separated from its main body.

■ 4 Kinds of boundary

By origin: an **antecedent boundary** was drawn before the area was heavily settled; a **subsequent boundary** was drawn as the cultural landscape developed; a **superimposed boundary** was forced on an existing cultural landscape by an outside power – the colonial borders of Africa; a **relict boundary** no longer functions but is still visible.

By type: **geometric** (a straight line, often a parallel or meridian) or **physical** (a river, a mountain crest).

■ 5 Boundary disputes

Definitional : the two sides read the treaty text differently. **Locational** : they agree the wording and disagree where it falls on the ground. **Operational** : they disagree about how the border should be managed – migration, smuggling. **Allocational** : they disagree about a resource that crosses it – oil, water, fish.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

4.1 Distinguish between a state and a nation.

[2]

4.2 Define a stateless nation and give one example. [2]

4.3 Explain one governing difficulty caused by a fragmented state shape. [2]

4.4 Explain what a superimposed boundary is and why such boundaries often cause conflict. [3]

4.5 Name the type of boundary dispute that concerns a resource crossing the border. [1]
