

4 Devolution, power and geopolitics – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	Write it 3 times (English)		
centripetal force	_____	_____	_____
centrifugal force	_____	_____	_____
Devolution	_____	_____	_____
balkanisation	_____	_____	_____
Irredentism	_____	_____	_____
unitary state	_____	_____	_____
federal state	_____	_____	_____
Gerrymandering	_____	_____	_____
supranational or- ganisation	_____	_____	_____
Mackinder's heart- land theory	_____	_____	_____
Spykman's rim- land theory	_____	_____	_____
Colonialism	_____	_____	_____
Neocolonialism	_____	_____	_____

Recall

Part 1 gave you states, nations, shapes and boundaries.

This sheet covers what pulls states apart, what holds them together, and how power is organised inside and above them.

New ideas

■ 1 Forces that bind and forces that break

A **centripetal force** pulls a state together: a shared language, a common enemy, a national holiday, an efficient transport network, a unifying religion.

A **centrifugal force** pulls it apart: linguistic or religious division, uneven economic development, a physical barrier separating regions, and a minority nation with its own identity.

Almost every question about state stability wants these two named and weighed against each other for a specific case.

■ 2 Devolution and its outcomes

Devolution is the transfer of power from a central government to regional units. It usually follows centrifugal pressure and is intended to relieve it.

Its outcomes range from a stable federal settlement to **balkanisation** – the fragmentation of a state into hostile smaller units. **Irredentism** is a state's claim to territory in a neighbour on the grounds that its own nation lives there.

■ 3 How power is arranged internally

A **unitary state** concentrates power centrally; a **federal state** divides it between the centre and regional governments. Large, diverse or fragmented states tend towards federalism because a distant centre cannot govern them well.

Gerrymandering is redrawing electoral district boundaries for political advantage. Its three named forms are **cracking** (splitting an opposing group across many districts so it is a majority in none), **packing** (concentrating it into one district so its votes are wasted elsewhere), and **stacking**. **Redistricting** itself is legitimate; gerrymandering is its abuse.

■ 4 Above the state

A **supranational organisation** is an alliance of states pooling some sovereignty for a shared goal – the EU, the UN, NATO, ASEAN, the African Union.

They gain their members economic and security advantages and cost them some sovereignty, which is the tension every essay on them should name.

■ 5 Geopolitical theory

Mackinder's heartland theory : whoever controls the interior of Eurasia controls the world, because it is unreachable by sea power.

Spykman's rimland theory : the coastal fringe matters more, because that is where population, industry and access to the sea are.

Both are twentieth-century models. Name them for what they explain – the strategic logic behind alliances and interventions – not as truths.

■ 6 Colonialism's residue

Colonialism left superimposed boundaries, export-oriented transport networks running from the interior to the port rather than between regions, and economies dependent on a single commodity. **Neocolonialism** describes continued economic control after formal independence.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

4.6 Give one centripetal and one centrifugal force acting on a state. [2]

4.7 Define devolution and explain why a state might use it. [3]

4.8 Explain how packing differs from cracking in gerrymandering. [2]

4.9 State one advantage and one cost to a state of joining a supranational organisation. [2]

4.10 Explain one way colonial rule still shapes the geography of a former colony. [2]
