

Exercise walk-through

Regional Analysis ■ 1.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- distinguish **formal** 正式区域, **functional** 功能区域, and **perceptual** 感知区域 regions
- give an example of each region type
- explain that regions are defined by people for a purpose
- recognise that regional boundaries can overlap and change

Method — Formal (uniform) region

A **formal region** shares a measurable trait throughout — a country, a climate zone, or an area where one language is official.

Method — Functional (nodal) region

A **functional region** is organised around a node/focal point — a city's commuter zone, a pizza delivery area, or a newspaper's circulation area.

Method — Perceptual (vernacular) region

A **perceptual region** exists in people's minds, based on feelings and identity — 'the South', 'the Middle East' — with fuzzy, disputed borders.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a functional region and give one example.

Solution 2.1

Method: Functional (nodal) region

Worked steps

an area organised around a central node **B1**; e.g. a city's commuter zone / a delivery area **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State one difference between a formal and a perceptual region.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

a formal region shares a measurable common trait **B1**; a perceptual region is based on people's feelings/identity, with fuzzy borders **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Classify each region type.

- (a) A country where French is the official language.
- (b) The area served by one airport.
- (c) 'The Sunbelt' as people imagine it.

Solution 2.3

Method: Formal (uniform) region

Worked steps

(a) formal **B1**. (b) functional **B1**. (c) perceptual/vernacular **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A metropolitan area defined by its commuter flows to a downtown is a

- A** formal region
- B** functional region
- C** perceptual region
- D** map projection

Solution 3.1

Method: Functional (nodal) region

- A formal region
- B functional region**
- C perceptual region
- D map projection



Worked steps

B. organised around a node (downtown) by flows = functional region.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A climate zone where the same temperature and rainfall pattern occurs throughout is a

A functional region

B formal region

C perceptual region

D cartogram

Solution 3.2

Method: Formal (uniform) region

A functional region

B formal region 

C perceptual region

D cartogram

Worked steps

B. a shared, measurable trait throughout = formal region.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

People argue about exactly where 'the Midwest' begins and ends.

- (a) What type of region is 'the Midwest'?
- (b) Explain why its boundaries are disputed.

Solution 3.3

Method: Perceptual (vernacular) region

Worked steps

(a) perceptual/vernacular region **B1**. (b) it is based on people's differing mental images/identity, not a fixed measurable line **B1**.