

Exercise walk-through

Diffusion of Religion and Language ■ 3.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- explain how universalizing religions diffuse
- define a **language family** 语系 and **lingua franca** 通用语
- distinguish a **pidgin** 皮钦语 from a **creole** 克里奥尔语
- explain how a **dialect** 方言 forms

Method — Religion's diffusion

Universalizing religions spread by **relocation** (migration) and **expansion** (missionaries, conversion), producing large, scattered communities of believers.

Method — Language families and lingua franca

A **language family** groups languages from a common ancestor (e.g. Indo-European).
A **lingua franca** is a common language people adopt to communicate across groups (e.g. English in business).

Method — Pidgin, creole, dialect

A **pidgin** is a simplified mix used for trade; when children grow up speaking it as a first language it becomes a **creole**. A **dialect** is a regional variety of one language.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a lingua franca and give one example.

Solution 2.1

Method: Language families and lingua franca

Worked steps

a common language adopted for communication between speakers of different languages **B1**; e.g. English in international business **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between a pidgin and a creole.

Solution 2.2

Method: Pidgin, creole, dialect

Worked steps

a pidgin is a simplified contact language for trade **B1**; a creole is a pidgin that has become a community's native first language **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

English, German, and Hindi share an ancient common ancestor.

- (a) What are such related languages called together?
- (b) Name one way English diffused to become a global lingua franca.

Solution 2.3

Method: Language families and lingua franca

Worked steps

(a) a language family (Indo-European) **B1**. (b) colonialism / trade / global media and business **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A regional variety of a language with its own accent and words is a

A lingua franca

B dialect

C pidgin

D language family

Solution 3.1

Method: Pidgin, creole, dialect

A lingua franca

B dialect 

C pidgin

D language family

Worked steps

B. a regional variety of one language is a dialect.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Missionaries converting people in distant lands spread religion mainly by

- A** relict boundaries
- B** expansion diffusion
- C** distance decay
- D** carrying capacity

Solution 3.2

Method: Religion's diffusion

- A relict boundaries
- B expansion diffusion
- C distance decay
- D carrying capacity



Worked steps

B. conversion outward from a source is expansion diffusion.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

Traders from different language groups develop a simple shared speech.

- (a) Name this simplified language.
- (b) Explain what it becomes if the next generation speaks it as a mother tongue.

Solution 3.3

Method: Pidgin, creole, dialect

Worked steps

(a) a pidgin **B1**. (b) a creole — a fully developed native language **B1**.