

Exercise walk-through

Introduction to Political Geography ■ 4.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- distinguish a **state** 国家 (政治), a **nation** 民族, and a **nation-state** 民族国家
- define a **stateless nation** 无国家民族
- distinguish a **multinational state** 多民族国家 from a **multistate nation** 多国民
族
- give an example of each concept

Method — State, nation, nation-state

A **state** is a territory with a government and sovereignty. A **nation** is a people with a shared identity. A **nation-state** is a state whose territory matches one nation.

Method — Stateless nations

A **stateless nation** is a people with a strong shared identity but no state of their own (e.g. the Kurds).

Method — Multinational and multistate

A **multinational state** contains several nations within one state. A **multistate nation** is one nation spread across several states.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between a state and a nation.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

a state is a sovereign territory with a government **B1**; a nation is a people with a shared culture/identity **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Define a stateless nation and give one example.

Solution 2.2

Method: Stateless nations

Worked steps

a nation with a shared identity but no sovereign state **B1**; e.g. the Kurds **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Country X contains several distinct national groups under one government.

- (a) What term describes Country X?
- (b) State one challenge it may face.

Solution 2.3

Method: Multinational and multistate

Worked steps

(a) a multinational state **B1**. (b) internal division / demands for autonomy or independence **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A politically organized territory with a permanent population, defined borders, and sovereignty is a

A nation

B state

C region

D cultural landscape

Solution 3.1

Method: State, nation, nation-state

A nation

B state



C region

D cultural landscape

Worked steps

B. a sovereign bordered territory is a state.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A nation with no sovereign territory of its own is a

- A** nation-state
- B** stateless nation
- C** multistate nation
- D** federal state

Solution 3.2

Method: State, nation, nation-state

A nation-state

B stateless nation 

C multistate nation

D federal state

Worked steps

B. a people without a state = stateless nation.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A single nation's people live across the borders of several neighbouring states.

- (a) Name this concept.
- (b) Explain how it differs from a multinational state.

Solution 3.3

Method: Multinational and multistate

Worked steps

(a) a multistate nation **B1**. (b) here one nation spans many states; a multinational state has many nations inside one state **B1**.