

Exercise walk-through

Defining Political Boundaries ■ 4.4

eXercise

You must be able to

- distinguish **antecedent** 先成边界, **subsequent** 后成边界, **superimposed** 强加边界, and **relict** 残余边界 boundaries
- define a **geometric boundary** 几何边界
- explain the stages: defined, delimited, demarcated, administered
- identify a boundary type from a description

Method — Boundary types by history

Antecedent: drawn before dense settlement. **Subsequent:** drawn as a cultural landscape develops, fitting groups. **Superimposed:** forced on an area, ignoring existing cultures. **Relict:** no longer functions but still leaves marks.

Method — Geometric boundaries

A **geometric boundary** follows straight lines or lines of latitude/longitude rather than physical or cultural features.

Method — From idea to line

A boundary is **defined** (described in a treaty), **delimited** (drawn on a map), **demarcated** (marked on the ground), and **administered** (managed/enforced).

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a superimposed boundary.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

a boundary forced onto an area by an outside power **B1**, ignoring the existing cultural pattern **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between a delimited and a demarcated boundary.

Solution 2.2

Method: From idea to line

Worked steps

delimited = drawn on a map **B1**; demarcated = physically marked on the ground with fences/signs **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

An old wall from a former border still stands, though the border is gone.

- (a) Name this boundary type.
- (b) Name the type drawn along straight lines of longitude.

Solution 2.3

Method: Geometric boundaries

Worked steps

(a) relict boundary **B1**. (b) geometric boundary **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A boundary drawn before an area was heavily settled is

A subsequent

B antecedent

C superimposed

D relict

Solution 3.1

Method: Boundary types by history

A subsequent

B antecedent 

C superimposed

D relict

Worked steps

B. drawn before settlement = antecedent boundary.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A boundary marked on the ground with pillars and fences has been

- A** defined
- B** delimited
- C** demarcated
- D** administered

Solution 3.2

Method: From idea to line

- A defined
- B delimited
- C demarcated
- D administered



Worked steps

C. physically marking it on the ground is demarcation.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

Colonial powers drew a straight-line border across a region, splitting several cultural groups.

- (a) Name this boundary type.
- (b) Explain one problem it can cause.

Solution 3.3

Method: Geometric boundaries

Worked steps

(a) superimposed (and geometric) **B1**. (b) it divides cultural groups, causing conflict or instability **B1**.