

Past-paper walk-through

Defining Political Boundaries ■ 4.4

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 2 Q3
- 2024 Set 2 Q2

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 3

2025 Set 2 ■ Q3

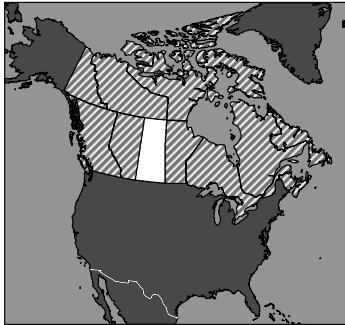
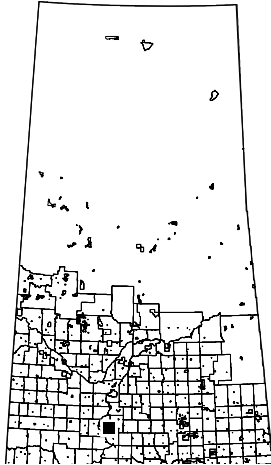
The two maps show political boundaries in Saskatchewan, Canada, and in Finland. Both Finland and Saskatchewan are home to populations of indigenous peoples with a significant amount of political autonomy. Finland is a member state of the European Union.

- (a)** Identify the scale of analysis used for Finland's political divisions in Map 2.
- (b)** Define geometric boundaries as shown in Map 1.
- (c)** Describe one function of internal boundaries.
- (d)** Explain how the spatial organization of a country such as Canada is affected by a federal system of governance.
- (e)** Explain how the supranational organization shown in Map 2 may limit the actions of Finland as a member state.

Question 3

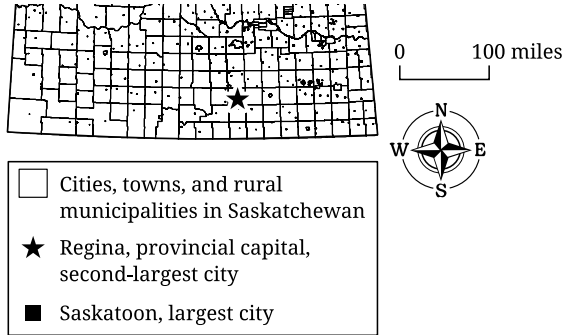
- (f)** Describe one characteristic of a cultural landscape that may reflect cultural beliefs and identities.
- (g)** Explain how communication technologies may affect the cultural patterns of indigenous languages.

Question 3



-  Saskatchewan
-  Other Canadian provinces and territories
-  Other countries

Question 3



Source: Statistics Canada

Question 3

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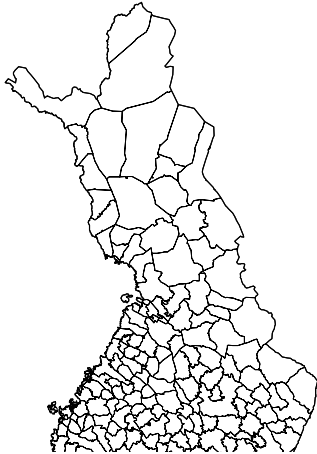
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AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2025 ▪ **FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

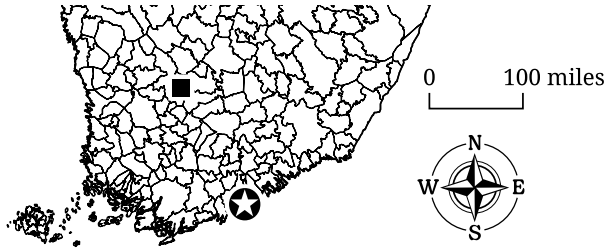
Map 2: Political Divisions in Finland

Question 3



- Finland
- Other European Union countries
- Other countries

Question 3



Solution 3

(a)

Mark scheme

- - Local scale (e.g., city, town, rural municipality) or subnational scale.

Solution 3

(b)

Mark scheme

- - Border lines on a map (two-dimensional plane) that are straight, angled, and/or curved to form a geometric shape (e.g., straight line, square, rectangle, circle, other polygons).
- - A boundary or border drawn based on lines of latitude and longitude, a grid system, and/or a township and range system (baselines and meridians).
- - Boundary lines drawn without regard to the physical or cultural landscape.

Solution 3

(c) Mark scheme

- - Internal boundaries define the limits of sovereignty or government control between one subnational region and another.
- - Internal boundaries delimit or unify different types of subnational regions (e.g., voting districts, states, provinces, territories, special administrative regions, autonomous zones).
- - Internal boundaries can unify or separate distinct ethnic, cultural, or national groups.

Solution 3

- - Internal boundaries can delineate, divide, or fragment zones of public infrastructure and/or local government (e.g., water districts, school districts, voting districts).
- - Internal boundaries can reflect, preserve, or reduce cultural, linguistic, or historical identities.
- - Internal boundaries can prevent, resolve, or exacerbate conflicts.
- - Internal boundaries can facilitate or hinder the collection or analysis of data.
- - Internal boundaries can facilitate or hinder the management, protection, or distribution of natural resources or ecosystems.

Solution 3

(d) Mark scheme

- - Federal systems of governance affect the spatial organization of a country by creating locally based, dispersed power centers (e.g., subnational state or provincial capitals).
- - Countries with a federal system of governance are typically organized into subnational units (e.g., autonomous regions, semiautonomous regions) and/or have regional capitals that may help reduce centrifugal forces and/or limit ethnic separatism.
- - Federal systems tend to divide large amounts of land area into subnational divisions that may be difficult to govern from a centralized or single capital.

Solution 3

- - Federal systems tend to divide multicultural countries into subnational divisions based on cultural differences (e.g., ethnic, religious, and/or linguistic diversity) that may be difficult to govern from a centralized or single capital.

Solution 3

(e) Mark scheme

- - The EU may enact international laws or policies that limit the economic actions of Finland or other member states (e.g., reducing or eliminating trade barriers, introducing a common currency, regulating industry).
- - The EU may implement international laws or policies that limit the political actions of Finland or other member states (e.g., requiring common border policies, observing elections, sharing a common foreign policy).
- - By joining the EU, Finland has agreed to allow the EU government to make laws and regulations on behalf of Finland and the other member states.

Solution 3

(f) Mark scheme

- - Art, music, toponyms, clothing, architecture, and/or evidence of sequent occupancy may indicate elements of a culture or cultures.
- - Religion, language, social institutions, and/or systems of governance may be based on a culture or cultures.
- - Land use, land survey patterns, agriculture, resource use (e.g., hunting, fishing, crafts), and/or trade may indicate the practices of a culture or cultures.
- - Foods, social interactions, holidays, and/or festivals are based on or have elements of a culture or cultures.

Solution 3

- - Attitudes towards ethnicity or gender (e.g., the role of women in the workforce) may help shape the use of space in a given society.

Solution 3

(g) Mark scheme

- - Communication technologies (e.g., the Internet) may encourage members of indigenous communities to adopt more commonly used languages (e.g., English), resulting in indigenous language loss.
- - Language loss may occur due to cultural convergence, which is accelerated by the use of communication technologies.
- - Communication technologies may increase the availability of indigenous language resources (e.g., via websites, apps, social media), resulting in language preservation.

Solution 3

- - Communication technologies may be used to increase awareness of indigenous identity issues, which may result in language preservation.
- - Limited access or cultural resistance (e.g., reliance on oral tradition) to communication technologies can restrict or prevent significant changes in the cultural patterns of indigenous languages.

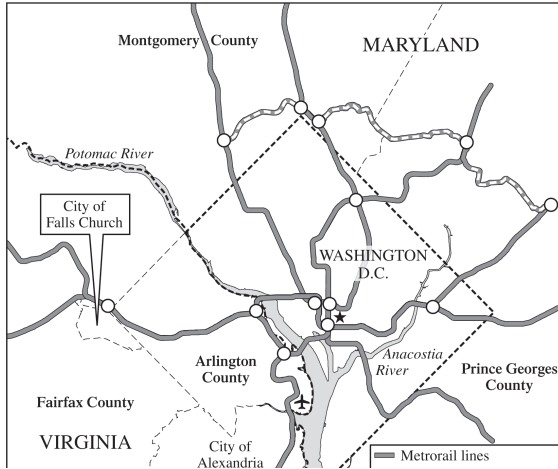
Question 2

2024 Set 2 ■ Q2

The map shows political jurisdictions and Metrorail, a subway system in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The city and county jurisdictions shown on the map operate the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs Metrorail.

(a) Identify ONE type of boundary shown on the map.

Question 2



Question 2



Question 2

2024 Set 2 ■ Q2

The map shows political jurisdictions and Metrorail, a subway system in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The city and county jurisdictions shown on the map operate the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs Metrorail.

(b) Describe ONE site characteristic of Washington, D.C., shown on the map.

Question 2

2024 Set 2 ■ Q2

The map shows political jurisdictions and Metrorail, a subway system in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The city and county jurisdictions shown on the map operate the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs Metrorail.

(c) Explain how political power is spatially distributed within a federal system of governance.

Question 2

2024 Set 2 ■ Q2

The map shows political jurisdictions and Metrorail, a subway system in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The city and county jurisdictions shown on the map operate the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs Metrorail.

(d) Explain ONE way suburban sprawl is likely to negatively affect environmental sustainability in metropolitan areas.

Question 2

2024 Set 2 ■ Q2

The map shows political jurisdictions and Metrorail, a subway system in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The city and county jurisdictions shown on the map operate the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs Metrorail.

(e) Describe ONE way transportation-oriented development, such as expanding a Metrorail line, may promote urban sustainability.

Question 2

2024 Set 2 ■ Q2

The map shows political jurisdictions and Metrorail, a subway system in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The city and county jurisdictions shown on the map operate the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs Metrorail.

(f) Explain how regional transportation networks led to the development of edge cities.

Question 2

2024 Set 2 ■ Q2

The map shows political jurisdictions and Metrorail, a subway system in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The city and county jurisdictions shown on the map operate the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs Metrorail.

(g) Explain how the geographic fragmentation of local governments could present a challenge to the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area's ability to construct a new Metrorail line. and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

Demographic Transition Model Demographic Data for Selected Countries, 2019

Country	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Population Over Age 65
Croatia	21%		
Estonia	20%		
Germany	22%		
Greece	22%		
Japan	28%		
Portugal	23%		
Romania	19%		

Source: World Bank

Solution 2

(a) Mark scheme

- - Political boundary (e.g., state, district, county)
- - Physical or natural boundary (e.g., the Potomac River)
- - Geometric boundary (e.g., District of Columbia, Arlington County)
- - Relict boundary (e.g., Arlington County was once part of the District of Columbia)
- - Superimposed boundary (e.g., District of Columbia)
- - Consequent boundary (e.g., Potomac River between the District of Columbia and Virginia)

Solution 2

- - Antecedent boundary (e.g., colonial-era boundaries)
- - Subsequent boundary (e.g., District of Columbia carved out of already existing Maryland and/or Virginia)

Solution 2

(b)

Mark scheme

- - Washington, D.C., is located along the Potomac River and/or the Anacostia River.
- - Washington, D.C., is at the confluence or intersection of the Potomac River and the Anacostia River.
- - Washington, D.C., is at the intersection of the coastal plain and the Piedmont (foothills) or on the fall line.
- - Washington, D.C., is located in an area with a tidal estuary, a peninsula, freshwater streams, wetlands, fertile soils, low-lying areas, and/or tidal flats.

Solution 2

(c)

Mark scheme

- - Power is dispersed or shared between the central, sub-national, and/or local governments.
- - Most federal systems have capital districts (e.g., Washington, D.C., Brasília) or locations (e.g., courts, military bases) where some government functions are centralized and also sub-national (state, provincial, departmental) capitals where local or regional political functions are dispersed.

Solution 2

(d) Mark scheme

- - Development related to sprawl (e.g., construction, transportation, utilities) can lead to increased air or water pollution.
- - Land cover change related to sprawl (e.g., deforestation) can lead to the loss or fragmentation of habitats, water pollution, and/or decreased biodiversity.
- - Expansion of transportation networks related to sprawl can lead to more pollution and/or warmer climates (e.g., traffic, congestion, urban heat islands, inefficient energy use).
- - Development related to sprawl can inhibit the use of land for local food production, open space, conservation, greenbelts, or preservation efforts.

Solution 2

(e) Mark scheme

- - By promoting walkability, livability, more efficient land use (e.g., fewer roadways, reduction in impermeable surfaces), and/or reductions in pollution.
- - By reducing the number of cars, resulting in decreased air and/or noise pollution.
- - By reducing the ecological footprint (e.g., reduced carbon footprint, reduced energy use) of the city.
- - Heavily trafficked and/or accessible transit stops may become places of mixed-use development.
- - Additional transit stops can reduce commuting distances or travel times to work and/or to other service locations.

Solution 2

- - Commuting can be more economically sustainable than car travel (e.g., cost of car ownership, fuel, maintenance, insurance, parking).

Solution 2

(f)

Mark scheme

- - Transportation enabled commercial land use to decentralize (move away) from city centers.
- - Edge cities formed near major highway intersections or transit stations because those developments needed to be accessible to workers and/or consumers.
- - By providing access to services or office locations for the people who live, work, and/or shop there.
- - Transportation provides access to lower-cost land away from the city center (bid rent theory).

Solution 2

(g) Mark scheme

- - Construction could be challenging because it would involve multiple governments to fund, plan, zone, and/or cooperate.
- - Local governments could disagree with the federal government about where to construct a new Metro line.
- - Construction could be challenging because parts of the new Metro line might not fall clearly under the jurisdiction of a specific government.
- - Having many competing ideas or authorities could make the planning process inefficient and/or make it difficult to determine accountability.

Solution 2

- - Local governments could disagree on how to share the costs of construction and/or operational costs of the rail system.
- - Local governments could disagree on the location of new stations because development around new Metro stations is a source of tax revenue and/or economic development.