

Exercise walk-through

Spatial Organization of Agriculture ■ 5.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- define **agribusiness** 农业综合企业 and the **commodity chain** 商品链
- explain **economies of scale** 规模经济 in farming
- define **monoculture** 单一栽培 and state a risk
- link large-scale farming to lower costs

Method — Agribusiness and commodity chains

Agribusiness is the large-scale, integrated business of farming — seeds, growing, processing, and selling. A **commodity chain** links every step from farm to consumer.

Method — Economies of scale

Large farms achieve **economies of scale**: producing in bulk lowers the cost per unit, so big commercial operations outcompete small ones.

Method — Monoculture

Monoculture grows a single crop over a large area. It is efficient but risky — one pest or price crash can devastate the whole harvest.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define agribusiness.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

the large-scale commercial business of agriculture **B1** integrating production, processing, and distribution **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain economies of scale in commercial farming.

Solution 2.2

Method: Economies of scale

Worked steps

producing in large quantities **B1** lowers the cost per unit of output **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A huge farm plants only one crop across all its land.

- (a) Name this practice.
- (b) State one risk it creates.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) monoculture **B1**. (b) a single pest, disease, or price crash can wipe out the whole harvest **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The full set of steps linking a farm product to the final consumer is a

A commodity chain

B relict boundary

C gravity model

D long-lot

Solution 3.1

Method: Agribusiness and commodity chains

A commodity chain



B relict boundary

C gravity model

D long-lot

Worked steps

A. farm-to-consumer steps = commodity chain.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Large farms can undercut small farms mainly because of

A higher costs per unit

B economies of scale

C monoculture risk

D distance decay

Solution 3.2

Method: Economies of scale

A higher costs per unit

B economies of scale 

C monoculture risk

D distance decay

Worked steps

B. bulk production lowers cost per unit = economies of scale.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

An agribusiness controls seeds, farming, processing, and shipping.

- (a) State one advantage of this integration.
- (b) State one concern for small independent farmers.

Solution 3.3

Method: Agribusiness and commodity chains

Worked steps

(a) lower costs / control of the whole chain / reliable supply **B1**. (b) they cannot compete on price and may be squeezed out **B1**.