

Past-paper walk-through

Economic Sectors and Patterns ■ 7.2

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 2 Q2
- 2024 Set 1 Q1
- 2023 Set 1 Q3

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.

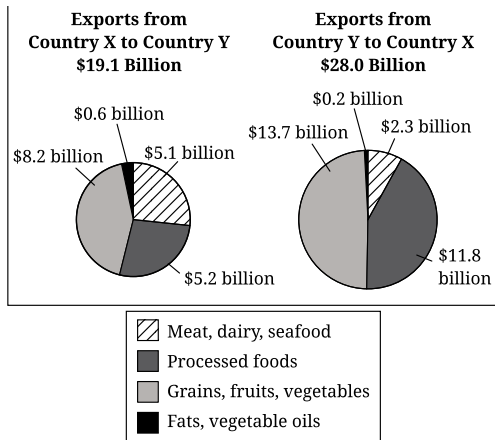
Question 2

2025 Set 2 ■ Q2

Country X and Country Y have a long-established trade relationship in agricultural products. Country X is a developed country, and Country Y is a developing country.

(a) Using the data in the charts, identify the largest food export category between the two countries.

Question 2



Question 2

2025 Set 2 ■ Q2

Country X and Country Y have a long-established trade relationship in agricultural products. Country X is a developed country, and Country Y is a developing country.

(b) Using the data in the charts, describe the difference between the two countries in the meat, dairy, and seafood category.

Question 2

2025 Set 2 ■ Q2

Country X and Country Y have a long-established trade relationship in agricultural products. Country X is a developed country, and Country Y is a developing country.

(c) Define the concept of comparative advantage.

Question 2

2025 Set 2 ■ Q2

Country X and Country Y have a long-established trade relationship in agricultural products. Country X is a developed country, and Country Y is a developing country.

(d) Describe one effect of Green Revolution technologies on food supplies in developing countries.

Question 2

2025 Set 2 ■ Q2

Country X and Country Y have a long-established trade relationship in agricultural products. Country X is a developed country, and Country Y is a developing country.

(e) Explain how advances in agricultural technology may increase the carrying capacity of land.

Question 2

2025 Set 2 ■ Q2

Country X and Country Y have a long-established trade relationship in agricultural products. Country X is a developed country, and Country Y is a developing country.

(f) Explain the degree to which the economies of Country X and Country Y are interdependent. (Response must indicate the degree [low, moderate, high] and provide an explanation.)

Question 2

2025 Set 2 ■ Q2

Country X and Country Y have a long-established trade relationship in agricultural products. Country X is a developed country, and Country Y is a developing country.

(g) Explain how the charts provide limited information about economic development.

5 Map 1: Political Divisions in Saskatchewan, Canada Source: Statistics Canada 6

Map 2: Political Divisions in Finland Source: ESRI Data Partners 7

Solution 2

(a)

Mark scheme

- - Grains, fruits, vegetables.

Solution 2

(b)

Mark scheme

- - The amount of exports or trade from Country X is larger.
- - The amount of exports or trade from Country Y is smaller.
- ■ Exports or trade from Country X is
5.1 billion, while exports or trade from Country Y is 2.3 billion.
- - The amount of exports or trade from Country X is approximately twice as much as exports or trade from Country Y.

Solution 2

(c)

Mark scheme

- - Comparative advantage describes a situation in which an individual, business, or country can produce a good or service more efficiently and/or at a lower opportunity cost than another producer.
- - Comparative advantage occurs when countries choose to specialize in producing goods or services that they can produce more efficiently, effectively, and/or that have a lower opportunity cost.

Solution 2

(d) Mark scheme

- - Green Revolution technologies (e.g., high-yield seeds, increased use of chemicals, mechanized farming) increased food supplies.
- - Green Revolution technologies increased the amount of farm production and/or the agricultural yield of food crops and/or animals.
- - Pesticide use led to pesticide resistance in some species, decreasing food production.
- - Irrigation and/or the use of mechanized equipment led to soil erosion and/or loss of soil fertility, decreasing food production.

Solution 2

- - Monocropping, mechanization, and/or the decrease in smaller farms changed the types of food produced and/or affected food supplies.

Solution 2

(e) Mark scheme

- - Advances in agricultural chemicals (e.g., fertilizers, pesticides) may allow an area of land to produce more resources and support a larger population.
- - Carrying capacity may increase through mechanization (e.g., tractors, vehicles, irrigation, processing equipment), which may allow an area of land to produce more resources and support a larger population.
- - Carrying capacity may increase through the use of high-yield seeds, which may allow an area of land to produce more resources and support a larger population.

Solution 2

- - Carrying capacity may increase if agricultural technology is used to bring areas with low population density into agricultural production leading to higher population density.
- - Carrying capacity may increase through the use of agricultural technology (e.g., precision agriculture, GPS) that improves growing conditions or optimizes agricultural practices, leading to the production of more food and the ability to support a larger population.

Solution 2

(f) Mark scheme

- To earn the point, state a DEGREE (high, moderate, or low) to which the economies of Country X and Country Y are interdependent AND support it with a valid justification.
- For a HIGH degree (interdependent):
 - - The two are highly interdependent given the billions of dollars of agricultural trade between them.
 - - Both depend on one or more export commodities traded with each other, and/or agriculture is an economic strategy for both.

Solution 2

- - Their agricultural trade is part of the global supply chain / food distribution network linking producers and consumers.
- For a MODERATE or LOW degree (not strongly interdependent):
- - Agricultural trade between them may be small compared with trade in other sectors (e.g., manufacturing, services).
- - The agricultural trade data alone do not show interdependence, because agriculture is only a portion of total trade in all goods and services.

Solution 2

(g) Mark scheme

- - The charts provide data for only one sector of the economy and/or do not include other measures of social and/or economic development (e.g., GDP, GNP, GNI per capita, sectoral structure, population data).
- - Export data indicate the production of goods for international trade but not the production of goods for the domestic economy.
- - Export data do not include non-food products (e.g., cotton) which contribute to economic development.

Solution 2

- - The charts do not have a temporal or spatial dimension (e.g., a year, timeframe, variation by different areas) which is essential for understanding trends or making comparisons (e.g., uneven development).
- - The charts show that Country Y has higher agricultural exports than Country X, but the charts do not show that Country X has a more developed economy.

Question 1

2024 Set 1 ■ Q1

The availability of food in the context of a growing world population is influenced by many social, environmental, and economic factors.

(a) Define the concept of carrying capacity.

Question 1

2024 Set 1 ■ Q1

The availability of food in the context of a growing world population is influenced by many social, environmental, and economic factors.

(b) Describe ONE way that humans have altered the environmental sustainability of agricultural lands.

Question 1

2024 Set 1 ■ Q1

The availability of food in the context of a growing world population is influenced by many social, environmental, and economic factors.

(c) Explain how transportation technology has increased economies of scale in the agricultural sector of less developed countries.

Question 1

2024 Set 1 ■ Q1

The availability of food in the context of a growing world population is influenced by many social, environmental, and economic factors.

(d) Explain a likely negative economic outcome of Green Revolution agricultural practices on rural communities.

Question 1

2024 Set 1 ■ Q1

The availability of food in the context of a growing world population is influenced by many social, environmental, and economic factors.

(e) Explain ONE weakness of Malthusian theory in predicting the relationship between food production and population growth in contemporary society.

Question 1

2024 Set 1 ■ Q1

The availability of food in the context of a growing world population is influenced by many social, environmental, and economic factors.

(f) Explain how surplus food production has changed the global market for local agricultural products.

Question 1

2024 Set 1 ■ Q1

The availability of food in the context of a growing world population is influenced by many social, environmental, and economic factors.

(g) Explain the degree to which Green Revolution agricultural practices were effective in reducing hunger in less developed countries. (Response must indicate the degree [low, moderate, high] and provide an explanation.) and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number. Selected Asian Ethnic Neighborhoods in Los Angeles County, California Source: United States Census Bureau

Solution 1

(a)

Mark scheme

- - The number of people a particular place, area, and/or the Earth can support.
- - Population size, distribution, and/or density affects how many people the environment and its natural resources can support.
- - The number of living organisms that an area or habitat can support without environmental degradation.
- - Changes in population density and/or population distribution may affect the capacity of the environment to meet the population's needs.

Solution 1

(b) Mark scheme

- Accept ONE way (either a decrease OR an increase in environmental sustainability).
- Decreased environmental sustainability:
 - - Overuse of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and/or herbicides that harm ecosystems (water, air, soil) and/or increase pollution.
 - - Overuse of resources (e.g., water, air), reducing productivity.
 - - Overuse, erosion, or nutrient depletion of soil, reducing productivity.
 - - Overuse of irrigation, depleting water resources, reducing soil nutrients (via runoff), or contributing to soil salinization.

Solution 1

- - Agricultural practices (e.g., monocropping, commercial agriculture, high-yield seeds, GMOs, biotechnology) that reduce biodiversity and/or deplete soil nutrients.
- Increased environmental sustainability:
- - Improved management of farm resources (water, soil, fertilizers, pesticides) that helps ecosystems.
- - Use of organic agricultural practices, including natural fertilizers, pesticides, and/or herbicides.
- - Restoration of environmentally damaged areas through sustainable agricultural practices.

Solution 1

- - Crop rotation that supports soil health/fertility and/or avoids large-scale environmental damage.
- - Decreased irrigation and/or extraction of water from aquifers or groundwater.
- - Conservation of farmland (e.g., fallowing, erosion control) and/or local resources (water supplies, native species).

Solution 1

(c) Mark scheme

- - Trucks, trains, and/or shipping containers can move large and/or larger quantities of crops, increasing production and/or consumption.
- - Farm machinery (e.g., tractors, harvesters) has helped reduce the amount of human labor and/or increased the amount of production.
- - Farm machinery has allowed farms to increase the amount of farmland with reduced labor costs and/or improved efficiency.
- - Chemical herbicides, pesticides, and/or fertilizers applied by transportation technology (e.g., tractor, airplane) have reduced labor and/or increased crop yields.

Solution 1

- - Airplanes and/or ships are used to transport perishable products (e.g., flowers, fruits, vegetables), increasing their sales in other markets.

Solution 1

(d) Mark scheme

- - Pollution of water, air, and/or soil resources harms economic productivity or livelihoods.
- - Smaller farms may close, and/or farmers may sell land because they cannot compete with larger farms that can afford Green Revolution technologies.
- - Loss of agricultural jobs and/or loss of access to farmland may result in loss of income or migration (e.g., rural-to-urban).
- - Expensive farm inputs (e.g., high-yield seeds, agricultural chemicals, fossil fuels) increase the cost of agricultural production and/or reduce profits for farms.

Solution 1

- - Changes in land ownership (tenure), land use patterns, and/or agriculture-related jobs may economically disadvantage subsistence farmers.

Solution 1

(e) Mark scheme

- - Population growth has not outpaced food production, and/or populations have not run out of food.
- - Malthusian theory did not consider changing social, political, and/or economic factors that decrease fertility.
- - Improvements in agricultural technology (e.g., mechanization, Green Revolution) increased food production at a rate that outpaced population growth.
- - Advances in transportation have improved the global distribution of food.

Solution 1

- - The challenges of feeding the world's population have led to the opening of new agricultural lands or the development of new technologies that overcome the constraints of the environment and/or produce more food.
- - Farmers learned to farm more intensively with new agricultural practices and/or technologies to increase yields, increase carrying capacity, or increase the amount of cultivated land.
- - Growing populations have more resources to problem-solve and/or develop new methods of increasing food supplies.
- - Growing populations can move to areas with food surpluses or move away from areas of food insecurity.

Solution 1

(f) Mark scheme

- - Consumption patterns, changed diets, and/or increased popularity of certain foods (e.g., local foods, seasonal crops, specialty crops) have expanded the global sales of these foods.
- - Surplus food drives global prices down, resulting in less expensive items, higher sales or exports, and/or increased competition with other goods.
- - Increasing global sales of popular crops can increase local farm profitability, increase local investment, and increase or decrease the number or type of local products for sale (e.g., value-added products, value-added specialty crops).

Solution 1

(g) Mark scheme

- To earn the point, state a DEGREE (high, moderate, or low) to which the Green Revolution was successful in providing food AND support it with a valid justification.
- For a HIGH degree (successful):
 - - Food production increased due to high-yield seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, and/or mechanization.
 - - Crop surpluses reduced food prices, making food more accessible and/or affordable.
 - - More agricultural land came under cultivation, increasing food production.

Solution 1

- For a MODERATE or LOW degree (limited success):
 - - Green Revolution inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, high-yield seeds, irrigation, mechanization) were too expensive for many farmers, resulting in fewer farms and/or lower yields.
 - - Irrigation systems led to soil salinization, reducing food production.
 - - Inputs (chemicals, fossil fuels) and/or land-management techniques caused environmental degradation and/or abandonment of productive land, decreasing food production.

Question 3

2023 Set 1 ■ Q3

Two stimuli.

Stimulus 1 (map): MAJOR MEDICAL AND BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE BOSTON AND PROVIDENCE REGION. An inset map shows the downtown areas of Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts, with numerous medical and biotechnology companies and institutions clustered together along the Charles River and arterial routes. Source: National Institutes of Health.

Stimulus 2 (table): SELECTED TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD.

Category	Product or Service
Biotechnology	Genetic engineering research; Biochemistry research; Diagnostic and testing science
Gene therapies	Cancer treatments; Neurological treatments; Rare and genetic disease treatments; Antiviral treatments and vaccines (e.g., Moderna)

Question 3

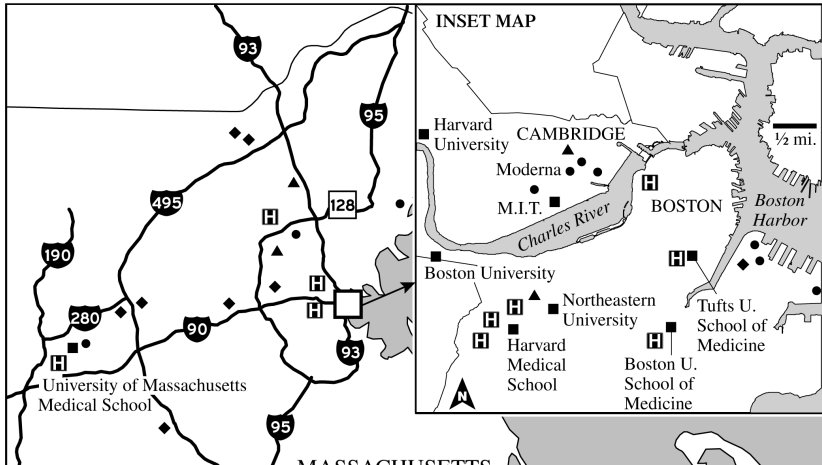
Since the 1980s, the northeastern United States has developed into a major global center of high-technology industry that specializes in the medical field.

- (a) Describe the spatial pattern of the companies and institutions shown in the inset map.
- (b) Describe the concept of a growth pole.
- (c) Explain ONE way education infrastructure affects a region's potential for high-technology development.
- (d) Explain how the pattern shown on the map resembles the galactic city model.
- (e) Explain ONE way local economic changes may be a result of deindustrialization.
- (f) Explain how the products and services listed in the table demonstrate that this economy has moved into the quaternary sector.

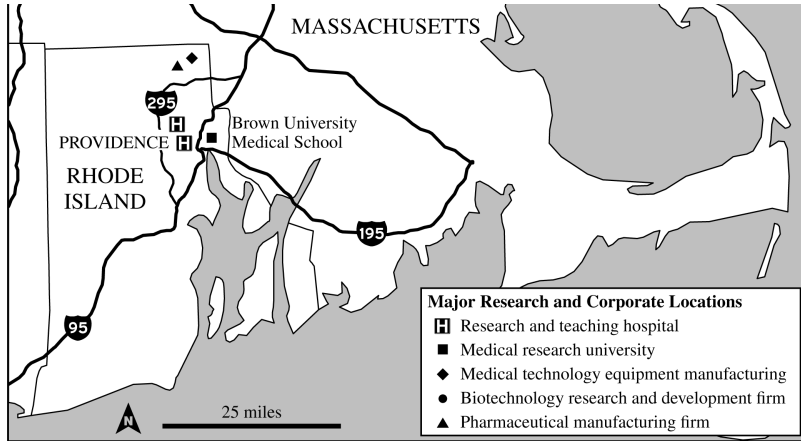
Question 3

(g) The map focuses on a regional scale. Explain a possible limitation of drawing country scale conclusions from a regional scale map.

Question 3



Question 3



Source: National Institutes of Health

Solution 3

(a)

Mark scheme

- Describe the spatial pattern on the inset map (1 point) — accept any: agglomeration of similar economic activities; clustering/concentration of similar activities; concentration along transportation routes (rivers, arterial roads); a concentration of similar economic activities within a metropolitan area in Massachusetts.

Solution 3

(b)

Mark scheme

- Describe a growth pole (1 point) — accept any: a location where research, development, and/or innovation generates new products or services; an institution (university, hospital, laboratory) whose discoveries/inventions create new economic opportunities; an area where new businesses start up or locate to join an emerging market or attract investment; an area attracting businesses seeking a specialized/educated labor pool; an area designated by government to facilitate economic activity for a specific purpose.

Solution 3

(c) Mark scheme

- Explain ONE way education infrastructure affects high-technology potential (1 point) — accept any: graduates who stay in the region promote development, create innovative products, and provide wealth for investment; educational institutions build a specialized labor force that attracts high-tech firms/investors; institutions sponsor research yielding new products/services, value, investment, and employment; public investment in specialized training/infrastructure (positive), or, conversely, lack of educational infrastructure hurts potential by leaving no highly educated/specialized workforce or sponsored research.

Solution 3

(d)

Mark scheme

- Explain resemblance to the galactic city (peripheral) model (1 point) — accept any: multiple development centers (edge cities, CBDs, suburban CBDs) based on specialized products/services; a decentralized pattern of business spread across the region; a circumferential/circular/radial highway pattern typical of a galactic city; several highway intersections serving as nodes for new business districts or development centers.

Solution 3

(e) Mark scheme

- Explain ONE local economic change from deindustrialization (1 point) — accept any: a shift from a manufacturing/secondary economy to a service/technology (tertiary, quaternary, or quinary) economy; outsourcing of manufacturing abroad causing declining local employment or rising unemployment; increased CBD unemployment, declining investment, or falling real-estate values from lost manufacturing firms/jobs; increased use of post-Fordist methods (specialized firms, just-in-time supply chains, flexible production); falling GNI per capita or rising unemployment/underemployment as workers lose manufacturing jobs.

Solution 3

(f)

Mark scheme

- Explain how the listed products/services show a quaternary economy (1 point): the biotechnology and gene-therapy research, development, and information/knowledge-based services listed (genetic engineering research, biochemistry research, diagnostic science, R&D of treatments and vaccines) are knowledge-, information-, and research-intensive activities that define the quaternary sector, rather than the extraction (primary), manufacturing (secondary), or routine service (tertiary) sectors.

Solution 3

(g)

Mark scheme

- Explain a limitation of drawing country-scale conclusions from a regional-scale map (1 point): the map shows only one region (a metropolitan area of Massachusetts), so its pattern is not representative of the whole country — other regions may have different or no such clustering, so generalizing the regional agglomeration to the national scale would be inaccurate. Changing the scale of analysis changes the pattern observed and the conclusions drawn.