

1.7 Regional Analysis

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 11 marks**

KEY WORDS formal 正式区域 • perceptual 感知区域 • functional 功能区域 • regions 区域
• formal (uniform) region 均质区域

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **regions** 区域 and regional analysis.

You must be able to:

- distinguish **formal** 正式区域, **functional** 功能区域, and **perceptual** 感知区域 regions
- give an example of each region type
- explain that regions are defined by people for a purpose
- recognise that regional boundaries can overlap and change

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Formal (uniform) region

A **formal region** shares a measurable trait throughout — a country, a climate zone, or an area where one language is official.

■ Functional (nodal) region

A **functional region** is organised around a node/focal point — a city’s commuter zone, a pizza delivery area, or a newspaper’s circulation area.

■ Perceptual (vernacular) region

A **perceptual region** exists in people’s minds, based on feelings and identity — ‘the South’, ‘the Middle East’ — with fuzzy, disputed borders.

2 Practice

2.1 Define a functional region and give one example. [2]

2.2 State one difference between a formal and a perceptual region. [2]

2.3 Classify each region type.

- (a) A country where French is the official language. [1]
- (b) The area served by one airport. [1]
- (c) ‘The Sunbelt’ as people imagine it. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A metropolitan area defined by its commuter flows to a downtown is a [1]

- **A** formal region
- **B** functional region
- **C** perceptual region
- **D** map projection

3.2 A climate zone where the same temperature and rainfall pattern occurs throughout is a [1]

- **A** functional region
- **B** formal region
- **C** perceptual region
- **D** cartogram

3.3 People argue about exactly where ‘the Midwest’ begins and ends.

- (a) What type of region is ‘the Midwest’? [1]
- (b) Explain why its boundaries are disputed. [1]

Solutions

2.1 an area organised around a central node; e.g. a city's commuter zone / a delivery area.

2.2 a formal region shares a measurable common trait; a perceptual region is based on people's feelings/identity, with fuzzy borders.

2.3 (a) formal. (b) functional. (c) perceptual/vernacular.

3.1 B. organised around a node (downtown) by flows = functional region.

3.2 B. a shared, measurable trait throughout = formal region.

3.3 (a) perceptual/vernacular region. (b) it is based on people's differing mental images/identity, not a fixed measurable line.