

# 3.5 Historical Causes of Diffusion

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 10 marks**

**KEY WORDS** trade 贸易 • colonialism 殖民主义 • imperialism 帝国主义  
• historical causes of diffusion 历史传播原因 • diffusion 扩散

## Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **historical causes of diffusion** 历史传播原因.

You must be able to:

- explain how **colonialism** 殖民主义 and **imperialism** 帝国主义 spread culture
- explain how **trade** 贸易 routes diffused ideas
- explain how historical migration diffused language and religion
- give one lasting effect of historical diffusion

## 1 Worked examples

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

### ■ Colonialism and imperialism

**Colonialism** and **imperialism** imposed a ruling culture's language, religion, and institutions on distant territories — often lasting long after the empire ended.

### ■ Trade routes

Trade routes such as the Silk Road diffused goods, religions, technologies, and languages between distant regions over centuries.

### ■ Lasting effects

Historical diffusion explains why languages like English, Spanish, and French, and major religions, are spoken and practised far from where they began.

## 2 Practice

**2.1** Explain how colonialism spread language across the world. [2]

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**2.2** State one way trade routes historically caused diffusion. [2]

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**2.3** A country far from Europe has a European language as an official language.

(a) State the most likely historical cause. [1]

(b) Name the diffusion type involved when settlers brought the language. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** The spread of a major world religion along ancient trade routes is an example of [1]

- **A** historical diffusion
- **B** time-space compression
- **C** carrying capacity
- **D** a relict boundary

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**3.2** Colonial languages remaining official long after independence shows that diffusion can have [1]

- **A** no lasting effects
- **B** long-lasting cultural effects
- **C** only economic effects
- **D** reversed itself

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**3.3** Two distant continents share a common religion introduced centuries ago.

(a) Give one historical process that could explain this. [1]

(b) Explain why the effect still shows today. [1]

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## Solutions

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**2.1** colonial powers imposed their language on administration/education; it remained widely spoken after independence.

**2.2** merchants carried goods and ideas along routes; religions/technologies/languages spread between regions.

**2.3** (a) colonialism/imperialism. (b) relocation diffusion.

**3.1 A.** spread along historic trade routes is historical diffusion.

**3.2 B.** colonial-era language persistence shows lasting cultural effects.

**3.3** (a) colonialism, missionary activity, or trade. (b) religion, once adopted, is passed down and embedded in culture.