

3.7 Diffusion of Religion and Language

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 10 marks**

KEY WORDS pidgin 皮钦语 • lingua franca 通用语 • creole 克里奥尔语 • dialect 方言
• language family 语系

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **diffusion of religion and language** 宗教与语言的传播.

You must be able to:

- explain how universalizing religions diffuse
- define a **language family** 语系 and **lingua franca** 通用语
- distinguish a **pidgin** 皮钦语 from a **creole** 克里奥尔语
- explain how a **dialect** 方言 forms

1 Worked examples

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

■ Religion’s diffusion

Universalizing religions spread by **relocation** (migration) and **expansion** (missionaries, conversion), producing large, scattered communities of believers.

■ Language families and lingua franca

A **language family** groups languages from a common ancestor (e.g. Indo-European). A **lingua franca** is a common language people adopt to communicate across groups (e.g. English in business).

■ Pidgin, creole, dialect

A **pidgin** is a simplified mix used for trade; when children grow up speaking it as a first language it becomes a **creole**. A **dialect** is a regional variety of one language.

2 Practice

2.1 Define a lingua franca and give one example. [2]

2.2 State the difference between a pidgin and a creole. [2]

2.3 English, German, and Hindi share an ancient common ancestor.
(a) What are such related languages called together? [1]

(b) Name one way English diffused to become a global lingua franca. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A regional variety of a language with its own accent and words is a [1]

- **A** lingua franca
- **B** dialect
- **C** pidgin
- **D** language family

3.2 Missionaries converting people in distant lands spread religion mainly by [1]

- **A** relict boundaries
- **B** expansion diffusion
- **C** distance decay
- **D** carrying capacity

3.3 Traders from different language groups develop a simple shared speech.

(a) Name this simplified language. [1]

(b) Explain what it becomes if the next generation speaks it as a mother tongue. [1]

Solutions

2.1 a common language adopted for communication between speakers of different languages; e.g. English in international business.

2.2 a pidgin is a simplified contact language for trade; a creole is a pidgin that has become a community's native first language.

2.3 (a) a language family (Indo-European). (b) colonialism / trade / global media and business.

3.1 B. a regional variety of one language is a dialect.

3.2 B. conversion outward from a source is expansion diffusion.

3.3 (a) a pidgin. (b) a creole — a fully developed native language.