

4.5 The Function of Political Boundaries

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **function of boundaries** 边界的功能 and boundary disputes.

You must be able to:

- explain how boundaries organize voting and territory
- define **redistricting** 重新划分选区 and **gerrymandering** 不公正划分选区
- distinguish **definitional** 定义性, **locational** 位置性, **operational** 运作性, and **allocational** 分配性 disputes
- identify a dispute type from a description

1 Worked examples

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

■ Boundaries and voting

Internal boundaries divide a country into voting districts. **Redistricting** redraws them as population shifts. **Gerrymandering** draws them unfairly to favour one party.

■ Types of boundary disputes

Definitional: disagree over the treaty's wording. **Locational:** disagree over where the line actually is. **Operational:** disagree over how it is run (e.g. crossing). **Allocational:** disagree over resources (oil, water) beneath or across it.

■ Identifying disputes

Ask what the argument is about: the document (definitional), the exact position (locational), management (operational), or resources (allocational).

2 Practice

2.1 Define gerrymandering.

[2]

2.2 State what an allocational boundary dispute is about. [2]

2.3 Two states agree where their border is but argue over the oil field beneath it.

(a) Name this dispute type. [1]

(b) Name the dispute type if instead they argued over the treaty's exact wording. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Redrawing district lines to favour one political party is [1]

- **A** redistricting
 - **B** gerrymandering
 - **C** devolution
 - **D** demarcation
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3.2 Two countries dispute exactly where a river boundary lies after the river shifted. This is a [1]

- **A** definitional dispute
 - **B** locational dispute
 - **C** operational dispute
 - **D** allocational dispute
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3.3 Neighbours disagree over how a shared border crossing should be managed and policed.

(a) Name this dispute type. [1]

(b) Explain how it differs from an allocational dispute. [1]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.5 The Function of Political Boundaries** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Political Patterns and Processes** section of the AP Human Geography handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 drawing electoral district boundaries unfairly to give one party or group an advantage.

2.2 a disagreement over resources such as oil, gas, or water that cross or lie beneath the boundary.

2.3 (a) allocational. (b) definitional.

3.1 B. unfair redrawing to favour a party is gerrymandering.

3.2 B. disagreement over the line's position = locational dispute.

3.3 (a) operational dispute. (b) operational is about running/managing the border; allocational is about resources.