

4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **devolution** 权力下放 and its causes.

You must be able to:

- define **devolution** 权力下放
- explain how physical geography can drive devolution
- explain how ethnic and economic differences drive devolution
- define **irredentism** 收复失地主义

1 Worked examples

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

■ Devolution

Devolution is the transfer of power from a central government to regional or local governments, often to satisfy groups seeking more control.

■ Physical and ethnic factors

Physical geography (islands, mountains far from the capital) and strong **ethnic or cultural differences** in a region push for devolution or independence.

■ Economic factors and irredentism

A region that feels it is unfairly rich or poor may seek self-rule. **Irredentism** is a state's claim to territory in another state where its people live.

2 Practice

2.1 Define devolution. [2]

2.2 Explain how physical geography can encourage devolution. [2]

2.3 A region with its own language and a distant island location seeks more self-government.

(a) Name two devolutionary factors at work. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The transfer of powers from a national to a regional government is [1]

- **A** supranationalism
 - **B** devolution
 - **C** gerrymandering
 - **D** colonialism
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3.2 A state's claim to a neighbouring area where its ethnic kin live is [1]

- **A** irredentism
 - **B** devolution
 - **C** federalism
 - **D** neocolonialism
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3.3 A resource-rich region feels its wealth is taken by the central government.

(a) State the type of devolutionary factor. [1]

(b) Explain how it can lead to demands for autonomy. [1]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors** 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 the transfer of political power from the central government to regional/local governments.

2.2 remote regions (islands, mountains) are hard to govern centrally; distance/isolation strengthens local identity and calls for self-rule.

2.3 (a) ethnic/cultural difference (own language) and physical geography (distant island).

3.1 B. national-to-regional power transfer = devolution.

3.2 A. claiming kin-populated land abroad = irredentism.

3.3 (a) economic. (b) the region may want to keep its wealth, fuelling calls for self-rule or independence.