

5.1 Introduction to Agriculture

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **agriculture** 农业 and physical geography.

You must be able to:

- explain how climate and soil shape what can be farmed
- distinguish **intensive** 集约农业 from **extensive agriculture** 粗放农业
- distinguish **subsistence** 自给农业 from **commercial agriculture** 商品农业
- link an example to its type

1 Worked examples

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

■ Physical limits on farming

Climate, soil, water, and landforms decide what crops or animals an area can support —rice needs warmth and water; wheat suits cooler drier plains.

■ Intensive vs extensive

Intensive agriculture uses much labour or capital on a small area for high output. **Extensive agriculture** uses little input over a large area (ranching).

■ Subsistence vs commercial

Subsistence farming feeds the farmer's family. **Commercial** farming produces crops/animals to sell for profit.

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between intensive and extensive agriculture. [2]

2.2 Explain how climate limits the crops a region can grow. [2]

2.3 A family grows just enough food to feed itself on a small plot.

(a) Is this subsistence or commercial farming? [1]

(b) Is it more likely intensive or extensive? Explain. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Cattle ranching on huge areas of dry grassland is best described as [1]

- **A** intensive subsistence
 - **B** extensive commercial
 - **C** intensive commercial
 - **D** plantation
-

3.2 The main physical factor limiting agriculture in a cold, dry region is its [1]

- **A** relative location
 - **B** climate
 - **C** sex ratio
 - **D** toponym
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3.3 A farmer sells all his produce to a national supermarket chain.

(a) Name this type of agriculture. [1]

(b) State one physical factor he must still consider. [1]

4 Go further

- work through the **5.1 Introduction to Agriculture** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Agriculture and Rural Land-Use** section of the AP Human Geography handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 intensive = high input (labour/capital) on a small area; extensive = low input over a large area.

2.2 each crop needs certain temperature/rainfall; a region can only grow crops suited to its climate.

2.3 (a) subsistence. (b) intensive —much labour on a small plot for maximum food.

3.1 B. low input over a vast area, for sale = extensive commercial.

3.2 B. climate limits what can grow.

3.3 (a) commercial agriculture. (b) climate/soil/water suited to his crop.