

# 1.6 Scales of Analysis

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

**KEY WORDS** national 国家 • scale of analysis 分析尺度 • global 全球 • region 区域 • local 地方

## Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **scales of analysis** 分析尺度.

You must be able to:

- list scales of analysis: **global** 全球, **regional** 区域, **national** 国家, **local** 地方
- explain how the scale chosen changes what a pattern shows
- distinguish scale of analysis from map scale
- explain how **aggregation** 聚合 of data hides local variation

## 1 Worked examples

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

### ■ Scales of analysis

Data can be studied at **global**, **regional**, **national**, or **local** scale. The scale you choose changes the conclusions you can draw.

### ■ Scale changes the story

A country may look wealthy at the **national** scale, yet at the **local** scale hide poor neighbourhoods. Zooming in reveals variation the national average hides.

### ■ Scale of analysis vs map scale

**Scale of analysis** = the level (local...global) you study data at. **Map scale** = the ratio of map distance to real distance. They are different ideas.

## 2 Practice

2.1 List the four common scales of analysis from smallest to largest. [2]

2.2 Explain how national-scale data can hide a local pattern. [2]

2.3 A map shows average income by country.

(a) State the scale of analysis. [1]

(b) State one thing this scale cannot show. [1]

## 3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Studying voting results street by street in one town uses a [1]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** global scale  
**B** local scale  
**C** national scale  
**D** map projection

3.2 Combining many small areas into one large-area statistic is called [1]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** aggregation  
**B** diffusion  
**C** distance decay  
**D** projection

3.3 A country's literacy rate is 95%.

(a) What scale of analysis is this figure? [1]

(b) Explain why a regional government might still find low-literacy areas. [1]