

4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS devolution 权力下放 • irredentism 收复失地主义 • autonomy 自治 • state 国家
• nation 民族

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	B
C	D

A supranationalism

B devolution

C gerrymandering

D colonialism

3.2 A state's claim to a neighbouring area where its ethnic kin live is [1]

A	B
C	D

A irredentism

B devolution

C federalism

D neocolonialism

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]
