

1 Regions, site and situation – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary 词汇

Write each word three times. 把每个单词抄写三遍。

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)		
region	区域	_____	_____	_____
formal region	正式区	_____	_____	_____
functional region	功能区	_____	_____	_____
vernacular region	感知区	_____	_____	_____
Site	场所特征	_____	_____	_____
Situation	相对位置	_____	_____	_____
Absolute location	绝对位置	_____	_____	_____
Relative location	相对位置	_____	_____	_____
GIS	地理信息系统	_____	_____	_____
GPS	全球定位系统	_____	_____	_____
Remote sensing	遥感	_____	_____	_____
census	人口普查	_____	_____	_____
Environmental determinism	环境决定论	_____	_____	_____
Possibilism	或然论	_____	_____	_____

Recall

From Part 1 you can now name map types, projections, and the three spatial terms — density, concentration and pattern.

This sheet covers the rest of Unit 1: how geographers divide the world into regions, and where their data comes from.

New ideas

■ 1 Three kinds of region

A **region** 区域 is an area defined by one or more shared characteristics. There are exactly three types and the exam expects you to name which one you mean.

A **formal region** 正式区 shares a measurable trait —a country, a wheat belt, an area where more than half the people speak French. A **functional region** 功能区 is organised around a node and its surrounding area: a pizza delivery zone, a newspaper circulation area, an airport's catchment. A **perceptual** or **vernacular region** 感知区 exists in people's minds —"the Midwest", "the South" —with no agreed boundary.

■ 2 Site and situation

Site 场所特征 is what a place is physically like: its land, water, climate, soil. **Situation** 相对位置 is where it sits relative to other places —its connections, its accessibility.

Singapore has an unremarkable site (a small, hot, resource-poor island) and an extraordinary situation (astride the Strait of Malacca), which is why it is wealthy. Naming which one explains a place is a common exam task.

■ 3 Absolute and relative

Absolute location 绝对位置 is a fixed coordinate: 1.35° N, 103.82° E. **Relative location** 相对位置 describes a place by reference to others: "at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula".

The same split applies to distance and direction —absolute distance is measured in kilometres, relative distance in travel time, cost or effort.

■ 4 Where the data comes from

Geographers now work mostly with digital data. **GIS** 地理信息系统 (Geographic Information System) stores layers of spatial data and analyses relationships between them. **GPS** 全球定位系统 gives absolute location from satellites. **Remote sensing** 遥感 collects data about the surface from satellites or aircraft without touching it.

Non-digital sources still matter: a national **census** 人口普查, field observation, interviews, and travel narratives.

■ 5 Environmental determinism and possibilism

Environmental determinism 环境决定论 claimed the physical environment decides how a society develops. It was used to justify colonialism and is rejected today.

Possibilism 或然论 replaced it: the environment sets limits, but people choose among the possibilities within them—which is why two societies in similar environments develop differently.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

1.6 Name the type of region defined by a node and the area it serves. [1]

1.7 Distinguish between the site and the situation of a city, using an example. [3]

1.8 Give one absolute and one relative way of describing distance. [2]

1.9 Explain one way a geographer would use GIS that a paper map could not do. [2]

1.10 Explain why environmental determinism was replaced by possibilism. [2]
