

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]
