3 Culture, diffusion, language and religion – Part 1

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)		
Culture	文化			
Cultural traits	文化特征			
cultural landscape	文化景观			
Folk culture	民俗文化			
Popular culture	流行文化			
Diffusion	扩散			
hearth	起源地			
Relocation diffusion	迁移扩散			
Expansion diffusion	扩展扩散			
Contagious	传染扩散			
Hierarchical	等级扩散			
Stimulus	刺激扩散			
language family	语系			
dialects	方言			

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)		
lingua franca	通用语			
pidgin	皮钦语			
creole	克里奥尔语			
Toponyms	地名			
Universalising religions	普世宗教			
Ethnic religions	民族宗教			

Recall

You know that people in different places eat differently, speak differently and worship differently —and that some of those differences are spreading while others are disappearing.

This sheet gives you the vocabulary for describing culture as a spatial thing.

New ideas

1 Culture and the landscape

Culture 文化 is the shared practices, beliefs and material objects of a group. **Cultural traits** 文化特征 are the individual elements —a food, a greeting, a building style.

The **cultural landscape** 文化景观 is the visible imprint of human activity on a place: field patterns, house styles, religious buildings, signs and their languages. Reading a landscape for what it reveals about the people who made it is the core skill of this unit.

2 Folk and popular culture

Folk culture 民俗文化 is practised by a small, often rural, homogeneous group; it changes slowly, spreads by relocation, and produces distinctive local landscapes.

Popular culture 流行文化 is practised by large, heterogeneous groups; it changes quickly, spreads through media, and produces uniform landscapes —the same shopfronts in every city.

Popular culture erodes local distinctiveness, which is why **cultural landscape homogenisation** is a standard exam theme. The counter-process is **cultural appropriation** debates and deliberate revival of folk practice.

■ 3 How things diffuse

Diffusion 扩散 is the spread of a trait from its **hearth** 起源地. There are two families.

Relocation diffusion 迁移扩散: people physically carry the trait to a new place — a migrant community brings its language and cuisine.

Expansion diffusion 扩展扩散 spreads outward while remaining strong at the source, and has three forms. **Contagious** 传染扩散 spreads to everyone nearby, like a viral video. **Hierarchical** 等级扩散 jumps between important nodes first — a fashion appears in major cities before reaching small towns. **Stimulus** 刺激扩散 spreads the underlying IDEA while the form changes —a fast-food chain selling a vegetarian burger where beef is not eaten.

■ 4 Language

A **language family** 语系 branches into **branches**, then **groups**, then individual languages and **dialects** 方言. Indo-European is the largest family; Sino-Tibetan the second.

A **lingua franca** 通用语 is a language adopted for communication between speakers of different first languages. A **pidgin** 皮钦语 is a simplified contact language; when children grow up speaking it as a first language it becomes a **creole** 克里奥尔语.

Toponyms 地名—place names —are evidence of who settled a place and when.

■ 5 Religion

Universalising religions 普世宗教 seek converts and spread by both expansion and relocation diffusion —Christianity, Islam, Buddhism. **Ethnic religions** 民族宗教 are tied to a people and a place, spread mainly by relocation, and rarely seek converts —Hinduism, Judaism, Shinto.

The distinction predicts the map: universalising religions are widely dispersed, ethnic ones concentrated in a homeland.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

3.1 Define the cultural landscape. [2]

3.2 Give two differences between folk culture and popular culture. [2]

3.3 Name the type of expansion diffusion in which a trend appears in large cities before small towns. [1]

3.4 Explain the difference between a pidgin and a creole. [2]

3.5 Explain why universalising religions are more widely dispersed than ethnic religions. [3]