

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	迁移扩散	_____
Expansion	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]
