

The free-response asks for specific examples, and a named place with a named process scores where a generic description does not. Each case below is chosen because it illustrates a model the course requires, and the connection is made explicit. 答题需给出具体地名与具体过程。

Population and migration

Japan – stage 5 of the demographic transition — Japan has a total fertility rate near 1.3, below the replacement level of about 2.1, and one of the world's oldest populations. Its population pyramid is inverted: narrow at the base, widest in the older cohorts. The consequences are the ones the exam asks for – a rising dependency ratio, pressure on pension and healthcare systems, labour shortages, and rural depopulation as young people concentrate in Tokyo. Japan's restrictive immigration policy makes it the cleanest example of ageing without migration as a compensating flow, which is what distinguishes it from Germany as a case.

The Mexico-United States corridor – push, pull and remittances — One of the largest migration flows in the world, and a straightforward illustration of Ravenstein's laws: most movement is over relatively short distances, the flow is strongest between adjacent regions, and it generates a measurable counter-flow. Economic pull dominates, and remittances back to Mexico exceed the value of many export sectors, which is the standard example of migration's effect on the SOURCE region. Note the recent reversal in net flow – a reminder that push and pull factors change, which evaluation questions reward.

Agriculture and land use

The Dutch greenhouse cluster – intensive commercial agriculture — The Netherlands is among the world's largest agricultural exporters by value despite its small area, through capital-intensive greenhouse horticulture concentrated near Rotterdam. It illustrates von Thünen's logic in modern form: highly perishable, high-value production locates close to market and transport infrastructure, while extensive low-value production occupies distant land. It is also the standard example of the environmental trade-offs of intensification – very high yields per hectare against heavy energy and nutrient inputs.

The Brazilian cerrado – agricultural frontier expansion — Soybean cultivation has expanded rapidly into the cerrado savanna, driven by demand from East Asia. The case connects several required themes at once: commodity chains linking a peripheral producer to a core market, the environmental cost of converting biodiverse savanna, and the contrast between large mechanised agribusiness and smallholder farming in the same country. For an FRQ asking about globalisation's effect on land use, this is a single example that answers several parts.

Urban and political geography

Lagos – a megacity with a peripheral infrastructure gap — One of the fastest-growing cities in the world, where population growth has far outpaced housing and services, producing extensive informal settlements such as Makoko. It illustrates the Griffin-Ford and related peripheral-city models better than a North American example does: the wealthy core and planned districts sit alongside informal zones with limited water, sanitation and formal land title. Use it for questions on rapid urbanisation, squatter settlements, or the limits of the concentric-zone model outside its original context.

The Kurdish region – a nation without a state — Kurds constitute a nation, a people with a shared language, culture and identity, but their territory is divided across Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria, so there is no Kurdish state. This is the standard example distinguishing nation, state and nation-state, and it also illustrates devolution and centrifugal forces: the Kurdistan Region of Iraq has substantial autonomy,

while Kurdish separatism is treated as a threat to territorial integrity by neighbouring states. Exam questions on supranationalism, devolution and the mismatch between political and cultural boundaries all draw on this case.

The European Union – supranationalism and its limits — A supranational organisation whose members surrender some sovereignty for economic and political benefits: a common market, free movement, and for most members a shared currency. It is the leading example of economic integration reducing the significance of political boundaries. Brexit gives the counter-case in the same example, showing that centrifugal forces – sovereignty over immigration and law – can reverse integration, which is what an evaluation question needs.