

Human Geography is the most vocabulary-dependent AP course: an FRQ point is usually earned by naming the correct term and applying it to the named place or scenario. A definition on its own earns nothing. Learn each sentence, then practise adding “for example, in ...”. 人文地理最重视术语: 必须写出术语并结合具体地点或情境, 只写定义不得分。

Thinking geographically

Scale 尺度 — the level at which a phenomenon is examined, from local to global; the pattern seen can change with the scale chosen

Region 区域 — an area defined by one or more shared characteristics that distinguish it from surrounding areas

Diffusion 扩散 — the spread of a phenomenon from its hearth across space and through time

Distance decay 距离衰减 — the weakening of a phenomenon’s effect as distance from its origin increases

Site 场地 — the physical characteristics of a place itself, such as its terrain, soil and climate

Situation 位置关系 — the location of a place relative to other places, such as its access to routes and markets

Population and migration

Demographic transition model 人口转型模型 — a model describing how birth and death rates change as a country develops, moving it through stages of population growth

Population pyramid 人口金字塔 — a bar graph showing a population’s age and sex structure, used to infer its growth and dependency

Carrying capacity 环境承载力 — the maximum population an environment can support given its resources and technology

Push factor 推力因素 — a negative condition at the origin that drives people to leave

Pull factor 拉力因素 — a positive condition at the destination that attracts migrants to it

Remittance 侨汇 — money sent home by a migrant working abroad, often a major income source for the origin country

Culture

Culture 文化 — the shared beliefs, practices and material objects that characterise a group of people

Language family 语系 — a group of languages descended from a single common ancestral language

Lingua franca 通用语 — a language adopted for communication between speakers of different first languages

Syncretism 融合 — the blending of two cultural traits into a new one

Cultural landscape 文化景观 — the visible imprint of human activity on the physical environment

Political geography

Nation 民族 — a group of people sharing a common culture and identity who see themselves as one people

State 国家 — a territory with defined borders, a permanent population and a sovereign government recognised by others

Nation-state 民族国家 — a state whose borders correspond closely with the territory of a single nation

Sovereignty 主权 — a state’s right to govern its own territory without outside interference

Devolution 权力下放 — the transfer of political power from a central government to regional authorities

Gerrymandering 选区划分不公 — drawing electoral district boundaries to give one group an unfair advantage

Supranational organisation 超国家组织 — an alliance of three or more states formed for a shared purpose, in which members give up some sovereignty

Agriculture and land use

Green Revolution 绿色革命 — the mid-20th-century spread of high-yield seeds, fertilisers and irrigation that sharply raised agricultural output

Von Thünen model 冯·杜能模型 — a model placing agricultural land uses in rings around a market, ordered by transport cost and perishability

Subsistence agriculture 自给农业 — farming that produces food for the farmer’s own household rather than for sale

Commercial agriculture 商业农业 — farming that produces crops and livestock primarily for sale

Cities and urban land use

Urbanization 城市化 — the increasing share of a population living in urban areas

Megacity 特大城市 — a city with more than 10 million inhabitants

World city 世界城市 — a city that exerts influence far beyond its own borders through finance, culture and business

Gentrification 中产阶级化 — the renovation of a deteriorated inner-city neighbourhood by wealthier arrivals, which displaces poorer residents

Suburbanization 郊区化 — the movement of population and activity from a central city to its surrounding suburbs

Urban sprawl 城市蔓延 — the low-density, unplanned spread of urban development into surrounding rural land

Development

Core 核心区 — the industrialised, high-income regions that dominate global trade and decision-making

Periphery 边缘区 — the less-developed regions that supply raw materials and labour and depend on the core

Outsourcing 外包 — contracting part of a firm’s production or services to another company, often abroad

Sustainable development 可持续发展 — development that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs