

2023



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# AP<sup>®</sup> Human Geography

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

### **Inside:**

#### **Free-Response Question 1**

- Scoring Guidelines**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

**Question 1: No Stimulus****7 points**

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**(A) Define the concept of territoriality in terms of political geography. 1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- A1. Territoriality is the connection of people, their culture, and their economic systems to where they live (can apply to multiple scales).
- A2. Territoriality is the process by which a set of political units with fixed distinct boundaries are created, expanded, annexed, and/or defended.
- A3. Territoriality is the process by which a land area (or land and water) is established under a jurisdiction (e.g., an established or recognized system of governance, or administrative control).

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**(B) Describe the concept of sovereignty as it relates to the state. 1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- B1. Sovereign states have the right to control what is inside their borders without interference from outside states and entities.
  - B2. Sovereign states are recognized by the international community and other foreign entities.
  - B3. Sovereign states have the right to defend their borders against invasion by other states.
  - B4. Sovereign states have the right to close the borders to immigration.
  - B5. Sovereign states have the right to regulate international trade.
  - B6. Sovereign states have the right to establish their own government by establishing a constitution and/or system of political representation.
  - B7. Sovereign states have the right to enact laws or policies (e.g., the criminal justice code, civil legal code, land ownership system, and/or natural resource management system).
  - B8. Sovereign states have the right to establish alliances and recognize foreign states or entities, and/or establish diplomatic relations and embassies in other countries.
  - B9. Sovereign states have the right to establish policies (e.g., taxation, appropriations).
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**(C) Compare ONE difference in territorial organization between the governments of unitary states and the governments of federal states. 1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- C1. Unitary states tend to have a more top–down form of governance, while federal states have more locally based power centers.
- C2. Unitary states have a single government that expresses power over the entire territory, whereas federal states divide power among regional governments that control a limited portion of territory.
- C3. Unitary states have a centralized system of administration (e.g., law enforcement, natural resource management, infrastructure development), whereas federal states have more dispersed power centers.
- C4. Unitary states tend to have a single system of territorial control, whereas federal states may have multiple types of internal territorial systems based upon each region’s culture (e.g., different land survey systems, differing legal systems, different ethnicities).

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**(D) Recently, the United Kingdom decided to withdraw from the European Union. Explain ONE possible reason why sovereignty would play a role in the United Kingdom’s decision to withdraw from the European Union. 1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- D1. The United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) because its leaders believed the UK had surrendered too much sovereignty to the supranational government of the EU.
  - D2. The free movement of people among the EU member states had increased immigration to the UK resulting in political pressure to limit immigration to the UK, in opposition to existing EU policies.
  - D3. The leaders of the UK believed they could form more advantageous trade agreements by working independently from the EU.
  - D4. The UK participated in the EU economic policies but never joined the eurozone, maintaining its own currency, the British pound, as a symbol of British identity, and/or source of economic stability or superiority in value as compared to the euro.
  - D5. The UK is physically separated from Europe, with a long history of world trade and a strong sense of itself as a world power, and this translated into a weaker sense of being part of/belonging to the EU.
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- (E) During the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union, some people in Scotland proposed independence from the United Kingdom. Explain ONE possible reason why territoriality would play a role in the devolution of a state. 1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- E1. People in one region within a state have a connection to the land of the ethnic group, culture, and/or regional identity and believe that they should have autonomy over the region or the right to secede from the state.
  - E2. People in one region within a state believe that the leaders in the government or people in other parts of the country (e.g., core or capital) do not respect the people of the region’s long history of culture and attachment to the land.
  - E3. People in one region within a state believe that the economic policies of the state favor a majority group or another group in power at the expense of their region.
  - E4. Many Scots believe that Scotland should have control of foreign policy and defense agreements.
  - E5. Many Scots believe that Scotland is both its own country and a part of Europe (or the European Union) at the same time.
  - E6. Many Scots believe that trade agreements among EU members will be better for the economy of Scotland if it rejoins the EU.
  - E7. Many political leaders desire Scottish independence so that Scotland may have an economy and/or monetary system separate from the rest of the UK.
  - E8. Some in Scotland desire an independent state (separate from England, Wales, and Northern Ireland) that still has the British monarch as the titular head of state.
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- (F) Local governments often divide cities into representative electoral districts. Explain how the process of redrawing district boundary lines may affect election results within a city. 1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- F1. Redrawing district boundaries may shift the balance of political power among or favor certain political parties, candidates, and/or representative groups (intentionally or unintentionally).
- F2. If the boundaries are drawn in a manner that divides a voting group among several districts, the power of the group is diminished (cracking to decrease power).
- F3. If the boundaries are drawn such that a voting group is concentrated in one district, its political power is increased (packing to increase power) or favors a group that has a higher voter turnout (stacking to increase power).
- F4. If the boundaries are drawn in such a way that a voting group is so overwhelmingly concentrated in one district, then the group may lose the ability to influence power in any surrounding area (packing to decrease power).
- F5. Districts are often redrawn as population changes over time and new lines may create new districts that are different than before, which may mean voters recently added to these districts may be less familiar with issues and candidates in these districts.

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- (G) Explain why neighboring local governments may face challenges in providing transportation services to residents of a rapidly growing metropolitan area. 1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- G1. Local governments that are fragmented, divided, and/or dispersed may find it difficult to agree on transportation services and/or projects.
- G2. Local governments may be completely independent of each other and may not have an official regional or metropolitan forum or interface in which to interact and/or plan for transportation needs.
- G3. Local governments may compete for transportation funding resources from state, province, national, federal, or supranational government sources and may see neighboring governments as opponents and/or competitors for resources.
- G4. Local competitiveness (e.g., local pride, rivalries, or racial, ethnic, and/or economic differences) between neighboring communities may hinder effective cooperation between local governments on transportation planning.
- G5. Disparities in wealth between neighboring local governments dealing with a high volume of commuters coming from other local governments may not have the resources needed to meet the demand for transit infrastructure and/or services.
- G6. Suburban sprawl and the establishment of separate municipalities on the edge of the metropolitan area may increase demand, pressure, and/or traffic flow through communities closer to the city center and/or along major transit corridors.

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**Total for question 1: 7 points**

**Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

1A) Territoriality is the concept of the political ownership of a specific area. Usually held by a government, territoriality claims jurisdiction and sovereignty over a specific area of land.

1B) Sovereignty is the political power held by a governing body over a state. This includes the right to create laws, run a military, and to represent this state or area on a global scale.

1C) Governments of unitary states employ one large model upon their state. They do not create regions or smaller states within the umbrella of the country.

Governments of federal states often break their territory into provinces or smaller states, giving political control over more local matters to those smaller regions.

1D) Sovereignty may have played a role in the UK's decision to leave the EU as the UK government may have wanted to remain fully in control. The EU sets sovereign standards and other protocols including common currency upon their members, which the UK may have not agreed upon. Leaving allows for their government to remain in complete control free of EU influence.

1E) Scotland may have proposed independence due to territoriality as they do not recognize themselves as part of the UK's territory. They may feel their countries territory and lands belong to them only, growing the desire for separation from England.

Page 2

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- **Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

1F) By redrawing district boundary lines, gerrymandering may occur and skew election results in favour of one party. Gerrymandering is the process of redrawing district lines to favour one specific political party, by pushing the other parties to be sprawled and become minorities in new districts. This strengthens the voting potential of the favoured party, skewing election results.

1G) Local governments may struggle to provide transportation to rapidly growing city areas as they may lack the funding to do so. They must call upon the federal government to provide grants and funding, slowing the process of creating transportation. During this wait, metropolitan areas continue to grow, causing even more funding and transportation to be needed.

Page 3

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**Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A. Territoriality is the desire for ownership over a territory. It can be rooted in past connections or ties to the given area of land, which are factors that could increase a sentiment of possessiveness.

B. sovereignty, in relation to a state, describes its self-governance and its responsibility for ruling itself, establishing a stable government, and managing its relations with other states. During the American Revolution, the United States fought for its independence from Britain and afterwards, became a sovereign state.

C. Unitary states are typically small, homogenous states with governments that centralize power for an efficient government process that makes general, sweeping decisions for its citizens' needs. In contrast, federal states are generally more expansive and diverse, and governments delegate power to local governments to address specific needs.

D. sovereignty impacted the United Kingdom's decision, as they decided they no longer wanted to be attached to the supranational organization and instead chose to remove themselves for greater financial independence through settling personal tax and trade tariff decisions.

E. Territoriality may play a role in the devolution of a state because contrasting desires for land ownership and independent possession ~~may~~ can cause a state to separate. In this instance, Scotland's proposal to separate from the United Kingdom could spur other countries to gain their own independence.

F. Redrawing district lines with the intention to strategically place a majority of voters in one area is called gerrymandering, which can unfairly make one political party a consistent minority that loses in most districts.

Page 2

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● **Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

G. Neighboring local governments may face challenges in providing transportation services to a rapidly growing metropolitan area because the improvement and expansion of public transport services is an expensive endeavor.

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**Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- A. Territoriality is when a government defines a area as their own.
- B. Sovereignty is when a state has controll of itself with no outside influence.
- C. ~~unitary state works as a whole while a federal state works breaks itself up.~~ A unitary state works as a whole while a federal state works breaks itself up.
- D. To be able to make more desions on their own.
- E. They wanted to most likel<sup>e</sup>y stay in the E.U. therefor attempting to seperate.
- F. ~~They~~ They can form distric<sup>t</sup>s to be more in their favor.
- G. When areas are growing and shrinking, it will be harder to place transportation in the best location to make the most ecessable.

Page 2

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## Question 1

**Note:** Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

### Overview

This zero-stimulus question focused on political geography concepts of territoriality and sovereignty at different scales of analysis. Students were expected to draw from two main units for this question: Unit 4 (Political Patterns and Processes) and Unit 6 (Cities and Urban Land Use). In addition, the main skills for this question were found in Skill Category 1 (Concepts and Processes) and Skill Category 2 (Spatial Relationships).

In part A students were asked to define the concept of territoriality in terms of political geography.

In part B students were asked to describe the concept of sovereignty as it relates to the state.

In part C the concept of territoriality was addressed in terms of territorial organization. Students were asked to compare one difference in territorial organization between the governments of unitary states and the governments of federal states.

In part D students were asked to apply the concept of sovereignty to a real-world situation. Students were asked to explain one possible reason why sovereignty would play a role in the United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from the European Union.

Recognizing that territoriality can be analyzed at different scales, part E asked students to explain a possible reason why territoriality would play a role in the devolution of the state (such as Scotland's proposed independence from the United Kingdom).

Part F asked students to make connections between political geography and urban geography. In this part, students were asked to explain how the political process of redrawing district boundary lines may affect election results within a city.

Part G also challenged students to make connections between political geography and urban geography. Part G asked students to explain why neighboring local governments may face challenges in providing transportation services to residents of a rapidly growing metropolitan area.

### Sample: 1A

#### Score: 7

The response to part A earned 1 point because it defines territoriality as the political ownership and jurisdiction of a specific land area.

The response to part B earned 1 point because it describes sovereign states as having the right to create laws, run a military, and represent the area on a global scale.

The response to part C earned 1 point because it compares unitary states having a more top-down umbrella form of governance to federal states giving political control over local issues to locally based power centers.

### Question 1 (continued)

The response to part D earned 1 point because it explains how the United Kingdom wanted to be free of European Union influence and control.

The response to part E earned 1 point because it explains how Scotland’s strong regional identity contributes to a desire to secede.

The response to part F earned 1 point because it explains how the redrawing of district boundaries through gerrymandering could skew election results in favor of one party.

The response to part G earned 1 point because it explains how local governments may face delays in receiving transportation funding while metropolitan areas experience sprawl in the interim, increasing demand for further transportation infrastructure.

#### **Sample: 1B**

##### **Score: 5**

The response to part A earned 1 point because it defines territoriality as the connection of a group historically to the land it occupies.

The response to part B earned 1 point because it describes a state asserting its sovereignty “as ruling itself, establishing a stable government, and managing its relations with other states.”

The response to part C earned 1 point because it compares unitary states, which are typically small and homogeneous with governments that centralize power, to a federal state that delegates some powers to local governments.

The response to part D earned 1 point because it explains that the United Kingdom wanted to leave the European Union for greater financial independence.

The response to part E did not earn a point because it does not adequately explain one possible reason why territoriality would play a role in the devolution of a state.

The response to part F earned 1 point because it explains how gerrymandering unfairly creates a political minority.

The response to part G did not earn a point because it does not adequately explain how the expense of transportation is shared between neighboring local governments.

#### **Sample: 1C**

##### **Score: 2**

The response to part A earned 1 point because it defines the concept of territoriality in terms of political geography by invoking the process of government creating a space as its own.

The response to part B earned 1 point because it describes how a sovereign state has control with no influence from outside entities.

### **Question 1 (continued)**

The response to part C did not earn a point because it does not correctly compare one difference in territorial organization between the governments of unitary states and the governments of federal states.

The response to part D did not earn a point because it does not explain one possible reason why sovereignty would play a role in the United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from the European Union.

The response to part E did not earn a point because it does not explain one possible reason why territoriality would play a role in the devolution of a state.

The response to part F did not earn a point because there is not a sufficient explanation of how redrawing district boundary lines could favor certain representative groups.

The response to part G did not earn a point because it does not adequately explain why neighboring local governments may face challenges in providing transportation services to residents of a rapidly growing metropolitan area.