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# AP<sup>®</sup> Human Geography

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

### Set 1

#### **Inside:**

#### **Free Response Question 2**

- Scoring Guideline**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

**Question 2: One Stimulus****7 points**

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**(A)** Describe the world city concept in the context of globalization. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- A1. World cities are engines of globalization because they are the principal nodes in the transnational exchange of either capital, knowledge, or culture.

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**(B)** Explain the importance of world cities as nodes in the hierarchical diffusion of a globalized culture. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- B1. World cities contain many of the world’s leading and most influential cultural and educational institutions, so they have central importance in attracting talent and disseminating culture and knowledge.
- B2. World cities’ leading financial status means there is a lot of capital to invest in and disseminate culture.
- B3. World cities attract cultural icons because of their importance in the production and dissemination of culture (e.g., actors, singers, artists).
- B4. World cities’ ethnic mix and cosmopolitan culture leads to a great diversity of cuisines and fashion.
- B5. World cities use their status to attract international sporting events and other major global cultural events which disseminates cultural ideas (e.g., through tourists, athletes, spectators, sponsors).
- B6. World cities diffuse their own national cultures at a global scale while also diffusing international cultures to the countries in which they are located.

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**(C)** Explain ONE way the Internet may interrupt the hierarchical diffusion of a globalized culture. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- C1. As the Internet becomes universally available, it makes remote education, remote cultural activities, and news available to people everywhere instantaneously, so globalized culture no longer diffuses hierarchically (also contagious diffusion).
  - C2. The network connectivity of the Internet means that cultural phenomena (e.g., music, fashion) can originate anywhere and be accessible anywhere else instantaneously, without the need for hierarchical diffusion.
  - C3. As the Internet improves free online tools for language translation, culture can be transmitted quickly and without barriers, eliminating the need for hierarchical diffusion through universities and other specialized institutions.
  - C4. As the Internet becomes universally available, some countries’ governments have established firewalls and/or censored the Internet within their country to prevent the diffusion of globalized culture.
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**(D)** Explain ONE difference between world cities and metacities. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- D1. Metacities are urban areas with over 20 million people and are ranked by population size, whereas world cities are ranked in order of their importance to the global economy.
- D2. Metacities are mostly located (all but two, Tokyo and New York) in less developed countries, whereas top-ranked world cities (except Beijing) are mostly located in more developed countries.
- D3. Metacities have grown to attain their status through rapid rural-to-urban migration from their hinterlands, whereas world cities have attained their status as nodes of the global economy through the movement and concentration of transnational finance and trade.
- D4. The populations of metacities are primarily comprised of rural-to-urban migrants in the countries where these urban areas are located, whereas world cities' populations comprise a large percentage of first- and second-generation migrants from foreign countries.
- D5. Metacities are primarily national economic and cultural centers, whereas world cities are primarily global economic and cultural hubs.

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**(E)** Using the data in the table, explain ONE limitation of the world city classification system in reflecting current patterns of global urban development. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- E1. Many of the cities with the largest populations in the world are not on this list, because they do not rank high in the categories used for scoring world cities.
- E2. Urbanization in the world is occurring on the largest scale and most rapidly in less developed countries, and those cities are not ranked in the top 10.
- E3. The world city classification does not reflect the largest or the most rapidly growing cities, as these are in less developed countries.
- E4. The weighting of the criteria for the world city classification system is such that important cities in the world do not appear in the top ten.

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**(F)** Using the data in the table and the scoring criteria, explain ONE reason for the difference in scores between London and Washington, D.C. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- F1. Washington, D.C. has little activity in the Business category compared to London, which is a global center of finance, so this probably accounts for much of the almost 30 points difference in scores.
  - F2. The Business activity category comprises 30% of the score, and London is a global business hub, whereas the political engagement category comprises 10% and Washington, D.C., is a national capital with global influence.
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**(G)** Explain ONE way economic linkages among world cities may create risks during global financial crises. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- G1. World cities' close financial linkages mean that economic shocks (e.g., stock market crashes) in one location can be felt rapidly in other locations.
- G2. Transnational financial services firms have locations in several world cities, so economic damage during a crisis spreads easily between these locations.
- G3. Concentration of global transportation nodes (major international airports) in world cities means pandemics can spread quickly between these cities through air travel, disrupting economic activity (e.g., in New York City).
- G4. Terrorist attacks focused on the financial centers of world cities (e.g., New York City, London) can result in closure of stock markets and cessation of economic activity, which spreads rapidly to negatively affect other world cities.

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**Total for question 2 7 points**

Question 1   Question 2   Question 3



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

A.) A world city is a large city that has key global cultural and economic importance. These cities, such as NYC and London, are the basis of an interconnected global system because they serve as major connections between countries and regions.

B.) World cities are centers of culture and economic activity and therefore are many of the most connected places on Earth. Because they are so interconnected with the rest of the world, they are often where global trends in popular culture start. These trends may then make their way <sup>down</sup> to less important / connected cities.

C.) An example of this is a fashion trend starting in New York fashion week.

D.) With the internet, the world is more connected than any other time in human history. This means that a ~~the~~ global trend may not need to start in a global city because ~~the~~ the internet allows everyone to be just as interconnected, no matter their location.

E.) Metacities have a population of 20+ million people. On the other hand, world cities are characterized by global interconnection and leading the world's economy, pop. culture, ~~and~~ politics, and innovation. This means that while a world city might also be a metacity and vice versa,

Question 1   Question 2   Question 3



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

this will not always be the case because there may be cities of 20+ million people but poor infrastructure and economics (such as Dhaka) while some world cities have fewer than 20+ million people (such as Paris).

E.) The system may fail to recognize the importance of large cities in LDCs because they do not meet the world city ranking requirements, however, <sup>these LDC cities (such as Lagos)</sup> they may still be key in the pattern of global development because they reflect the increasing urbanization in LDCs.

F.) While London and WA. D.C. are both their national capitals, they vary significantly in business activity. While WA D.C. certainly does have a substantial economy, it is primarily centered on govt. London, on the other hand, has both a thriving political scene but is also a global economic giant (particularly with international trade).

G.) When economies are linked through global cities, ~~this~~ this linkage may result in collective economic downfall in times of crisis because so much of the economy is in international trade. For example, during the U.S. housing crisis in 2008, the U.S.'s international trade was decreased from the economic

Question 1



Question 2



Question 3



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

struggles and therefore the world economy (who trades with the U.S) suffered as a result.

## Question 1   Question 2   Question 3



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

A. World cities help fuel globalization because they are ~~centres of~~ the largest centres of economy, business, trade, and culture.

Because these cities are the most influential cities in the world, they can easily spread popular culture throughout the world.

Because they are large centres ~~of~~ in the world economy, they can help with the diffusion of globalized cultures ~~or~~

B. World cities are important as nodes of hierarchical diffusion because they contain the most economic and cultural power in the world.

Hierarchical diffusion is the diffusion of ~~cultural~~ culture from centres of power to those "below." World cities have the most power, so ~~to~~ globalized culture will spread to all ~~are~~ the other areas of the world with less economic or cultural power.

C. The Internet can interrupt hierarchical diffusion of a globalized culture because on the Internet, culture does not have to be passed down from centres of power. Culture diffusing through the Internet is ~~rather~~ contagious diffusion. For example, in ~~China, some~~ some areas of the world, ~~the Internet is restricted, as this~~ some parts of the Internet are restricted as this may diffuse different cultures into the society that ~~wasn't~~ might be opposed to the cultural values that are passed down to the people through political leaders.

D. One difference between world cities and megacities are that world cities influence the global economy, but megacities don't always have that much economic power. The world city needs to have power, but the megacity does not need to have as much power in the global economy. ~~It is~~ A The only qualification for a megacity is that it has more than 20 million people.



Question 1   Question 2   Question 3



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

E. One limitation is that ~~it doesn't reflect~~ even though world cities are at the top of the global economy, ~~it can not reflect the urban development of other cities as and are~~ have developed urban areas, it does not ~~ref~~ also reflect the urban development of other cities in the world. For example, World cities and the world are at different scales. Therefore, you can't show that ~~the urban devto~~ is a significant amount of urban development in the whole world ~~as there is in~~ because there is a large amount of development in a city.

F. London and Washington D.C. have different sources because they can be nodes of power for different reasons. For example, Washington D.C. is a center of political power, while London can be a center of cultural power.

G. Economic linkages can lead to risks during global financial crises because the financial crisis for one may mean a crisis for the others as well since they are connected, as they are the nodes of power in the world and have the most developed economies. ~~Along~~ The global economy is interconnected by these world cities. For example, the Global Recession caused a crisis throughout the world, as the major centers of trade and business had a financial crisis and the housing bubble popped.

Question 1   Question 2   Question 3



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

A. World cities often hold the hearths of popular culture. Many of the world cities have similarities with others. Both New York City and Singapore have skyscrapers as well as a popular downtown area.

B. World cities are often the beginning of trends with popularity. Trends that start in world cities often then spread down to smaller cities through hierarchical diffusion.

C. The Internet can disrupt the process of hierarchical diffusion because as soon as something is shared it automatically is made known to the whole world. It doesn't spread by people it just becomes accessible to everyone.

D. World cities are normally used for political and economic reasons for the whole world. They are big for transportation as well as meetings for government officials. Metacities are not as commonly used for global affairs.

E. Many of the World cities are found within the same country. Most of them are also found in more developed countries.

F. London is a larger city with more attractions to draw people to it. Washington, D.C. is smaller and is usually used for more political engagement.

G. With how interconnected the World Cities are, if one goes down then the rest will follow. If one goes through a financial crisis it will break the fragile system. They are all dependent on each other for trade.

## Question 2

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

### Overview

Students were expected to demonstrate knowledge of world cities as well as of metacities and to blend in knowledge of hierarchical diffusion and globalization as they relate to world cities. Further, they needed to recognize how the Internet may interrupt the hierarchical diffusion stemming from world cities, or in other words, to explain a scenario when hierarchical diffusion can switch to contagious diffusion. Then, they were asked to explain a limitation of the classification of world cities presented to them in stimulus material and explain the difference in scores on this classification system for two cities on the accompanying top ten list. Finally, they were asked to explain a way that economic linkages among world cities create risks during global financial crises.

Skills required of the students were to (1) describe the geographic concept of world cities, (2) explain spatial relationships in a specified context by explaining world cities as nodes in the process of hierarchical diffusion of a globalized culture, (3) explain a likely outcome in a geographic scenario by demonstrating knowledge of how the internet can interrupt the hierarchical diffusion from world cities, (4) compare the geographic concepts of world cities and metacities, (5) explain a possible limitation of the data in the world classification system as presented in the stimulus, (6) compare patterns in quantitative data by explaining differences in the scores for two top-ten world cities, and (7) explain spatial relationships across various geographic scales, in this case linkages among world cities, using the geographic process of a global financial crisis.

### Sample: 2A

#### Score: 7

The response in part A earned 1 point because it describes world cities as engines of globalization because they are the principal nodes in the transnational exchange of either capital, knowledge, or culture.

The response in part B earned 1 point because it explains that world cities have a central importance in attracting talent and disseminating culture and knowledge.

The response in part C earned 1 point because it explains how the internet allows cultural phenomena to originate anywhere and be accessible anywhere else instantaneously.

The response in part D earned 1 point because it explains that metacities are urban areas with over 20 million people, whereas world cities are ranked in order of their importance to the global economy.

The response in part E earned 1 point because it explains the limitation that the world city classification does not reflect the largest or the most rapidly growing cities, as these are in less developed countries.

The response in part F earned 1 point because it explains that the business category comprises 30% of the score, and London is a global business hub, whereas the political engagement category comprises 10% and Washington, D.C., is a national capital with global influence.

The response in part G earned 1 point because it explains world cities' close financial linkages mean the economic shocks in one location can be felt rapidly in other locations.

## Question 2 (continued)

### Sample: 2B

#### Score: 5

The response to part A earned 1 point because it describes how world cities are engines of globalization because they are the principal nodes in the transnational exchange of either capital, knowledge, or culture.

The response to part B earned 1 point because it explains how world cities are cultural centers of power and diffuse culture to other areas of the world with less economic or cultural power.

The response to part C earned 1 point because it explains how some areas are remote and the government does not want globalized culture to diffuse there, so the Internet is restricted.

The response to part D earned 1 point because it explains the difference between metacities and world cities is that metacities are urban areas with over 20 million people and are ranked by population size, whereas world cities are ranked in order of their importance to the global economy.

The response to part E did not earn a point because it does not explain limitations in the world city classification system inflecting current patterns of global urban development.

The response to part F did not earn a point because it does not explain a reason for the difference in scores between London and Washington, DC.

The response to part G earned 1 point because it explains how world cities' close financial linkages mean that economic shocks in one location can be felt rapidly in other locations.

### Sample: 2C

#### Score: 3

The response to part A did not earn a point because it does not describe the economic, knowledge, or cultural significance of world cities.

The response to part B earned 1 point because it explains that world cities contain many of the world's leading and most influential cultural and educational institutions, so they have central importance in attracting talent and disseminating culture and knowledge.

The response to part C earned 1 point because it explains the way the network connectivity of the Internet means that cultural phenomena can originate anywhere and be accessible anywhere else instantaneously.

The response to part D did not earn a point because it does not explain a difference between world cities and megacities.

The response to part E did not earn a point because it does not explain a limitation of the world city classification system in reflecting current patterns of global urban development.

The response to part F did not earn a point because it does not explain a reason for the difference in scores between London and Washington, DC.

The response to part G earned 1 point because it explains that world cities' close financial linkages mean that economic shocks in one location can be felt rapidly in other locations.