

About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible to receive college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

AP Human Geography Course Overview

The AP Human Geography course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. The course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012).

PREREQUISITE

There are no prerequisites for AP Human Geography. Students should be able to read college-level texts and apply the conventions of Standard Written English in their writing.

Goals of AP Human Geography

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

- Interpret maps and analyze geospatial data;
- Understand and explain the implications of associations and networks among phenomena in places;
- Recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes at different scales of analysis;
- Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process; and
- Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.

Topic Outline for AP Human Geography

The AP Human Geography course is organized around seven major topics:

- Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives
- Population and Migration
- Cultural Patterns and Processes
- Political Organization of Space
- Agriculture, Food Production, and Rural Land Use
- Industrialization and Economic Development
- Cities and Urban Land Use

AP Human Geography Exam Structure

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY EXAM: 2 HOURS 15 MINUTES

Assessment Overview

The AP Human Geography Exam requires students to explain and apply key and supporting geographical concepts. The exam employs multiple-choice questions and free-response questions based on components of the seven major curriculum topics. Students must be able to define, explain, and apply geographical concepts and interpret geographical data.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Multiple Choice | 75 Questions | 60 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- Define, explain, and apply geographic concepts
- Interpret geographic data

Section II: Constructed Response | 3 Questions | 75 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

Questions may require that students:

- Synthesize different topical areas
- Analyze and evaluate geographical concepts
- Supply appropriately selected and well-explained real-world examples to illustrate geographic concepts
- Interpret verbal descriptions, maps, graphs, photographs, and/or diagrams
- Formulate responses in narrative form

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS

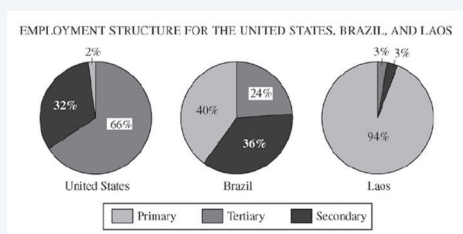
Sample Multiple-Choice Question

Physiological population density is viewed as a superior measure of population density for which of the following reasons?

- (a) It is more reflective of population pressure on arable land.
- (b) It yields the average population density.
- (c) It is more reflective of the world's largest population concentrations.
- (d) It measures the average by dividing total land area by total number of people.
- (e) It best reflects the percentage of a country's population that is urbanized.

Correct Answer: A

Sample Free-Response Question



Employment structures are the proportion of people working in different sectors of the economy.

- (a) Describe two reasons why a low percentage of people work in jobs in the tertiary sector of a country like Laos.
- (b) Describe two reasons why a low percentage of people work in primary jobs in countries such as the United States.
- (c) Predict and describe how the structure of employment will change as Brazil becomes more developed.