

How To Answer A Free-Response Question (FRQ)

- Read the question ***carefully*** twice
- **Circle the verb** (define, identify, explain, contrast...) and address what it asks for
- **Use a blue/black pen** and write the FRQ **in the order it is given**
 - If it is divided into sections A, B and C write the answer in the same sequence
 - **Always skip at least one line between all sections**
- Don't restate the question and don't include an introduction or conclusion
- **Use sexy vocabulary** and **be as specific as you can** (avoid vague terms/arguments)
- Crossed through items (like this) will not be scored
- If asked to provide a definition
 - **Write 2 complete & DIFFERENT sentences** (they don't have to be long)
- **Always provide an example** (if possible) and **always *try* to explain examples/items**
 - **+ 1 rule** - if it doesn't ask for one, give 1 anyway (if it asks for 1, give 2, if it...)
 - Always try to **diversify your examples** (1 economic, 1 social, 1 political...)
- If asked to compare and contrast
 - **Compare apples to apples** and **use appropriate transitions for contrasts**
(; , while, whereas, however, on the other hand, as opposed to...)
- If asked to reference a chart, map, or graphic
 - **Read the title first and then all the related information**
 - **Reference specific points or items** within your answer

- Trace – list it in steps
- **Analyze** – break it apart and explain
- Infer – read between the lines
- Evaluate – judge it
- Formulate – create it
- **Define/Describe** – tell all about it
- Support – back it up with details
- **Explain** – tell how it...
- Summarize – give the short version of it
- Predict – what will happen to it
- **Compare** – list all the ways it's alike
- **Contrast** – list all the ways it's different

**12 Very
Powerful
Words**

Let's practice!

Remember the rules we just discussed as we break down this prompt



Label A.

1. A. Define the following concepts as they are used in political geography.

Label 1.

1. Nation

2 sentence definition & 1 example with an explanation

Skip Space
& Label 2.

2. State

2 sentence definition & 1 example with an explanation

Skip Space & Label 3.

3. Nation-state

2 sentence definition & 1 example with an explanation

2 examples of a nation from Region A with an explanation, 2 examples of a state from Region A with an explanation...

Skip Space
& Label B.

B. For each of these concepts, name a specific late-twentieth-century example from Region A and a specific late-twentieth-century example from Region B on the map above.

2 examples of a nation from Region B with an explanation...

Skip Space
& Label C.

C. Explain how the pursuit of the nation-state ideal during recent decades has led to conflict in each of the two Regions A and B on the map above.

1 explanation for Region A & 1 explanation for Region B

Practice FRQ

2 sentences

A. Define Human Geography and provide one example.

two

Same & different (use transition)

B. Compare and contrast Physical and Human Geography.

Labeled

2 Sentence Definition (complete & different)

A. Human Geography is the study of the where and why of human activity. This approach is known as the spatial perspective. Human Geography may examine where Democrats and Republicans are concentrated and the reasons for the distribution. In addition, it may look at where agricultural hearths exist and why farming first developed there.

2 Examples

Skipped Space

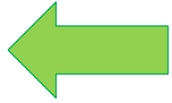
& Labeled

A Comparison

B. Both Human and Physical Geography explore the spatial perspective. Human Geography examines it in relation to human activity, **while** Physical Geography examines it in relation to natural forces.

A Contrast with Transition

The ability to sort information into categories enhances your ability to effectively generalize, evaluate and synthesize. Often FRQs will ask you to base your response on a particular category or categories.



Some common categories include the following:

- **Cultural** – pertaining to the technology, arts and institutions of a given group of people at a given time; includes such issues as customs, practices, traditions and linguistic communities.
- **Demographic** – pertaining to population; the patterns and processes of growth and decline, migration and settlement over time.
- **Economic** – pertaining to the ways that people meet their basic material needs; the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services; includes such issues as domestic and international trade, monetary policies and taxation.
- **Environmental** – pertaining to the environment in which people live and interact; changes or adaptation in people's way of life.
- **Political** – pertaining to gaining, seeking and organizing power; events related to the functions of government at the local, regional, national and global levels; making, enforcing and interpreting laws.
- **Social** – pertaining to people in groups, their living together and relations with one another; includes such issues as gender, economic status and ethnicity.