

AP[®] HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

The international borders of African countries are a legacy of colonialism.

Part A (1 point total)

Define the concept of a superimposed boundary.

- A boundary line or border line placed over and ignoring an existing cultural pattern **OR** arbitrarily imposed by external powers.

Part B (3 points total)

Describe three political or cultural consequences of superimposed boundaries in Africa.

Consequences	
Multinational or multiethnic state	separate nations within the same territory
Multistate nation	culture group split into pieces, made into minority groups
Internal struggle	increased likelihood of religious, ethnic, or tribal conflict
External struggle	increased likelihood of international, regional, or cross-border conflict
Loss of culture	loss of language, cultural traditions, etc.
New language	European or regional languages (Swahili) become official language or <i>lingua franca</i>
Cultural syncretism (synthesis)	between culture groups of a single country
Migration	may increase number of refugees or internally-displaced persons; traditional or seasonal migration patterns disrupted
Government change	nation-building difficulties, non-viable states, formation of new independent states, relocated capitals
Lost or limited access to natural resources	economic dependency
Ineffective governance	governments, antecedent treaties and laws less effective
Political and economic hubs	diffusion patterns extend from ports along coasts to points inland

AP[®] HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2 (continued)

Part C (2 points total)

Identify and explain one challenge landlocked African countries face in developing viable economies.

Landlocked Economies	
Identify	Explain
Access to the sea	lack of easy access to maritime trade or ocean resources
Increased cost of imports	due to customs, tariffs, tolls, distance, or transportation costs
Increased cost to export goods	due to customs, tariffs, tolls, distance, or transportation costs
Limited road or rail transportation for imported goods in bulk	more break-of-bulk points
Economic cooperation	communications needed between landlocked and bordering states (including provisions and resources under the Law of the Seas)
Vulnerability	can be cut-off from global trade and/or political support by hostile neighbors; economically dependent

A. Superimposed boundaries are those placed on a region by an outsider with no regard for previous ethnicities or cultures. European nations set these boundaries upon Africa at the Conference of Berlin in the 1880's. African nations at the time had no say at the time as to how the state boundaries were drawn.

B. One major cultural consequence is the division of preexisting nations. This results in people of the same ethnicity being divided among different political entities. In the future this will be a centrifugal force that pulls states apart. Opposite that a major cultural consequence is grouping together different ethnicities under one state. This had led to many civil wars such as the recent one in Sudan. Through Balkanization and Devolution the Islamic Arabic population in North Sudan and the Christian Black-Africans have separated to form two separate countries. Similar divisions have been seen in enclaves such as Lesotho and Swaziland. Politically superimposed boundaries have doomed Africa. Most states are not able to set up stable democracies due to all the ethnic conflicts and competition.

C. On top of the cultural and political adversity some African states face land-locked states such as Botswana, Burundi, and Rwanda have additional problems. These states do not have access to the ocean which severely cripples their ability to establish a viable economy. Import and export prices are so expensive for these countries that More Developed Countries won't turn a profit in outsourcing work there. Even if the labor is cheap weak infrastructure and transportation capabilities make them unattractive for investment.

Essay

A) When Europe controlled most of ~~the~~ Africa, European countries split the continent into many colonies for each country to control. These split boundaries are called super-imposed boundaries, which are defined as a border set by an outer force, not the governments of the actual countries whose border is in question. ~~Many former colonies~~ The borders were dictated solely by the whims of the colonial powers.

B) ~~Since~~ Many problems concerning super-imposed boundaries have become evident. For one, many of the boundaries are highly disputed by the African countries. The Azu^{strip} is one such boundary ~~between~~ that is part of ~~the~~ Libya. The area is actually a frontier, or a area that is disputed over control. ^{the} Egyptian government and the Libyan government both want this strip of land.

Partly because of how ~~so~~ heavily disputed they are, much of Africa is plagued by war and political unrest. Border

disputes lead to an all-out brawl over the land. Also, political unrest within countries is evident. Egypt has been experiencing a great amount of political turmoil in the recent past. The citizens rose up against the tyrannical governments.

A last consequence of super-imposed boundaries is the formation of multiethnic states like Nigeria and cross-border isoglosses throughout Africa. In Nigeria, there are many different languages spoken, ~~and~~ religions practiced, and ~~cultured~~ cultures evident. In fact, English was ~~the~~ made the official language of Nigeria in an attempt to unify the nation torn apart by super-imposed boundaries.

While there are only a few landlocked African countries, they experience a great deal of challenges. Being completely surrounded by other countries and having no direct outlet to the ocean, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a good example of a landlocked African state. One of the greatest difficulties it and all other landlocked countries have faced

is the lack of water. Without any contact to oceans or major bodies of water, the Democratic Republic of the Congo must rely on other countries to supply the ever-necessary liquid gold that is water. This develops dependencies on other nations, which hinders development of the state. It also limits the amount of commercial agriculture possible.

ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 2

(A) A superimposed boundary is when outside countries decide where to put the boundary in a country. These outside countries could be colonizers wanting to organize their colonized land. However, these outside countries very seldom take religious or tribal territories into mind when they create the boundary.

(B) 3 consequences of superimposed boundaries in Africa are tribal wars, religious conflict, and language differentiation.

(C) One challenge landlocked African countries face in developing viable ~~to~~ economies is they have a hard time ~~shipping good or receive~~ exporting or importing goods because they don't have access to major sea ports. This forces them to use rail or truck transportation to receive or deliver goods which is costly and difficult when ^{infrastructure is weak} roads and train tracks are not built. ~~which is when~~

AP[®] HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

This question examined students' understanding of the connections of international borders and the lasting effects of colonialism. The modern political boundaries of Africa, which were laid down by colonial powers, continue to present consequences and challenges within and among African states. In the first part of the question, the students were asked to define the concept of a superimposed boundary. In the second part, students were expected to demonstrate understanding of the political and cultural consequences of superimposed boundaries in Africa. Finally, the question allowed students to demonstrate knowledge on the challenges for landlocked African states in developing viable economies.

Sample: 2A

Score: 6

This essay earned full credit and demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of superimposed boundaries and landlocked economies. The essay earned full credit in part A, full credit in part B, and full credit in part C. The response earned 1 point in part A for defining superimposed boundaries as an enforced boundary by an outside group with no regard for previous ethnicities. The essay earned 3 points in part B: 1 point for describing the multistate nation as the division of preexisting nations by the superimposed borders (B2); 1 point for describing the multinational or multiethnic state in that there would be many ethnicities grouped together under one state (B1); and 1 point for describing an internal struggle that could lead to conflict and civil war (B3). The essay earned 2 points in part C: 1 point for identifying that landlocked countries have limited access to the ocean (C1) and 1 point for explaining that with limited road or rail transportation in landlocked countries may have weak infrastructure and transportation capabilities (C4).

Sample: 2B

Score: 5

The essay earned full credit in part A, full credit in part B, and partial credit in part C. The essay earned 1 point in part A for defining superimposed boundaries as those set by colonial countries. The response earned 3 points in part B: 1 point for describing internal struggle as political turmoil when citizens rose up against a tyrannical government (B3); 1 point for describing a multiethnic state such as Nigeria where there are different languages, religions, and cultures present the country's borders (B1); and 1 point for describing the consequence of a new language when English was made an official language to try to unify Nigeria (B6). The essay earned 1 point in part C for identifying that no access to the sea is a challenge faced by landlocked countries (C1).

Sample: 2C

Score: 3

The essay earned full credit in part A, no credit in part B, and full credit in part C. The essay earned 1 point in part A for correctly defining superimposed boundaries as an enforced boundary by an outside group with no regard for previous ethnicities. The essay earned 2 points in part C: 1 point for identifying that a challenge for landlocked countries is limited access to seaports (C1) and 1 point for explaining that limited road or rail transportation in landlocked countries can create weak infrastructure and transportation capabilities (C4).