
AP[®] Human Geography

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Set 2

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AP[®] HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

7 Points: 1 + 2 + 2 + 2

A. Identify ONE geopolitical event. (1 point)

- A1. Fall of, end, or breakup of the Soviet Union
- A2. Fall of or end of communism in Europe
***Do not accept** fall of or end of communism in the world or globally.
- A3. End of the Cold War
- A4. Fall of the Berlin Wall or Iron Curtain; reunification of Germany
- A5. Fall of, end of, or breakup of Yugoslavia
- A6. Break-up of Czechoslovakia
- A7. End of the Warsaw Pact

B. Explain how nationalism eliminated boundaries. (2 points: 1 explanation + 1 description)

Explanation	Description
A shared cultural identity or irredentism uniting formerly separated nations or peoples into a single country or state	The reunification of Germany as a single republic, state, federal state, or country

C. Explain how nationalism created boundaries. (2 points: 1 explanation + 1 description)

Explanation	Description
Existing multinational states can be divided into smaller states or nation-states based on one or more of the following: C1. Local or regional cultural patterns, including linguistic, religious, and/or ethnic similarities C2. Shared identity or sense of identity and/or belonging C3. A common or historical attachment to place C4. A nation's desire for self-determination	a. Dissolution or breakup of the Soviet Union/USSR into the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) or into sovereign independent countries based to some degree on regional, local, or traditional ethnic population areas
	b. Dissolution or breakup of Yugoslavia into sovereign, independent countries based on ethnic and religious differences
	c. Dissolution or breakup of Czechoslovakia into two sovereign, independent countries based on regional or traditional ethnic population areas

D. Describe supranationalism's effect on boundaries. (2 points: 1 description + 1 description)

- D1. Free passage across the internal land boundaries between member states due to the Schengen Agreement, Maastricht Treaty, or the Treaty on European Union. Border stations, immigration controls, and customs stations eliminated on internal EU boundaries.

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Question 3 (continued)

- D2. Common currency is used across boundaries because of the euro and the existence of a monetary union. There is no need for currency exchange at internal boundaries.
- D3. Free trade of goods crossing boundaries among EU member states without tariffs or inspection at border crossings because of customs union.
- D4. EU external boundary becomes more significant, leading to a hardening of boundaries due to increased border security, immigration controls, and/or customs enforcement.
- D5. Common market allows for the free movement of services, financial capital, and labor across the internal boundaries between EU member states, to the effect that the EU acts as a singular economy within a single boundary.
- D6. The EU legal system provides protection for the common market, currency, and customs system among member states and provides a court of human rights, which supersedes the court systems of member states, and protects EU citizens from discrimination regardless of where an individual resides within the EU's boundaries.
- D7. The expansion of the EU: some countries applied for EU membership and when accepted expanded the boundaries across which EU regulations apply.

A) One geopolitical event that initiated change in the number of European international boundaries was the breakup of the USSR. In the early 1990s, the USSR faced a slew of economic and political burdens that rendered it impossible for the communist regime to rule over its many satellite states. With regards to international boundaries, the breakup of the USSR directly added many new sovereign nations with complete independence ~~not with defined borders~~. In Europe, the former satellite states that became new countries increased the number of international boundaries. These nations are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova.

B) Nationalism can eliminate an international boundary when two separate states share a common history, culture, language, religion, or majority ethnic group. In the case of East and West Germany, they had all of that in common. When two states share such a relationship, nationalist sentiment festers in the populous of each state and a mass movement to reunite the two states into a proper ~~state~~ nation-state emerges. This puts pressure on the politicians of each state to remove the international boundary between them and unify into a nation-state consistent with the nationalist ideals the citizens possess. This process happened in East and West Germany with the fall of the Berlin Wall, thus recreating Germany as a nation-state.

C) Nationalism can create new international boundaries when disaffected ethnic groups are spread out across one state and forced to coexist. This situation spurs ethnic tension over cultural and religious differences between each of the states' ethnic groups, leading to violence. At this point, each ethnic group is vying for independence from the disunited state, hoping to create their own ethnically homogeneous and nationalist nation-state. This process occurred in the Yugoslav Wars, where Yugoslavia broke apart into several smaller nation-states for each major ethnic group. These

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states are Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the disputed state of Kosovo. This breakup of Yugoslavia ~~created~~ ~~was~~ fueled by ~~a~~ nationalistic sentiment from its many competing ethnic groups created many new international boundaries between the new nation-states.

D) In recent years, the European Union has served as a supranationalist organization that in many ways transcends international boundaries. One way supranationalism (through the EU) changes the function of European international boundaries is the move toward free and open borders between member states where citizens can freely migrate ~~to~~ across. This contrasts historic trends of restrictive border controls and strict immigration policies. Because of supranationalism, the EU has removed such restrictions to allow for easy travel ~~to~~ for citizens of each member state. Similarly, a second way supranationalism affects international boundaries is by removing ~~to~~ many tariffs and trade regulations typically placed on goods imported from other European states ~~and~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~border~~ ~~controls~~ across international boundaries. Such free trade policy is evident of the increasingly integrated economies of member states to unify into a centralized economic zone that the European Union facilitates through supranationalist free movement of goods across international boundaries.

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A. One geopolitical event that initiated change in the number of international boundaries in Europe between ~~1980~~ 1980 and 2013 was the fragmentation of Yugoslavia.

B. Nationalism, when described as a centripetal force that brings people together, can eliminate an international boundary. A nation that is split among two states can work together to eliminate that boundary and form a unitary nation-state. An example of this would be in Germany. ~~On~~ According to the map, Germany was split in 1980, but in 2013 ~~the~~ the international border dividing Germany was eliminated. ~~This~~ This is because the two countries shared similar culture or belonged to the same nation, and their pride toward that nation caused them to unite and eliminate the international boundary that separates them.

C. Nationalism, when described as a centrifugal force, can create international boundaries. A state that is multinational can have this problem, when conflicts among ethnic groups or nations arise. This can cause the country to split up, which is an example of balkanization. An example of this would be Yugoslavia. According to the map, Yugoslavia was one state in ~~1980~~ 1980, but in 2013 is ~~split~~ split into several states.

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This was because several nations in Yugoslavia had conflicts, and had traits of self-determination, ~~which~~ and so they wanted to determine what state they were from, so they split up and separate, because each nation was loyal to their own nationality.

D. Supranationalism has affected the functions of international boundaries in Europe by settling conflicts and implementing policies. When many countries unite in an organization to benefit all members, a supranational organization is formed.

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3A) One geopolitical event that initiated change in the number of international boundaries in Europe between 1980 and 2013 was the fall of the Soviet Union.

3B) Nationalism can eliminate an international boundary by drawing countries together under one idea or government. This removes the necessity for international boundaries because the countries have the same goals. The map of Europe in 1980 ~~is of~~ shows how the Soviet Union unified many countries under Communism.

3C) Nationalism can create new international boundaries. Different states can have opposing ideas and goals, which separates the states. Different opinions on how government should be ~~run~~ run. Different cultures amongst states also ~~creates~~ creates boundaries. The map of Europe in 2013 shows Europe after the Soviet Union. Due to the rise in nationalism among the various states (such as the Balkan states), fighting broke out and boundaries were created to separate them.

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3D) One way that supranationalism has affected the functions of international boundaries in Europe is through the EU (European Union). ~~THE~~ ~~EU~~ Because of the EU, international borders among member states are less of an issue. There are no tariffs on goods shipped sent between member states. This reduces the effect of those international boundaries.

Another way that supranationalism has affected the functions of the international boundaries in Europe is also through the EU. The EU allows residents of member states to travel freely between member states. ~~THIS SHOWS~~ THIS results ~~that~~ ~~in the~~ in the boundaries of the member states being less ~~important~~ ~~prevalent~~ relevant.

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Question 3

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

Overview

This question is mainly a political geography one centered on two concepts: the process of nationalism and the idea of supranationalism. Supranational political decisions reflect a desire to cooperate in economic, social, and political arenas; well-prepared students understood that this leads to changes in sovereignty and challenges to sovereignty. Knowledge of economic geography is useful in describing how supranationalism affects boundaries, articulating the function of boundaries in regulating economic activity.

In part A students were expected to identify a geopolitical event that led to a change in boundaries. In part B the student was asked to explain in the abstract how nationalism can lead to the elimination of boundaries. The student then needed to describe an example of boundary elimination evident in the stimuli.

In part C the student needed to explain how processes of nationalism can lead to the creation of new boundaries, as well as provide a description of an example that is seen in the maps.

Sample: 3A

Score: 7

The response earned 1 point in part A for the identification of the breakup of the Soviet Union. (A ID) The response earned 1 point in part B for the explanation of shared cultural identity tying in a shared history, culture, language, and religion. (B Explanation) An additional 1 point was earned in part B for the description of the reunification of West and East Germany. (B Description) The response earned 1 point in part C for explaining that ethnic groups pursue self-determination. (C4) The response earned an additional 1 point in part C for a detailed description of the dissolution of Yugoslavia, which broke up into multiple states based on the ethnicity in those regions. (Cb) The response earned 1 point in part D for describing the free movement and open borders within Europe. (D1) The response earned an additional 1 point in part D for the description of free trade among the nations of the European Union, tying in the integrated economies of member states. (D3)

Sample: 3B

Score: 5

The response earned 1 point in part A for identifying the breakup of Yugoslavia. (A5) The response earned 1 point in part B for the explanation of a shared cultural identity within a nation. (B explanation) An additional 1 point was earned in part B for the description of the reunification of Germany into a single state. (B description) The response earned 1 point in part C for describing the breakup of Yugoslavia because of conflicts among the different ethnic groups. (Cb) An additional 1 point was earned in part C for explaining that several nations in Yugoslavia desired self-determination. (C4)

Sample: 3C

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point in part A for identifying the fall of the Soviet Union. (A1) The response earned no points in part B because the response claims that the elimination of the boundaries is because the countries have the same goals, which is not linked to shared identity or irredentism. The response earned no points in part C as the response does not link the ideas of ethnicities, shared identity, and self-determination to the

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Question 3 (continued)

breakup of states. The response earned 1 point in part D for describing the reduction of tariffs within the European Union. (D3) An additional 1 point was earned in part D for the description of free travel among the member states of the European Union. (D1)