

AP Human Geography Packet

Human geography is a catch all term encompassing how humans interact with the physical areas around them, with each other, and with the geographic world as a whole. As part of this course, you will be exposed to a variety learning tools, from definitions and reading assignments to maps and charts.

One key thing to keep in mind is that this is an AP course. That means that unlike your typical high school course, your “final exam” – the AP test itself, takes place in later April or early May. In other words, time is a key factor. Ensuring that we have covered all that we need to is the primary purpose of this packet.

It would also be in your best interest to purchase a Baron’s guide to the AP Human Geography exam. Any of Baron’s competitors works fine too. I have used Baron’s in the past and found it to be effective, but many of my former students swear by the *Princeton Review* or *5 Steps to Getting a 5*. Regardless of which book you choose, the purpose is for you to be working on it independently of what we do in the class. Believe me it helps.

Your assignment over the break is to learn the following terms. Terms are key parts of the AP exam and not knowing them will make your job that much harder. To ensure that you are studying, I will be giving you a **test** on **all** of this the **second class** that we have together. Make sure you are ready. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at amendive@pacehs.com.

Chapter One Vocabulary:

- 1) Human Geography: One of the two major divisions of geography. It is the spatial analysis of human population, its cultures, its activities, and landscapes.
- 2) Globalization: The expansion of economic, political, and cultural processes to the point that they become global in scale and impact.
- 3) Phenomena: any event that is observable.
- 4) Physical Geography: Study of the physical phenomena of the earth
- 5) Spatial: refers to area or space on the Earth. If it helps, you can translate spatial as geographic.

- 6) Spatial Distribution: Physical location of geographic phenomena across space. An example would be looking at a map of the locations of all the Burger Kings in Miami.
- 7) Pattern: the resulting theme of a spatial distribution map. For example, all Burger Kings are located on major streets.
- 8) Medical Geography: mapping the distribution of disease by location.
- 9) Pandemic: world wide outbreak of disease.
- 10) Epidemic: regional outbreak of disease.
- 11) Spatial Perspective: observing variation in geographic phenomenon across space.
- 12) Five themes of geography: Five commonly recognized themes of Geography
 - a) Location: How and why geographical position affects people and things.
 - b) Human Environment interaction: the relationship between humans and the physical world or any other phenomena.
 - c) Region: an area on the earth's surface marked by common phenomena.
 - d) Place: a unique location
 - e) Movement: the mobility of goods, people, and ideas across the surface of the planet.
- 13) Spatial interaction: interaction between different spatial areas
- 14) Distance: measure of physical space
- 15) Accessibility: degree of ease with which it is possible to access one location from another (how hard is it to get from one place to another).
- 16) Connectivity: the degree of linkage between two spaces via transportation
- 17) Landscape: the material character of a place, the complex of natural features, human structures, and other tangible object that give a place a particular form.
- 18) Cultural landscape: impact of human activity on a landscape (think of building a bridge).
- 19) Sequent occupance: the imprint of various generations on the landscape (how each generation effects the landscape).
- 20) Cartography: art and science of making maps.
- 21) Reference maps: show the location of places and geographic features.
- 22) Thematic maps: maps that "tell stories", typically showing the degree of some attribute or the movement of a geographic phenomenon.
- 23) Absolute location: locations determined by a frame of reference.
- 24) Global Positioning System: satellite system for absolute location.
- 25) Geocaching: a treasure hunt game played by people using the GPS system

- 26) Relative location: describes a place in relation to human or physical features.
- 27) Mental map: Map you have in your mind (giving someone directions involves a mental map).
- 28) Activity space: places we go to in our daily life (such as PACE or your house)
- 29) Remote sensing: sensing data by satellite, balloon, or aircraft.
- 30) Geographic information systems: stored data from GPS and other sources allowing geographers to compare a variety of data.
- 31) Rescale: Involvement of players at other scales to generate support for a position or initiative. An example would be going on the web for support of something you are doing at school or trying to get a government official to help.
- 32) Formal region: region defined by physical and/or cultural traits.
- 33) Functional region: a region defined by a series of activities or interactions that occur within it.
- 34) Perceptual region: regions that exist primarily in the mind of the individual. For example, American culture means different things to different people.
- 35) Culture: Socially transmitted patterns of actions and expressions that include material objects (dwellings, clothing, tools, and crafts) and non-material values, beliefs, and languages.
- 36) Culture trait: a single attribute of a culture
- 37) Culture complex: a related set of cultural traits.
- 38) Cultural hearth: an area where cultural traits develop and from where they diffuse.
- 39) Independent invention: traits that exist in other cultures but developed independently of each other.
- 40) Cultural diffusion: the process by which an idea or innovation is spread from its cultural hearth to other places.
- 41) Time-distance decay: the theory that the further (both in time and space) an idea travels from its point of origin, the less likely it is to be adopted by a new culture.
- 42) Cultural barrier: current ideas or attitudes that render new ideas unacceptable or unadoptable. For example, eating pork is forbidden in Muslim countries and this is not likely to change.
- 43) Expansion diffusion: an idea or innovation remains strong at its cultural hearth while still expanding outward.
- 44) Contiguous diffusion: spread of an idea or innovation which affects all neighboring areas.
- 45) Hierarchical diffusion: spread of an idea or innovation through specific individuals. For example look at the *Harry Potter* or *Twilight* series'. Not everyone likes them, yet the books spread across the world.

- 46) Stimulus diffusion: a cultural adaptation occurs because of the introduction of a cultural trait. An example would be Japanese Anime.
- 47) Relocation diffusion: spread of an idea or innovation via movement of individuals who bring the idea with them. Missionaries are a good example of this.
- 48) Geographic concept: ways of seeing the world spatially that are used by geographers in answering questions.
- 49) Environmental determinism: the idea that the natural environment has a controlling influence over various aspects of human life, including cultural development.
- 50) Isotherm: lines connecting points of equal temperature values.
- 51) Possibilism: Human decision making is the crucial factor in cultural development. Often seen in contrast to Environmental determinism.
- 52) Cultural Ecology: study of culture as a system of adaptation to environment.
- 53) Political Ecology: study of the environmental consequences of dominant political-economic arrangements and understandings.