

Exam Overview

The AP Human Geography Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes long and includes 60 multiple-choice questions and 3 free-response questions. The details of the exam, including exam weighting and timing, can be found below:

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Exam Weighting	Timing
I	Multiple-choice questions	60	50%	60 minutes
II	Free-response questions (7 points each)	3	50%	75 minutes

The exam assesses content from each of the three big ideas for the course:

1. Patterns and Spatial Organization
2. Impacts and Interactions
3. Spatial Processes and Societal Change

The exam also assesses each of the seven units of the course with the following relative weightings on the multiple-choice section of the AP Exam:

Units	Exam Weighting
Unit 1: Thinking Geographically	8–10%
Unit 2: Population and Migration Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 3: Cultural Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 4: Political Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 5: Agriculture and Rural Land-Use Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 6: Cities and Urban Land-Use Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 7: Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes	12–17%

How Student Learning Is Assessed on the AP Exam

Section I: Multiple-Choice

The AP Human Geography skill categories are assessed in the multiple-choice section with the following relative weightings:

Skill Category	Exam Weighting
1: Concepts and Processes	25–36%
2: Spatial Relationships	16–25%
3: Data Analysis	13–20%
4: Visual Analysis	13–20%
5: Scale Analysis	13–20%

- The multiple-choice questions will include both individual and set-based questions.
- Approximately 30 to 40% of the multiple-choice questions will reference stimulus material, including maps, tables, charts, graphs, images, infographics, and/or landscapes, roughly evenly divided between quantitative and qualitative sources.

Section II: Free-Response

The second section of the AP Human Geography Exam includes three questions, each one assessing at least two different units of instruction.

All five AP Human Geography skill categories are assessed in the free-response section with the following weightings:

Skill Category	Exam Weighting
1: Concepts and Processes	23–29%
2: Spatial Relationships	33–43%
3: Data Analysis	10–19%
4: Visual Analysis	10–19%
5: Scale Analysis	10–14%

Each free-response question presents students with an authentic geographic situation or scenario and assesses students' ability to describe, explain, and apply geographic concepts, processes, or models, as they analyze geographic patterns, relationships, and outcomes in applied contexts. Free-response question 1 does not include any stimuli; Free-response question 2 includes one stimulus (data, image or map); and Free-response question 3 includes two stimuli (data, images, and/or maps). At least two of the three free-response questions assess students' ability to analyze across geographic scales to explain spatial relationships.

Task Verbs Used in Free-Response Questions

The following **task verbs** are commonly used in the free-response questions:

Compare: Provide a description or explanation of similarities and/or differences.

Define: Provide a specific meaning for a word or concept.

Describe: Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic.

Explain: Provide information about how or why a relationship, process, pattern, position, or outcome occurs, using evidence and/or reasoning.

Identify: Indicate or provide information about a specified topic, without elaboration or explanation.