

## Geography (0920)

### Test at a Glance

Test Name	Geography		
Test Code	0920		
Time	2 hours		
Number of Questions	120		
Format	Multiple-choice questions		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Questions
	I. Map and Globe Skills II. Physical Geography III. Human Geography IV. Regional Geography	24 25 35 36	20% 21% 29% 30%

## About This Test

The Geography test is designed for prospective teachers of geography in secondary schools.

The multiple-choice questions assess knowledge of relevant facts, the ability to analyze problems and apply principles in specific situations, and the ability to use charts, graphs, and maps across the content areas of map and globe skills, physical geography, human geography, and regional geography.

This test may contain some questions that do not count toward your score.

## Topics Covered

Representative descriptions of topics covered in each category are provided below.

### I. Map and Globe Skills

- Use of maps to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective
- Use of mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context
- Absolute and relative location
- Use of map projection, map type, and scale to display and analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments
- Use of charts and graphs as visual representations of data

### II. Physical Geography

- Physical processes that shape the pattern of Earth's surface including plate tectonics, geomorphic processes, erosion, transportation, and deposition
- Characteristics and spatial distributions of ecosystems on Earth's surface
- Weather systems
- Climate patterns
- Relationship between physical systems and human systems, and how human actions modify the physical environment

### III. Human Geography

- Population topics such as the demographic transition model, settlement patterns and migration, population structure
- Ethnicity, language, religion
- Political aspects including frontiers and boundaries, importance, control and distribution of resources, hegemony and spheres of influence, cooperation and conflict among people and nation-states
- Economic interdependence and measures of economic development

### IV. Regional Geography

- Formal, functional, and perceptual characteristics of a region
- The characteristics of a place as well as inter- and intraregional comparisons as they may involve cultural distribution, spatial patterns of economic activity, and human-environmental relationships

## Sample Test Questions

The sample questions that follow illustrate the types of questions in the test. They are not, however, representative of the entire scope of the test in either content or difficulty. Answers with explanations follow the questions.

**Directions:** Each of the questions or statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

- An isobar map shows lines connecting all points of equal
  - atmospheric pressure
  - surface temperature
  - elevation
  - precipitation
- On which of the following can one most accurately depict true geographical distance, true direction, true size, and true shape?
  - A Mercator projection
  - A globe
  - A conic projection
  - A gnomonic projection
- The climate of Britain is milder than most other places along the same latitude for which of the following reasons?
  - The Gulf Stream brings warm waters to Britain, raising the temperature of winds that blow onto the island.
  - Hot springs throughout the country raise the temperature of the surrounding land and air.
  - Mountain ranges in the north of Britain act as a barrier to cold winds blowing from the Arctic.
  - Small landmasses generate their own local climate and are largely unaffected by latitude.
- Which of the following is LEAST associated with the development of alluvial landscapes?
  - A deep cover of loose materials
  - A predominance of gentle slopes
  - Frequent flooding
  - Deep dissection and erosion
- One of the effects of the east–west orientation of the Alpine mountain system and the northern plains of western and central Europe is that it
  - limits the marine climate of Europe to coastal areas
  - provides a corridor for communication between southern and northern Europe
  - enables marine-like climatic conditions to extend eastward into Germany and Poland
  - effectively prevents population movement between parts of the Mediterranean region
- A hypothetical country has a population of 1,000, of whom 500 live in urban areas and 500 in agricultural areas. The country has a total area of 200 square miles with 50 square miles of arable land. What is the arithmetic density?
  - 1 per square mile
  - 4 per square mile
  - 5 per square mile
  - 40 per square mile
- Which of the following is LEAST self-sufficient in the natural resources needed for modern industry?
  - United States
  - Japan
  - France
  - United Kingdom
- The seasonal movement of herders and their livestock between lowland and highland pastures is called
  - transcendentalism
  - transhumance
  - nomadic transmission
  - sedentary transversing
- In which of the following regions is subsistence agriculture being replaced by large-scale commercial development?
  - The Swiss Alps
  - The Amazon Basin
  - North Africa
  - The Alaskan tundra

10. The cities of Varanasi (Benares) in India and Mecca in Saudi Arabia are alike because both are
- (A) capitals of countries formerly colonized by the English
  - (B) destinations for vast numbers of pilgrims
  - (C) financial centers for a large fraction of the world's economy
  - (D) examples of modern urban planning
11. Walter Christaller developed central place theory as a tool to describe the spatial relationships between
- (A) central business districts and suburbs
  - (B) a market and its sources for raw materials
  - (C) cities of different sizes and functions
  - (D) the hubs and spokes of airline transportation systems
12. When a new fashion design is introduced globally, the information initially travels through a process known as
- (A) contagious diffusion
  - (B) relocation diffusion
  - (C) innovative diffusion
  - (D) hierarchical diffusion

## Answers

1. A is the correct answer. An isobar is a line drawn on a map to connect all points of equal atmospheric pressure.
2. B is the correct answer. Only the globe can depict all the characteristics of size, shape, distance, and direction almost accurately.
3. The correct answer is A. The Gulf Stream is a warm current that flows northeast past the west coast of Britain. It brings milder climates to this landmass than would be expected given its northerly location.
4. The best answer is D. The features described in choices A, B, and C are common in landscapes that have been deposited by water. Deep dissection and erosion are NOT associated with the development of alluvial landscapes.
5. The correct answer is C. The physiogeography of Europe creates a corridor from the western coast eastward into Germany and Poland, enabling those countries to experience marine-like climate conditions.
6. C is the correct answer. The arithmetic density is the ratio of total population to total land.
7. The correct answer is B. Japan must import nearly all the raw materials needed for its industrial economy.
8. The correct answer is B. Transhumance is a specific system of animal herders utilizing mountain areas so that they are in the highland pastures in the summer and lowland pastures in the winter.
9. The correct answer is B. The Amazon Basin is the only region in the options listed in which subsistence agriculture is widely practiced. This form of agriculture is under threat as the commercial development of the rain forest for cattle and rubber increases.
10. B is the correct answer. Varanasi (Benares) is a holy city of the Hindus and the object of constant pilgrimages; Mecca is a holy city and the principal pilgrimage destination of Islam.
11. C is the correct answer. Christaller's primary goal in developing the model was to explain how and where central places (cities or towns) in the urban hierarchy would be functionally and spatially distributed with respect to one another.
12. D is the correct answer because hierarchical diffusion is a form of diffusion in which the adoption of an innovation or new idea occurs first in larger cities and then trickles down to smaller cities.



*Listening. Learning. Leading.®*

*[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)*