

AP[®] Human Geography 2004 Scoring Commentary

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Question 1

Sample: A Score: 1

This response earns one point for identifying that maquiladoras are foreign-owned factories in Mexico, producing goods for export. It does not note the import of product components or the attraction of cheap labor. It also does not discuss the significance of the maquiladoras border location nor does it address Mexico's position in the global industrial system.

Sample: B Score: 3

This response receives one point for observing that foreign-owned factories are located in Mexico to take advantage of cheap labor. An additional point is earned for recognition of the distribution of maquiladoras near the U.S.-Mexican border. The third point is given for a discussion of the role of low labor costs in attracting jobs to Mexico as part of the global industrial system.

Sample: C Score: 7

One point is earned for noting that American companies locate across the border in Mexico to take advantage of cheap labor. Two points are earned for discussion of the location of maquiladoras near the U.S.-Mexican border, especially near major U.S. cities, which facilitates efficient re-distribution of goods. Mexico's place in the global industrial system is enhanced by the presence of low-cost labor; low taxes and tariffs; the absence of strict environmental regulations; and close proximity to the major market of the United States, earning a total of four additional points.

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Question 2

Sample: A Score: 1

This response earns one point for recognizing that poultry has become a common food in the American family diet. The answer does not address other factors such as health and safety, availability, or economic considerations. Likewise, the response does not discuss either present economic organization or geographic distribution of poultry production in the United States.

Sample: B Score: 4

This response recognizes public fears concerning other meats as a reason for rising demand for poultry, but does not address other factors influencing demand. The answer discusses the shift toward large-scale operations involving more birds on fewer, specialized farms, earning two points. One point is earned for noting market-orientation of poultry production, but a second feature of distribution is not identified.

Sample: C Score: 6

This answer identifies shifting societal values favoring consumption of white meat and also increasing numbers of immigrants from cultures that have prohibition against certain other meats as reasons for increasing demand for poultry, earning two points. An additional two points are earned for recognizing large, specialized farms and the shift from family-owned to corporate control as characteristics of the economic organization of poultry production. The final two points are received for noting the regional concentration of the poultry industry and its close proximity to major markets in a discussion of the distribution of poultry production in the United States.

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Question 3

Sample: A Score: 2

This response earns two points for recognizing two differences between pyramids X and Y: location X has a higher percent of people above 60 years of age and location Y has a higher percent of people below 20 years of age. It does not use the concept of land rent to explain the residential profile, nor does it relate demographic differences to residential patterns at locations X and Y.

Sample: B Score: 5

This response notes that there are fewer children at location X and fewer elderly at location Y and earns two points. It points out that location X is preferred by people in the 20 to 54 age group because of access to jobs, earning one point. Location Y is preferred by families with children because of the availability of space which is limited at location X, earning two points. The response does not relate the concept of land rent to the residential profile.

Sample: C Score: 7

This response earns one point for explaining that land values decrease with distance from the Central Business District, thereby affecting land use. The response does not address competition from commercial or industrial land use as a factor explaining the density profile. Two more points are earned for explaining that the population at location Y includes more children, while that at location X has more young adults. The response further explains that residential patterns near location X reflect economic opportunities associated with jobs and less expensive living options related to apartments, earning two points. The final two points are earned by discussing the positive living environment for families raising children at location Y.