

**AP<sup>®</sup> HUMAN GEOGRAPHY  
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 3**

**PART A (2 points)**

Define the concepts “centripetal force” and “centrifugal force.”

1 point: Generalized definition of centripetal and centrifugal without explicit reference to “viability of a state” OR one correct definition.

2 points: Centripetal forces unify a state (provide stability, strengthen, bind together, create solidarity)  
Centrifugal forces divide a state (lead to balkanization/devolution, disrupt internal order, destabilize, weaken).

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**Question 3 (continued)**

**PART B (2 points: 1 point for generalized identification of a force with a country specified; 2 points for identification of a force with country specified and specific details)**

Give a specific example of and explain a centripetal force that affects the viability of any of the states shown on the map.

<b>Centripetal force examples</b>	<b>Specific details</b>
Religion	Hinduism in India or Nepal; Islam in Pakistan or Bangladesh; Buddhism in Bhutan
Language	Urdu (official language), Punjabi or English in Pakistan; Hindi or English in India; Bengali in Bangladesh
Expressions of national pride/symbols (generalized: anthem, sports teams, flag...)	Cricket in India; Place name changes in India
Transportation/ Communication infrastructure	Railroads in India
Raison d' être/Shared history	History of British imperialism; Creation of states (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh)
External threat	India, Pakistan
Morphology/Compact state	Sri Lanka, Bhutan
Charismatic or strong leader	Absolute monarchy in Nepal; Military leader in Pakistan
Forward capital	Capital of Pakistan moved from Karachi to Islamabad
Disaster response	Earthquake in Pakistan; Cyclones or flooding in Bangladesh; Tsunami in India/Sri Lanka—must reference unifying effect on population
Economic-development programs	Self-sufficiency program in India
Physical geography	Pakistan as a river valley, isolated by mountains and desert
Government	India's representative democracy

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**Question 3 (continued)**

**PART C (2 points: 1 point for generalized identification of a force with a country specified; 2 points for identification of a force with country specified and specific details)**

With reference to a different specific example, explain a centrifugal force that affects the viability of any of the states shown on the map.

<b>Centrifugal force examples</b>	<b>Specific details</b>
Religion	Islam/Hindu in India or Bangladesh; Buddhist/Hindu in Sri Lanka; Sunni/Shiite Muslims in Pakistan; Islam/Hindu in Kashmir; Sikhs/Hindu in India; Jains/Hindu in India
Language	India 14–18 official languages (4 language families); disputes regarding place name changes in India
Federal Government/Regionalism	Federal system (28 states) in India
Ethnicities/Separatist movements	Sikhs in India; Muslims in Kashmir, Tamil/Sinhalese in Sri Lanka, Maoist rebels in Nepal
Morphology/Fragmented or Prorupt	Bangladesh exclave in India; Prorupt portion of India
External threat	India, Pakistan
Territorial Disputes	Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India
Multicore state	Several large cities in India
Physical geography	Mountains divide communities in Nepal

**WILL NOT ACCEPT:**

- Examples with countries not on the map (e.g., Afghanistan, Burma, Madagascar)
- Same force and country for both B and C (MAY use same country with different forces or same force with different countries)

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Centripetal and centrifugal forces are those that determine the success of a country. Centripetal forces are those that hold the country together. They include things such as economic prosperity, good leadership, ideology, and nationalism. Centrifugal forces on the other hand drive a state apart. Religious and linguistic diversity, armed conflicts, and poverty are all examples of centrifugal forces.

Within this region, an example of a centripetal force would be religion in Pakistan. When Pakistan first broke off from India, there was a lot of tension, and many Hindus left for areas in India where they would not be the minority. At the same time, many followers of Islam in India and Bangladesh migrated to Pakistan because Pakistan was for the most part Islamic. Today, that religious homogeneity helps keep Pakistan stable since it is a source of similarity and unity among the people. It helps to forge nationalism and furthers the state in that respect.

There are many divisive or centrifugal forces in this region, but one of the most obvious is the multitude of languages in India. From regional dialects to completely different languages, India speaks in hundreds of different tongues. From one province to another the languages are unlikely to be the same. In matters of governing and official documents this can be extremely difficult to deal with, and it has even led to the adoption of English as a national language simply so that the struggle of having the dominant and official language isn't an

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issue. Of course, bringing in the language of a former colonial ruler rarely makes people happy, so even that has created tension. This tension is especially evident in India's toponymy, as cities such as Bombay change their names to pre-colonial ones. The city of Bombay is now called Mumbai.

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# 3 A, B, C.

- 3A Centripetal and centrifugal forces are important concepts that a state depends on. Centripetal forces are forces able to pull a state together such as nationalism, while centrifugal forces force a state apart, for example many different languages. In the region of
- 3B India a centripetal force is that they have one main religion which is Hinduism. It is able to pull them together ~~during~~ during the religious season when they travel to the rivers to be cleansed, it is a scene of unity in which a majority of the people are able to share.
- 3C The natural geography of India is able to also be a centrifugal force. The mountains to the north make it difficult to trade, the main land is below sea level and the only thing that is keeping the water from rushing in is the mountains, so the natural geography is able to aid in forcing the country apart.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

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A. A centripetal force is a force that unites, or binds a country together. A centrifugal force tears, or breaks apart a country.

B. A common culture or nation can be a centripetal force that unites a country. IF you have common beliefs + culture, there is no need for fighting, and therefore the people would be prosperous. Religion is also a centripetal force because religion binds a group of people together.

C. In contrast, racism can be an example of a centrifugal force. Obviously, if there is racism, the country would be pulled apart and won't be united. Wars, especially Civil Wars tears and divides a country. Politics can be a centrifugal force as it divides the country opinions.

# AP<sup>®</sup> HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Question 3

### Overview

This question required students to show their understanding of important political geography concepts and apply them in a specific geographic context. Specifically, it focused on the concepts of centripetal and centrifugal forces, as used in political geography, in the context of South Asia. A map of South Asia was provided as stimulus. In part A students were asked to define the concepts “centripetal force” and “centrifugal force.” In part B they were asked to give an example of and explain a centripetal force that affects the viability of any state shown on the provided map. In part C they were asked to do the same for centrifugal force.

This question tested students' knowledge of material from the “Political Organization of Space” section of the AP Human Geography topic outline and their ability to apply that knowledge. Several topics within this section of the outline are related to the question of factors supporting or challenging the viability of a state. Related items include “The nation-state concept,” “Challenges to inherited political-territorial arrangements,” “Fragmentation, unification, alliance,” and “Spatial relationships between political patterns and patterns of ethnicity, economy, and environment.” Depending on the centripetal and centrifugal factors chosen, students could also draw on their knowledge of several other sections of the topic outline, especially the section “Cultural Patterns and Processes.”

### Sample: 3A

Score: 6

#### **Part A—2 points**

The student earned 2 points for providing minimal definitions of centripetal forces (“they are those that hold the country together”) and centrifugal forces (“drive a state apart”).

#### **Part B—2 points**

The student discusses Islam in Pakistan as an example of a centripetal force: “religious homogeneity [*sic*] helps keep Pakistan stable.” Good examples with explanations earned 2 points for part B.

#### **Part C—2 points**

The student demonstrates a full understanding of the centrifugal forces in the region in a discussion of language in India: “multitude of languages in India,” “hundreds of different tongues,” “led to the adoption of English,” and “language of a former colonial ruler rarely makes people happy, so even that has created tension.” Two points were earned for this discussion.

### Sample: 3B

Score: 4

#### **Part A—2 points**

The student defines centripetal forces as those that “pull a state together [*sic*] such as nationalisum [*sic*]” and centrifugal forces as those that “force a state apart.” This is an example of the bare minimum required for credit in this part of the question.

#### **Part B—2 points**

The student selects religion as an example of centripetal force, explaining that Hinduism in India creates a sense of unity: “It is able to pull them together [*sic*] during the religious season.” The student includes some more detail about Hinduism in India that indicates a basic understanding of the centripetal force concept and how it works within the state.

#### **Part C—0 points**

The student uses India's mountains as a centrifugal force. No points were earned for part C as this is an inappropriate example.



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**Question 3 (continued)**

**Sample: 3C**

**Score: 2**

***Part A—2 points***

This example meets the bare minimum requirements of the scoring guidelines for defining centripetal and centrifugal forces: “[centripetal force] unites, or binds a country together” and “A centrifugal force tears, or breaks apart a country.”

***Part B—0 points***

Although the student states that a “common culture” and a common “religion” can be centripetal forces, no credit was given for part B because there are no countries coupled to the centripetal forces mentioned.

***Part C—0 points***

Similarly, no points were awarded in part C even though the student identifies racism and civil war as centrifugal forces. The response is not specific to any of the countries shown on the map in the question.