

AP[®] HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2007 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

At the same time that English is solidifying its role as the world’s premier lingua franca, lesser-used minority languages (such as Welsh, Basque, and Inuktitut) are undergoing revival.

Discuss three distinct factors promoting the revival of minority languages in the face of globalization.
(6 points)

Only the first three factors receive credit, **BUT look at ALL supporting evidence for processes. Examples get credit.**

One point for Factor column and 1 point for Process/Example column.

Factor	Process/Example
Groups other than governments try to maintain their distinctive culture by resisting English (folk culture)	Elders teaching young people, etc. Native Americans, minority languages in China, Cornish in England.
Devolution (a transfer of power from a higher to a lower level of government) Separatist—regional autonomy (centrifugal force)	Central government allows a minority language found in a region, within a state, that wishes a separate identity to be used—e.g., Breton, Welsh, Maori, Inuktitut; OR nationalists/separatists promote the local language as a way to resist the central or national political culture—e.g., Basque.
Government policies to promote unity in multicultural state (centripetal force)	The central or national government of a state adopts two or more official languages to reduce the threat of secession; OR examples: Belgium, Canada, South Africa, Singapore, India, Nigeria.
Nationalism —government policies to increase nationalism in country	Some newly independent states reestablish the indigenous language as a statement of political and cultural independence; OR examples such as Ireland/Gaelic, Israel/Hebrew.
Modern electronic communications or improved communications (but not mass media) can enable small groups of people to stay in touch and reinforce the use of a minority language	The rise of mass personal communications tools such as the telephone, Internet, photocopier, and narrowcasting via cable TV, radio and TV stations, and specialized newspapers and magazines can enable minority groups to resist the power of mass media and maintain their language.

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Question 2 (continued)

Factor	Process/Example
Tourism	Some minority languages have become part of the tourist landscape because tourists want to see something authentic; examples: Welsh, Irish.
Government policy to support minority language for nonpolitical reasons	European Union's Bureau for Little Used Languages or the end of forced assimilation of Native Americans in the United States. French policy of supporting regional variations of premodern French.

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

2) Many ethnic groups are attempting to revive their minority languages in a time when the world is becoming more tied socially and economically as globalization increases. For some groups, this revival is caused by a desire to resist globalization and their influences globally economy's will have on their lifestyles. Not everyone wants to open an American factory in their city or wear blue jeans; for some groups, the people are content with their lives and own culture, and choose to remain isolated from the heavy impact globalization would have. Therefore, by reviving their languages they are essentially choosing not to conform ~~to the world~~ in hopes of stopping the spread of globalization if they cannot communicate with the lingua franca, English speakers.

For other groups, language revival is a way of maintaining their distinction as an ethnicity or nationality. While these people are not against globalization, they may be large participants in it, they desire to keep their ethnic group distinct. This revival of language is a way of uniting a group that hopes to keep its traditions, practices and ideals in the face of globalization. People of an ethnic group will become more united if they speak the same language; by reviving minority languages, ^{people within an} ethnic groups are uniting and communicating, but also making their group distinct from other groups.

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Another factor promoting the revival of minority languages is the desire to stir up national pride. For instance, when the state of Israel was formed in the 1940s as a homeland for Jews there was a revival of Hebrew, a near extinct language. ~~When~~ when Israel was founded after the Holocaust, the revival of Hebrew helped unite Jews and created a national pride that went along with their new home state. ~~and~~

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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 exam.

minority languages are being revived for several reasons. One such reason is cultural preservation. In the face of globalization, more and more things are becoming uniform. Through ~~diffusion~~ expansion diffusion (spreading of ideas or customs), restaurants once found only in the United States, like McDonald's are now found globally. With the creation of placelessness, many cultures with unique languages want to preserve their customs. By keeping their languages alive, minority cultures can hold on to some of their ways, and pass down ancient traditions to their families. This prevents the concept of placelessness from enveloping them and enables them to keep their culture alive in the future.

Minority languages are not solely revived and preserved for culture, however. In some cases,

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reviving or preserving a language makes a political statement.

Different ethnic groups with minority languages press for nationalistic causes. Nations, or groups of people without a sovereign state that are homogeneous in nature, may want to ~~achieve their~~ create their own nation-state. In the Balkans region, many groups of people wanted to separate from Yugoslavia and have their own nation-states.

Preserving their own languages made a stronger case for them to separate, and in some cases, allowed politicians to create the states based on language lines. The Basques in Spain are another example of this. They also desire autonomy and preserving and reviving their unique language provides more evidence for their separation.

Finally, because English is being solidified into a lingua franca, trade can occur between states

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering
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with very different cultures. Because this has been established, ethnic languages do not have to be eliminated. They can flourish and no one has to worry about not being able to obtain resources because of lingua francas like English. In this way, interestingly enough, globalization has helped ethnic languages.

~~From~~ Cultural preservation, political statements, and the creation of lingua francas all allow minority languages to be revived.

Question 3 begins on the next page.

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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 exam.

In today's globalized world, many languages are substituted by a lingua franca or in this case, English. English is a major lingua franca because of America's success in WWII.

However, certain languages such as Welsh, Basque, and Inuktitut are reviving because of interest in them. Also, their once ~~oppressed~~ ~~peoples~~ speakers are no longer ~~oppressed~~ and are encouraged to speak their languages. Movements by native speakers are the motivation here. Also, these groups are self-determined, and have recently been given new rights to partially govern themselves - which resulted in their language revival.

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Question 2

Overview

This question required a synthesis of concepts related to the revival of minority languages. The introduction to the question notes that while English is becoming more widely spoken as a global lingua franca, minority languages such as Welsh, Basque, and Inuktitut are undergoing revival. Students were then asked to discuss three distinct factors that promote the revival of minority languages. They were thus prompted to show, in an integrated response, their understanding of the contrasting forces of globalization and local diversity, in this case emphasizing factors promoting local diversity, using the key cultural element of language to structure their discussion.

This question required students to apply their knowledge of the “Cultural Patterns and Processes” section of the *AP Human Geography Course Description*, which discusses “how geographers assess the spatial and place dimensions of cultural groups” as defined by several elements, including language, and how the geography of language is used to illustrate processes of cultural diffusion and cultural differences at various scales. The question is also related to themes highlighted in the first section of the Course Description (“Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives”), such as globalization and place. Moreover, the importance of understanding relationships among patterns and processes at different scales is one of the major goals of the course. In their responses, students could also draw from their understanding of topics in other sections of the Course Description, notably the “Political Organization of Space.”

Sample: 2A

Score: 6

This essay received 6 points for identifying and discussing three factors that promote the revival of minority languages. The essay received 2 points for relating the revival of a minority language to a resistance to globalization that ties countries together socially and economically. The student develops the essay further with a discussion about isolation and nonconformity as examples of resistance to the forces of globalization. Full credit (2 points) was awarded for the second paragraph that explains how a cultural group can participate in the world economy but still maintain its cultural distinctiveness through revival of its language. The use of a distinct language unites a group, allows it to keep its traditions and ideals intact, and keeps the group distinct from others despite globalization. The student discusses how an ethnic group will isolate itself from the forces of globalization. The discussion around the third factor, national pride (or nationalism), received 2 points. The student uses the example of the formation of the State of Israel and “the revival of Hebrew, a near extinct language,” as a unifying force.

Sample: 2B

Score: 4

This essay received 4 points for identifying and discussing two factors, cultural preservation and nationalism. The student shows knowledge of the concept of placelessness and uses it to augment a discussion on the preservation of culture through language. In the part of the response related to nationalism, the student uses two examples, the Balkan States and the Basques. No credit was given for the last part of the essay because the student misunderstands the general use of a lingua franca.

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Question 2 (continued)

Sample: 2C

Score: 2

This essay received 2 points for its recognition that the use of minority languages is sometimes supported because there is “interest in them,” and speakers “are encouraged to speak thier [*sic*] languages” for nonpolitical reasons. The student gives examples to support the argument that some groups “have recently been given new rights to partially govern themselves” and are no longer oppressed and can now speak their own language. Native speakers are often the motivation behind the preservation and revival of a language.