

Unit 1 Cheat Sheet: Thinking Geographically

AP® Human Geography · Unit 1 Review · Blank practice version

The big idea: Every unit asks the same two questions. What are they, and what is that way of looking at the world called?

How to use it: Fill in every box from memory before you look anything up. Then check your answers against the full cheat sheet and star anything you missed. Those are your review targets.

KEY TERMS

Maps (Topic 1.1)		Census data	
Reference map		Uses of data	
Thematic map		Spatial concepts (Topic 1.4)	
Choropleth		Absolute location	
Dot distribution		Relative location	
Graduated symbol		Place	
Isoline		Space	
Cartogram		Flows	
Map projection		Distance decay	
Map scale		Time-space compression	
Geographic data (Topics 1.2 and 1.3)		Pattern	
Field observation		Density	
Remote sensing		People and the environment (Topic 1.5)	
GPS		Environmental determinism	
GIS			

Possibilism	
Sustainability	
Scale and regions (Topics 1.6 and 1.7)	
Scale of analysis	
Formal region	

Functional region	
Perceptual (vernacular) region	
Regional boundaries	

MAP PROJECTIONS: WHAT EACH KEEPS AND GIVES UP

PROJECTION	KEEPS	GIVES UP	GOOD FOR
Mercator			
Gall-Peters			
Robinson			
Equal Earth			
Azimuthal equidistant (polar)			

DON'T CONFUSE THESE

Large scale vs. small scale	
Map scale vs. scale of analysis	
Formal vs. functional region	
Determinism vs. possibilism	
Absolute vs. relative location	
GPS vs. GIS vs. remote sensing	

Quantitative vs. qualitative data

EXAMPLES TO KNOW COLD

John Snow’s cholera map
(London, 1854)

Greenland vs. Africa on a
Mercator map

The Netherlands and Las Vegas

Income at two scales

Two grandparents

FRQ: HOW UNIT 1 SHOWS UP

PROMPT SAYS	WHAT TO DO
Identify	
Define	
Describe	
Explain	
Compare	
Explain the degree to which	

Likely Unit 1 FRQ angles

- Define a geospatial tool (remote sensing, GPS, GIS) and explain how it helps solve a real problem.
- Describe what a map or projection shows, and what it distorts or leaves out.
- Explain why a place is a formal, functional, or perceptual region.
- Explain how a pattern changes at a different scale of analysis.
- Explain how technology changes distance decay.
- Explain the degree to which an example shows possibilism.

FRQ rules: Answer at the scale the question names. Write in complete sentences (lists and outlines do not earn credit). If a part asks for one example, only your first one is scored.