

Unit 1: Thinking Geographically
Multiple Choice Answer Key and Explanations



1. Grand central station is an example of a _____ region.	
A. Formal	This answer is incorrect. Grand central station is a transportation hub that connects to other regions of New York, it is used by commuters to move around the city. While the station does have set boundaries it lacks a unified cultural identity and functions as a transportation hub for the surrounding community.
B. Perceptual	This answer is incorrect. Perceptual regions do not have set boundaries and are created based on the opinions, attitudes, and perceptions of others. Grand central station's function, location, and boundaries do not differ from person to person.
C. Functional	This answer is correct because Grand central station is a transportation hub that connects the people of New York City. The station itself is a node that services the surrounding community
D. Vernacular	This answer is incorrect. This is another way to say perceptual region, which as stated above would not most actually describe the function of Grand central station.
E. Uniform	This answer is incorrect. This is another way to say formal region, which as stated above would not most actually describe the function of Grand central station.



2. Identify the map above and identify which of the following descriptions most accurately describes the map.	
A. Mercator: The shape and size of land masses are distorted, but direction is accurate	This answer is correct. The Mercator map was used for marine navigation and shows direction actually, but distorts the size/shape of land masses.
B. Robinson: Distortion is only happening with the size of the land masses, shape and direction are accurate	This answer is incorrect. The Robinson map has rounded edges and minimizes distortion by equally spreading it out
C. Mercator: Land mass size is accurate due to distortion being spread across all aspects of the map	This answer is incorrect. The Mercator map does not actually display land mass size
D. Goode Homolosine: Does not use cardinal directions, minimizes distortion but is confusing to read	This answer is incorrect. The Goode Homolosine map is an interrupted map.
E. Robinson: Distortion is evenly spread out across shape, size, and direction making it less noticeable	This answer is incorrect. While it does accurately describe the Robinson map, the map above does not have rounded edges and does not spread out the distortion.

3. Which of the following statements is not an example of quantitative research?	
A. The government conducting the census	This answer is incorrect. Census data shows population data, which is quantitative research.
B. A shoe company analyzes looks at the zip codes of the customers that purchased shoes from the store to better understand their customers	This answer is not correct. When companies are analyzing zip codes and sales data they are using quantitative research.
C. Target looking at the median household income for the city of Mr. Sinn vile to better understand where to open their next store	This answer is incorrect. Median household income is quantitative data.
D. A school superintendent looking at the racial and economic breakdown of the city when determining where to open a new school	This answer is incorrect. Economic data and demographic data is quantitative data.
E. A city council official sending out a survey to his constituents asking how they feel about the work his office is doing	This answer is correct. This is an example of qualitative research, the survey can not be replicated, the data is also subjective.

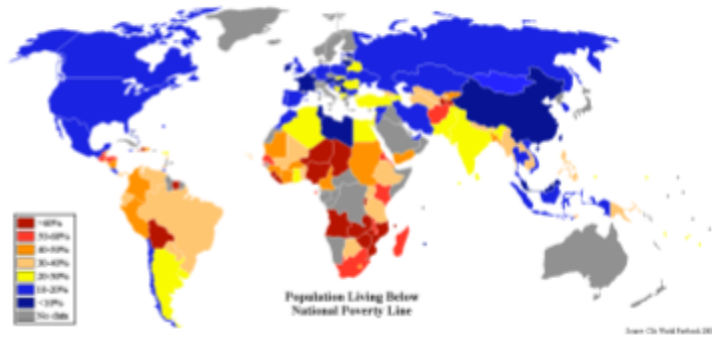
4. Which of the following would geographers not be interested in observing when looking at a local place?	
A. The physical terrain	This answer is incorrect. The physical characteristics of a geographic location are part of a place.
B. The religious breakdown of citizens	This answer is incorrect. The religious breakdown of a place is a human characteristic of a place.
C. The different languages that are spoken	This answer is incorrect. The language of a geographic location is a human characteristic of a place.
D. The demographic breakdown of the entire country	This answer is correct. The question was asking for a local scale, but this answer is talking about a national scale.
E. The amount of rivers and lakes in the area	This answer is incorrect. Rivers are part of the physical terrain of a place.

5. You being able to watch and learn from Mr. Sinn is an example of what spatial concept?	
A. Distance decay	This answer is incorrect. Distance decay would prevent you from being able to learn from Mr. Sinn.
B. Tobler's first law of geography	This answer is incorrect. Tobler's first law states that people are less likely to interact with places and people that are further away.
C. Time-space compression	This answer is correct. Time-space compression happens due to the increased access to technology allowing people to interact with places and people further away with ease. (Reduces distance decay)
D. Scale of inquiry	This answer is incorrect. Scale of inquiry is when geographers seek to understand the scale and scale of analysis of a map or data set.
E. Clustering of information	This answer is incorrect. This is the grouping of data into chunks based on similar characteristics.

Map A



Map B

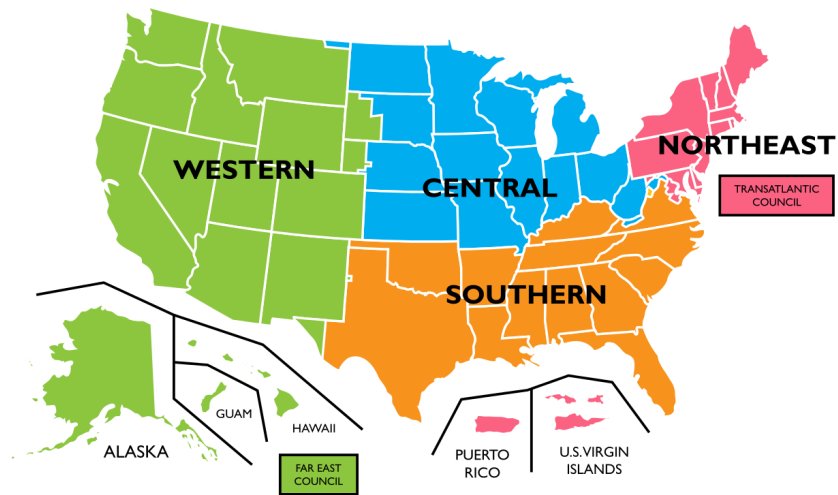


6. Which of the statements below is **not** true regarding the maps above?

A. Map B is a small scale map	This answer is incorrect. Map B is a small scale map, you can see a large amount of the earth's surface and few details in the data.
B. Map A is showing a local scale of analysis	This answer is incorrect. This scale is a local scale with the information in the map being also presented at a local scale of analysis.
C. Map B is showing a global scale of analysis	This answer is correct. The scale in this map is global but the scale of analysis is national (not global). This is due to the data being organized by countries' boundaries. (Remember this is a not question, it was asking for which of the answers was not true)
D. Map A is a large scale map	This answer is incorrect. Map A is showing a small amount of the earth's surface and specific details in the data and information, making it a large scale map.
E. Map B is showing a national scale of analysis	This answer is incorrect. As stated in the answer for C, the data in Map B is showing the national poverty line for countries.

7. Which of the following answers below connect with the theory of environmental possibilism?	
A. Citizens of a settlement have to relocate due to a lack of water	This answer is incorrect. This would be an example of environmental determinism. Society was not able to succeed due to environmental constraints.
B. Farmers utilize aqueducts to modify the flow of water to support their crops	This answer is correct. Here we can see the environment has put constraints on farmers, but farmers have modified the environment to account for the challenges.
C. Tariffs put in place by foreign countries hinder economic growth	This answer is incorrect. This answer does not connect back to either environmental possibilism or determinism as it only speaks of the economy.
D. Societies growth rate changes over time as they become more advanced	This answer is incorrect. Population growth rates and advancements in society could connect back to the environment. However, this answer does not mention the environment and does not connect back to the question.
E. Food is located in certain regions based on transportation costs	This answer is incorrect. It talks about transportation as the main reasons for the location of food, but not the environment.

8. What problem arises when we look at data on a small scale map?	
A. Information uses less generalization which makes data confusing due to conflicting information	This answer is incorrect. Small scale maps use more generalizations to reduce the confusion with the data.
B. Information becomes generalized and many details are left out	This answer is correct. A small scale map, you can see a large amount of the earth's surface and few details in the data. This makes it difficult for the readers to gain a full understanding of the information being displayed, as there will be details left out.
C. Data can only be shown in number form which leads to large graphs	This answer is incorrect. Data can be shown in a variety of ways, making this statement false.
D. The data is presented accurately, however, the amount of data is statistically irrelevant	This answer is incorrect. Data presented in small scale maps is not statistically irrelevant.
E. Data can only be illustrated as a nodal or vernacular region	This answer is incorrect. Data can be illustrated in formal, nodal, or vernacular regions.



9. Which of the following regions is being illustrated in the map above?	
A. Formal	This answer is incorrect. We can see that the cardinal directions are being used to describe the different regions. These regions are not set regions and would differ depending on who you ask.
B. Perceptual	This answer is correct. These regions would differ depending on who you ask. The cardinal directions being used make these regions relative.
C. Functional	This answer is incorrect. The regions are not set up around a node or a center point.
D. Nodal	This answer is incorrect. This is another way of saying the region is a functional region.
E. Uniform	This answer is incorrect. This is another way of saying the region is a formal region.

10. At what scale of analysis is it best to answer the following question? How many commuters use public transportation in the city of Chicago?	
A. Global	This answer is incorrect. This scale of analysis could show global travel but could not show a local city.
B. National	This answer is incorrect. This scale of analysis could be used to look at the commuter routes for an entire country, but not a local city.
C. Regional	This answer is incorrect. This scale of analysis could be used to look at the commuter routes for different regions within a country, but not a city.
D. State	This answer is incorrect. This scale of analysis could be used to look at the commuter routes for different regions within a country, but not a city.
E. Local	This answer is correct. Chicago would be an example of a local scale, which would be able to accurately show the daily rides for the public transportation in the city.