

**AP Human Geography**  
**Unit III. Cultural Patterns and Processes**

**Outline with Corresponding Multiple Choice Questions**

***III. Cultural Patterns and Processes***

***A. Concepts of culture***

- Definition of culture (1)

***1. Traits***

- a. Cultural complex
- b. Cultural system
- b. Common characteristics (4, 5, 6)
- c. Syncretism (19)

***2. Diffusion (22, 23)***

- a. Culture hearth (11)
- b. Relocation diffusion (24, 25)
- c. Expansion diffusion (26)
  - Hierarchical (28, 29)
  - Contagious (27)
  - Stimulus (30, 31, 32)
- d. Time-space compression
- e. Barriers to diffusion
  - Friction of distance
  - Time-distance decay
  - Absorbing barrier
  - Interrupting barriers
  - Permeable barriers

***3. Acculturation, assimilation, and globalization (2, 33, 34)***

- a. Role of relocation diffusion
  - Acculturation and cultural modification vs. assimilation (121, 123, 124)
- b. Role of globalization
- c. Case study (125)

***4. Culture regions (12, 13)***

- a. Formal region (14)
- b. Functional region (15)
  - Core, domain, and sphere (18)
- c. Vernacular region (16)
  - The “South”, the “Midwest” and the “Southwest” (17)
  - Regional identity
- d. Transitional zones (20, 21)

***5. Cultural ecology (7, 8)***

- a. Possibilism vs. environmental determinism

***6. Cultural integration (9)***

***7. Cultural landscape (3, 10)***

## **B. Cultural differences**

### **1. Language (57)**

- a. Linguistic culture regions (**46**)
  - Language families (**40, 41**)
  - Indo-European language family (Romance & Germanic) (**38, 39**)
  - Afro-Asiatic family (**42, 43**)
  - Other language families
  - Shifting boundaries of American English (isoglass)
  - Regional dialects
- b. Linguistic diffusion (**35, 36**)
  - Indo-European diffusion (**37**)
  - The Story of English
  - Linguistic globalization (English)
  - Lingua franca
- c. Linguistic ecology
  - Habitat and vocabulary (U.S.A.)
  - Habitat isolation and language (**48, 61**)
  - Habitat and language areas
- d. Culture-linguistic Interaction (**44, 45, 47, 49, 53, 58, 59, 60, 62**)
  - Technology and linguistic dominance (**50, 52, 54, 55**)
  - Language and empire (**51, 63**)
  - Language and religion (**56**)
- e. Linguistic landscapes (**64**)
  - Toponyms (**65**)
  - Generic toponyms of the United States
  - Ethnic linguistic landscapes

### **2. Religion**

- a. Categories of religions (**66, 68, 72, 73, 74, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84**)
  - Ethnic, universalizing, monotheistic, polytheistic, syncretic, orthodox, and fundamentalism
- b. Religious culture regions (**67, 69, 70, 71, 75, 76, 77, 85, 86, 87, 89, 126**)
  - Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Animism/Shamanism
  - Changing religious profiles
- b. Religious diffusion
  - The Semitic religious hearth (Judaism, Christianity, & Islam (**78**))
  - The Indus-Ganges hearth (Hinduism & Buddhism)
  - Diffusion of Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism
  - Barriers and time-distance decay (**127**)
- c. Religious ecology
  - Role of nature and religion
  - The environment and monotheism
  - Ecotheology

- Godliness and greenness (Gaia hypothesis & the greening of Christianity)
  - d. Cultural interaction in religion (**90**)
    - Religion and economy
    - Religious pilgrimage
  - e. Religious landscapes (**88**)
    - Religious structures
    - Landscapes of the dead
    - Religious names on the landscape
    - Sacred space (**79**)
- 3. Ethnicity**
- a. Definition of ethnicity? (**107, 108, 109, 110**)
  - b. Distribution of ethnicities (**111, 112, 113, 114, 116**)
    - North America, Europe, Africa, South Asia, & East Asia
  - c. Ethnicities from different scales (local to global) (**117, 118**)
  - d. Role of relocation diffusion
  - e. The acculturation process
  - f. Geographic distribution of ethnicities and political boundaries
  - g. Ethnic landscapes (**115**)
  - h. Case studies: Ethnic conflict
- 4. Gender**
- a. Space and gender inequalities
  - b. Activity space and gender
  - c. Impact and change of traditional women's roles
  - d. Role of religion (**119**)
  - e. Access to power and control of space (**120, 121**)
  - f. Impact of the cultural landscape
- 5. Popular and folk culture**
- a. Definitions and differences (**92, 93, 94, 95, 99, 100, 101**)
  - b. Geographic distribution of folk & popular culture (**96, 97**)
  - c. Role of diffusion (**98, 102**)
  - d. Impact of globalization
  - e. Impact on the landscape (cultural landscape) (**91**)
- C. Cultural landscapes and cultural identity (105)**
- 1. Values and preferences**
- a. Modification of nature (**103,104**)
    - Concepts of wilderness, parks, and manicured landscapes
    - Housing types (vernacular vs. popular)
  - b. Environmental perception
  - c. Mental maps (cognitive images) and preferences
- 2. Symbolic landscapes and sense of place**
- a. Sacred space
  - b. Place as symbols
  - c. Sense of Place (**106**)
    - The literary landscape
    - Native American vs. Western perceptions

3. ***Environmental impact of cultural attitudes and practices***
  - a. More Developed Countries (MDCs) and the culture of consumption
  - b. Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the impact of population growth on flora and fauna