

AP Human Geography
Unit VII. Cities and Urban Land Use

Free Response Questions

FRQ 1 Rapid urbanization in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) has many profound impacts for the world. Answer the following questions in detail and give specific examples.

- A) Discuss the changing percentage of the top ten world's largest cities located in More Developed Countries (MDCs) vs. LDCs, since 1900.
- B) How will this trend play out for the next twenty years? What cities and areas of the world will continue to rapidly urbanize?
- C) Discuss **two** factors that are contributing to the rapid geographical shifts in urbanization on a global scale.
- D) Discuss **three** geographic challenges for mega cities in both MDCs and LDCs.

FRQ 1 Scoring guideline/rubric - 14 points.

- A) 2 points - 1 point for identifying that the percentage of the world's largest cities was dominated by MDCs up until the 1960s and that since that time the percentage has shifted towards LDCs as the location the world's largest cities. 1 point for identifying specific cities in the top ten in the early part of the 20th century and during the later part of the 20th century.
- B) 2 points for identifying the trend towards more LDC cities entering the top ten, and which MDC cities will probably remain in the top ten.
- C) 4 points - 2 points for explaining how rapid population growth is contributing to the growth and expansion of mega cities. 2 points for explaining how rural to urban migration is also contributing to the growth of cities in LDCs.
- D) 6 points - 2 points each for adequately describing a challenge that rapid urban growth presents for developing countries.

This question asks students to elaborate on the rapid urbanization of LDC cities, and why they are now dominating the world's largest cities. In order for students to answer this question adequately they must have an understanding of basic population/migration trends in LDCs. Finally, students need to examine the economic, political, and environmental challenges mega cities face.

FRQ 2 A number of urban models have been developed during the 20th century to help explain the distribution of commercial activities and social characteristics for North

American cities. For the Concentric Zone, Sector, and Multiple Nuclei Models discuss the following:

- A) Identify **three** assumptions in all three models.
- B) Describe **one** strength and **one** weakness for each model.
- C) Analyze the effectiveness of the concentric model for cities outside of North America. How would the arrangement of concentric circles be different and why?

FRQ 2 Scoring guideline/rubric - 12 points.

- A) 3 points - 1 point for identifying each assumption in the model up to three assumptions.
- B) 6 points - 1 point for identifying one strength per model. 1 point for identifying one weakness per model.
- C) 3 points for analyzing how the concentric zone model rings would be arranged differently and the reason(s) why.

This question determines if students have a thorough understanding of the assumptions, strengths and weaknesses, and effectiveness outside of North America for the basic urban models.

FRQ 3 North American metropolitan areas face many challenges. Discuss in detail a social, an economic, and a physical challenge for A, B or C, and D.

- A) central business districts (CBDs).
- B) inner city neighborhoods.
- C) inner ring suburbs (1950s).
- D) boomburbs (commuter zone).

FRQ 3 Scoring guideline/rubric - 18 points.

3 points for discussing a(n) social, economic, and physical challenge for A, B or C, and D, and 3 points for explaining why it is a problem. 1 point for correctly identifying the challenge and 1 point for explaining why it is a problem for each category.

This question determines if students have a sound understanding of the various challenges that different parts of a metro area experience, especially suburbia.

FRQ 4 Since the 1980s, new development strategies have emerged to counter the negative social, physical, and economic problems associated with sprawl. Discuss in detail three positive and one negative aspect to the following development strategies:

- A) New Urbanism.
- B) Transit Orientated Development.
- C) Smart Growth.

FRQ 4 Scoring guidelines/rubric – 12 points

4 points total for each development strategy. - 1 point for discussing a positive economic aspect for the development strategy. 1 point for discussing a positive social aspect for the development strategy. 1 point for discussing a positive physical aspect for the development strategy. 1 point for pointing out one negative aspect for the development strategy.

This question reveals if students understand the basic principles of these new planning strategies that various cities have utilized in recent years. Also, students must articulate the three positives and one negative for each planning strategy.

FRQ 5 The evolution of the American city has been largely influenced by improvements in transportation technology. Discuss how each of the following impacted the growth and geography of a large American city:

- A) street-cars and subways for Boston or Chicago (1900 - 1930).
- B) highways for Los Angeles or Phoenix (1950s – present).
- C) new light rail and subway systems for Washington D.C. or San Francisco (1970s – present).

FRQ 5 Scoring guideline/rubric -12 points

4 points for each question for adequately discussing the amount and direction of growth for the chosen city due to the type of transportation improvement.

This question is meant to determine if students can expand on the link between transportation improvements and urban growth characteristics and patterns related to a number of specific examples.

FRQ 6 Christaller's Central Place Theory has serious theoretical and practical applications for the distribution of goods and services in a region/country.

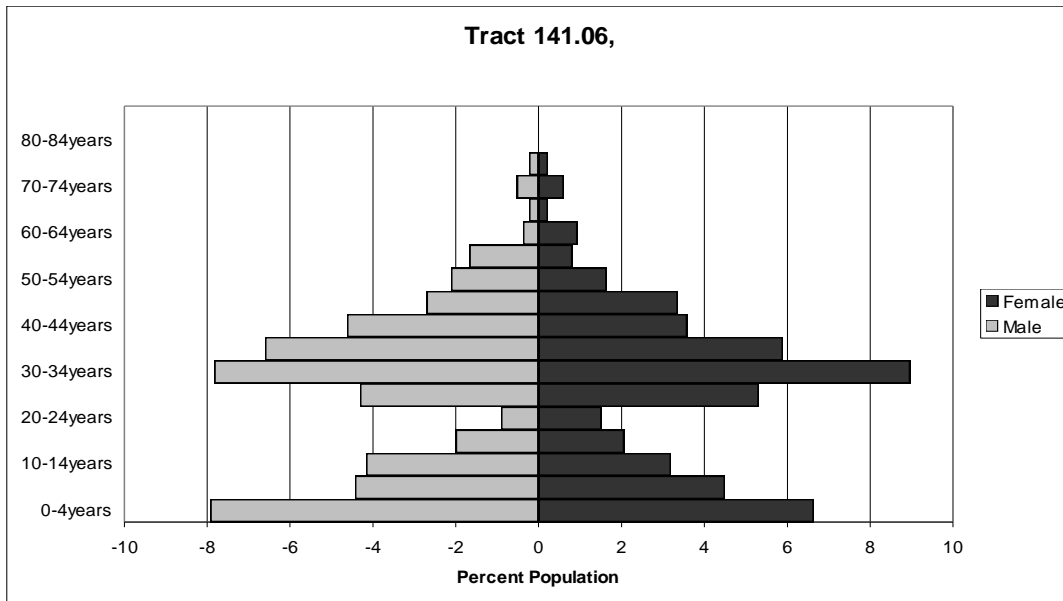
- A) What are **three** advantages to the rank-size rule?
- B) What is the relationship between Central Place Theory and the Daily Urban System in the United States?
- C) What are **two** disadvantages for a region and/or country having a primate city? Discuss **two** specific strategies that a region and/or country have used to slow down the growth of their primate city.

FRQ 6 Scoring guidelines/rubric - 15 points

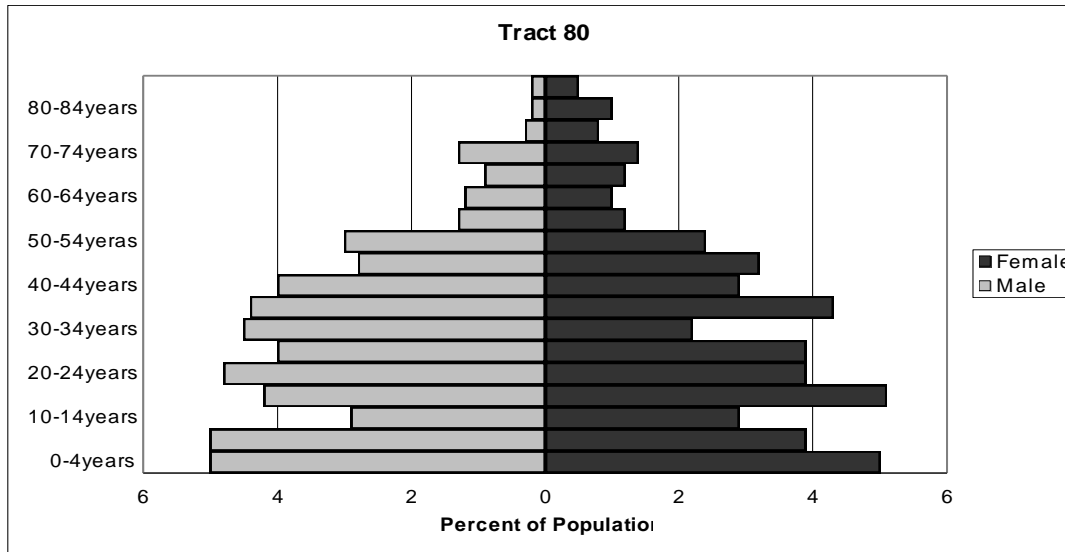
- A) 3 points - 1 point each for identifying an advantage to the rank-size rule for a country.
- B) 4 points for making the connection between the nesting of services and range and threshold for an urban area.
- C) 8 points - 4 points for identifying and discussing the disadvantages of a primate city 4 points for discussing two strategies that a country utilizes to slow down the growth of a primate city and/or encourage growth in other areas of the country.

Part A asks students to elaborate on why the rank-size rule is beneficial for the citizens of a region and/or country. Part B requires students to explain why most people in the United States have access to the services they need, and part C asks students to compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages between the rank-size rule and primate cities.

A



B



Source: www.census.gov

FRQ 7 Census tracts A & B are located in a major metropolitan area in the western United States. Give two reasons for why census tracts A & B would be located in specific geographic locations for all three of the following urban models:

A) Concentric Zone Model

B) Sector Model

C) Multiple Nuclei Model

FRQ 7 Scoring guideline/rubric - 12 points

4 points for each model

2 points for adequately describing where and why population pyramid A would be located in an urban model listed above.

2 points for adequately describing where and why population pyramid B would be located in an urban model listed above.

This question determines if students can analyze a population pyramid at the census tract level. Next they must speculate and justify where in two different urban models the census tracts are located.