



HUMAN/CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

TEST INFORMATION

This test was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. The school may choose to award college credit to the student based on the achievement of a passing score. The ultimate passing score for each examination is determined by the school. The school is provided with a recommended passing score established by a national committee of college faculty who teach these courses. The DSST program is approved by the American Council on Education (ACE), and the ACE provides both a recommended passing score and a recommended number of credits that could be awarded to successful students. Some schools set their own standards for awarding credit and may require a higher score than the ACE recommendation. Students should obtain this information from the institution from which they expect to receive credit.

CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

I. The Earth, Basic Facts and Concepts – 23%

- a. Coordinate systems, seasons, time
- b. Maps and cartography
- c. Physiography
 - i. Tectonics
 - ii. Gradation, land forms
- d. Atmosphere
 - i. Weather
 - ii. Climate
- e. Soils and vegetation
- f. Water

II. Culture and Environment – 40%

- a. Cultural systems and processes
 - i. Domestication of plants and animals
 - ii. Cultural origins and dispersals
 - iii. Language, religion, material culture
- b. Population
 - i. Population characteristics and patterns
 - ii. Population growth and resource use

- c. Natural resources
 - i. Human impact on the environment
 - ii. Environmental risks and hazards
 - iii. Development

III. Spatial Processes – 32%

- a. Social processes
 - i. Human spatial behavior
 - ii. Interaction through movement
 - iii. Diffusion
- b. Modern economic systems
 - i. Agriculture and extractive activities
 - ii. Manufacturing
 - iii. Retailing, services, and high technology
- c. Settlement patterns
 - i. Principles of settlement and land use
 - ii. Rural settlement
 - iii. Urban settlement
- d. Political geography
 - i. Territories and boundaries
 - ii. Politics and location
- e. Social problems

IV. Regional Geography – 5%

- a. Defining a region
- b. Geopolitical regions

Questions on the test require candidates to demonstrate the following abilities. Some questions may require more than one of these abilities.

- Knowledge of basic facts and terms (about 55 - 65% of the examination)
- Understanding of concepts and principles (about 35 - 45% of the examination)
- Ability to apply knowledge to specific cases or issues (about 5 - 10% of the examination)

(Over)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Which stage in the demographic transition is characterized by high, steady birth rates combined with decreasing death rates?
 - Rapid growth
 - Slow growth
 - No growth
 - Decline
- A landscape that is pitted with depressions, has a stream passing underground into a cavern, and has several large underground caves is an example of which of the following?
 - Kettle and kame
 - Horst and graben
 - Karst
 - Outwash plain
- Which of the following is equivalent to a scale of one inch equals one mile?
 - 1: 13,360
 - 1: 23,360
 - 1: 63,360
 - 1: 93,360
- Which of the following is NOT an example of a centrifugal force in political geography?
 - Basques in Spain
 - Palestinians in Lebanon
 - Quebecois in Canada
 - African Americans in the United States
- A well-known advocate of "hearths of domestication" for plants and animals is
 - Richard Hartshorne
 - Carl O. Sauer
 - Brian J.L. Berry
 - Walter Christaller
- Three types of world economic systems are
 - socialism, communism, and democracy
 - plantation, commercial, and planned
 - subsistence, commercial, and planned
 - shifting cultivation, swidden, and subsistence
- According to the core-periphery model, a megalopolis is a
 - core region
 - upward-transition region
 - resource-frontier region
 - downward-transition region
- All of the following are considered examples of west-coast desert EXCEPT the
 - Namib Desert
 - Gobi Desert
 - Atacama Desert
 - Great Sandy Desert
- Which of the following is true of the population density in North American cities?
 - It is greatest at the center and gradually decreases toward the suburbs.
 - It gradually increases from the center to the suburbs.
 - It is low at the center, highest outside the center, with decreases toward the suburbs.
 - It is relatively uniform throughout the city.
- Which of the following nation states is NOT a member of OPEC?
 - Nigeria
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Libya
 - Mexico

STUDYING FOR THE EXAM

The following is a list of reference publications that were being used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. Appropriate textbooks for study are not limited to those listed below. If you wish to obtain study resources to prepare for the examination, you may reference either the current edition of the following titles **or** textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference **more than one textbook** on the topics outlined in this fact sheet. You should **begin by checking textbook content against the content outline** included on the front page of this Fact Sheet **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study. Textbooks may be found at the campus bookstore of a local college or university offering a course on the subject.

Sources for study material suggested but not limited to the following:

- Bergman, Edward, Tom L. McKnight. *Introduction to Geography*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, current edition.
- DeBlij, H.J., P.O. Muller. *Geography: Realms, Regions and Concepts*. New York, NY: Wiley and Sons, current edition.

(Over)

3. DeBlij, H.J. P.O. Muller. *Human Geography: Culture, Society and Space*. New York, NY: Wiley and Sons, current edition.
4. Fellman, Jerome, A. Getis and J. Getis. *Human Geography: Landscape of Human Activities*. Boston, MA: WCB/McGraw Hill, current edition.
5. Gabler, Robert E., Robert J. Sager and Daniel L.Wise. *Essentials of Physical Geography*. Fort Worth, TX: Saunders College Publishing, current edition.
6. Goode, J. Paul. *Goode's World Atlas*. Chicago: Rand McNally, current edition.
7. Hartshorn, Truman A., John W. Alexander. *Economic Geography*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, current edition.
8. McKnight, Tom L. *Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, current edition.
9. Rubenstein, James H. *Cultural Landscape: Introduction to Human Geography*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, current edition.
10. Stansfield, Charles A. *Building Geographic Literacy*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, current edition.
11. Strahler, Alan H., Arthur N. Strahler. *Modern Physical Geography*. New York, NY: Wiley and Sons, current edition.

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials of the American Council on Education (ACE) has reviewed and evaluated the DSST test development process for and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent	Human/Cultural Geography
Level	Lower-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit	Three (3) semester hours
Source	ACE Commission on Education Credit and Credentials

It is advisable that schools develop a consistent policy about awarding credit based on scores from this test and that the policy be reviewed periodically. Prometric will be happy to help schools in this effort.

Answers to sample questions: 1-A; 2-C; 3-C; 4-D; 5-B; 6-C; 7-A; 8-B; 9-C; 10-D.

Rev. 20100713 - I.N. D204296