

DSST® HUMAN/CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This examination includes content related to the Earth and basic facts (maps, physiography, atmosphere, soils and vegetation, water); culture and environment; settlement patterns; political and regional geography.

The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

EXAM 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 – 20%

- Seasons, time
- Maps and cartography
- Coordinate systems
- Physiography
- Atmosphere
- Soils and vegetation
- Water

II. Culture and Environment – 35%

- Cultural systems and processes
- Population
- Natural resources

III. Spatial Processes – 30%

- Social processes
- Modern economic systems
- Settlement patterns
- Political geography
- Social problems

IV. Regional Geography – 15%

- Defining a region
- Geopolitical regions
- Globalization

REFERENCES

Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these 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** provided **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

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

- Christoperson, Robert W. (2011). *Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography*. Prentice Hall, 8th Ed.
- De Blij, H.J. & Murphy, Alexander B. *Human Geography: Culture, Society and Space*. New York, NY: Wiley and Sons, 7th Ed.
- De Blij, H.J., Muller, P.O., Burt, J.E., & Mason, J.A. *Physical Geography: The Global Environment*. New York, NY: Wiley and Sons, 4th Ed.
- Fellman, Jerome, Getis, A., & Getis, J. *Human Geography: Landscape of Human Activities*. Boston, MA: WCB/McGraw Hill, 12th Ed.
- Fouberg, E.H., Murphy, A.B., & de Blij, H.J. *Human Geography: People, Place and Culture*. 10th Ed.
- Veregin, Howard (ed.). *Goode's World Atlas*. Rand McNally, 22nd Ed.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. These are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam. Other sample questions can be found in the form of practice exams by visiting our website at www.getcollegetcredit.com/testprep.

Questions on the test require test takers 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)

DSST EXAM CONTENT FACT SHEET – HUMAN/CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

1. Which stage in the demographic transition is characterized by high, steady birth rates combined with decreasing death rates?
 - a. Rapid growth
 - b. Slow growth
 - c. No growth
 - d. Decline

2. 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?
 - a. Kettle and kame
 - b. Horst and graben
 - c. Karst
 - d. Outwash plain

3. Which of the following is equivalent to a scale of one inch equals one mile?
 - a. 1: 13,360
 - b. 1: 23,360
 - c. 1: 63,360
 - d. 1: 93,360

4. Which of the following is NOT an example of a centrifugal force in political geography?
 - a. Basques in Spain
 - b. Palestinians in Lebanon
 - c. Quebecois in Canada
 - d. African Americans in the United States

5. A well-known advocate of "hearthths of domestication" for plants and animals is
 - a. Richard Hartshorne
 - b. Carl O. Sauer
 - c. Brian J.L. Berry
 - d. Walter Christaller

6. Three types of world economic systems are
 - a. socialism, communism, and democracy
 - b. plantation, commercial, and planned
 - c. subsistence, commercial, and planned
 - d. shifting cultivation, swidden, and subsistence

7. According to the core-periphery model, a megalopolis is a
 - a. core region
 - b. upward-transition region
 - c. resource-frontier region
 - d. downward-transition region

8. All of the following are considered part of the west-coast desert EXCEPT the
 - a. Namib Desert
 - b. Gobi Desert
 - c. Atacama Desert
 - d. Great Sandy Desert

9. Which of the following is true of the population density in North American cities?
 - a. It is greatest at the center and gradually decreases toward the suburbs.
 - b. It gradually increases from the center to the suburbs.
 - c. It is low at the center, highest outside the center, with decreases toward the suburbs.
 - d. It is relatively uniform throughout the city.

10. Which of the following nation states is NOT a member of OPEC?
 - a. Nigeria
 - b. Saudi Arabia
 - c. Libya
 - d. Mexico

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process 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
Minimum Score	400
Source	American Council on Education – College Credit Recommendation Service

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

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