

Unit 1: Thinking Geographically

Learning Objectives Essential Knowledge
8-10% AP Exam Weighting

Topic 1.1 – Introduction to Maps

- **Identify types of maps, the types of information presented in maps, and different kinds of spatial patterns and relationships.**
 - **IMP:** Types of maps include reference maps thematic maps.
 - **IMP:** Types of spatial patterns represented on maps include absolute and relative distance and direction, clustering, dispersal, and elevation.
 - **IMP:** All maps are selective in information; map projections inevitably distort spatial relationships in shape, area, distance, and direction.

Topic 1.2 Geographic Data

- **Identify different methods of geographic data collection.**
 - **IMP:** Data may be gathered in the field by organizations or by individuals.
 - **IMP:** Geospatial technologies include geographic information systems (GIS), satellite navigation systems, remote sensing, and online mapping and visualization.
 - **IMP:** Spatial information can come from written accounts in the form of field observations, media reports, travel narratives, policy, documents, personal interviews, landscape analysis, and photographic interpretation.
 - intellectual innovations and transfers

Topic 1.3 The Power of Geographic Data

- **Explain the geographical effects of decisions made using geographical information.**
 - **IMP:** Geospatial and geographical data, including census data and satellite imagery, are used at all scales for personal, business and organizational, and governments decisions making purposes.
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Topic 1.4 Spatial concepts

- **Define the major geographic concepts that illustrate spatial relationships.**
 - **PSO:** Spatial concepts include absolute and relative location, space, place, flows, distance decay, time-space compression, and pattern.

Topic 1.5 Human Environmental Interaction.

- **Explain how major geographic concepts illustrate spatial relationships.**
 - **PSO:** Concepts of nature and society include sustainability, natural resources, and land use. **PSO:** Theories regarding the interaction of the natural environment with human societies have evolved from environmental determinism to possibilism.

Topic 1.6 Scale of Analysis

- **Define scales of analysis used by geographers.**
 - **PSO:** Scales of analysis include global, regional, national, and local.
- **Explain what scales of analysis reveal.**

- **PSO:** Patterns and processes at different scales reveal variation in, and different interpretations of data.

Topic 1.7 Regional Analysis

- *Describe different ways that geographers define regions.*
 - **SPS:** Regions are defined on the basis of one or more unifying characteristics or on patterns of activity.
 - SPS:** Types of regions include formal, functional, and perceptual/vernacular.
 - SPS:** Regional boundaries are transitional and often contested and overlapping.
 - SPS:** Geographers apply regional analysis at local, national, and global scales.