

Exercise walk-through

Consequences of Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces ■ 4.10

eXercise

You must be able to

- define **centripetal** 向心力 and **centrifugal** 离心力 forces
- give an example of each
- explain their effect on a state's stability
- suggest how a government can strengthen unity

Method — Centripetal forces

Centripetal forces pull a state together — a shared language, national identity, strong institutions, or a common goal.

Method — Centrifugal forces

Centrifugal forces pull a state apart — deep ethnic, religious, or economic divisions, or unfair treatment of a region.

Method — Effect and response

Strong centripetal forces bring stability; strong centrifugal forces bring instability or breakup. Governments strengthen unity with inclusive policies, shared symbols, and fair investment.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a centrifugal force and give one example.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

a force that divides/destabilizes a state **B1**; e.g. deep ethnic, religious, or economic division **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State one centripetal force and explain how it helps a state.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

a shared national language/identity **B1**; it unites people and strengthens loyalty to the state **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A country has sharp regional inequality and separatist feeling.

- (a) Which type of force is dominant?
- (b) State one policy to build a centripetal force instead.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) centrifugal **B1**. (b) fairer investment across regions / inclusive national identity / devolution **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A shared national identity that unites a diverse population is a

A centrifugal force

B centripetal force

C relict boundary

D push factor

Solution 3.1

Method: Centripetal forces

A centrifugal force

B centripetal force



C relict boundary

D push factor

Worked steps

B. a unifying identity is a centripetal force.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Deep religious and language divisions that threaten to split a state are

- A** centripetal forces
- B** centrifugal forces
- C** supranational forces
- D** geometric boundaries

Solution 3.2

Method: Centrifugal forces

A centripetal forces

B centrifugal forces



C supranational forces

D geometric boundaries

Worked steps

B. divisions pulling a state apart are centrifugal forces.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A government wants to hold a divided country together.

- (a) State one centripetal measure it could take.
- (b) Explain how it counteracts centrifugal forces.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) inclusive national symbols, shared official language, fair regional investment, or devolution **B1**. (b) it builds shared loyalty/fairness, weakening reasons to divide **B1**.