

Exercise walk-through

The Function of Political Boundaries ■ 4.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- explain how boundaries organize voting and territory
- define **redistricting** 重新划分选区 and **gerrymandering** 不公正划分选区
- distinguish **definitional** 定义性, **locational** 位置性, **operational** 运作性, and **allocational** 分配性 disputes
- identify a dispute type from a description

Method — Boundaries and voting

Internal boundaries divide a country into voting districts. **Redistricting** redraws them as population shifts. **Gerrymandering** draws them unfairly to favour one party.

Method — Types of boundary disputes

Definitional: disagree over the treaty's wording. **Locational:** disagree over where the line actually is. **Operational:** disagree over how it is run (e.g. crossing). **Allocational:** disagree over resources (oil, water) beneath or across it.

Method — Identifying disputes

Ask what the argument is about: the document (definitional), the exact position (locational), management (operational), or resources (allocational).

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define gerrymandering.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

drawing electoral district boundaries unfairly **B1** to give one party or group an advantage **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what an allocational boundary dispute is about.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

a disagreement over resources **B1** such as oil, gas, or water that cross or lie beneath the boundary **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Two states agree where their border is but argue over the oil field beneath it.

(a) Name this dispute type.

(b) Name the dispute type if instead they argued over the treaty's exact wording.

Solution 2.3

Method: Types of boundary disputes

Worked steps

(a) allocational **B1**. (b) definitional **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Redrawing district lines to favour one political party is

A redistricting

B gerrymandering

C devolution

D demarcation

Solution 3.1

Method: Boundaries and voting

A redistricting

B gerrymandering 

C devolution

D demarcation

Worked steps

B. unfair redrawing to favour a party is gerrymandering.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Two countries dispute exactly where a river boundary lies after the river shifted. This is a

A definitional dispute

B locational dispute

C operational dispute

D allocational dispute

Solution 3.2

Method: Types of boundary disputes

A definitional dispute

B locational dispute 

C operational dispute

D allocational dispute

Worked steps

B. disagreement over the line's position = locational dispute.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

Neighbours disagree over how a shared border crossing should be managed and policed.

- (a) Name this dispute type.
- (b) Explain how it differs from an allocational dispute.

Solution 3.3

Method: Types of boundary disputes

Worked steps

(a) operational dispute **B1**. (b) operational is about running/managing the border; allocational is about resources **B1**.