

Exercise walk-through

Internal Boundaries ■ 4.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- explain why states create internal boundaries
- link internal boundaries to representation
- explain how redistricting reflects population change
- connect internal boundaries to unitary vs federal structures

Method — Why internal boundaries exist

States divide their territory into provinces, districts, or counties to organize government, services, and elections.

Method — Boundaries and representation

Voting districts must be redrawn (**redistricting**) as population shifts so each representative speaks for a fair share of people.

Method — Structure and boundaries

A **unitary** state keeps power central with weaker internal units; a **federal** state gives real power to its internal units (states/provinces).

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State one reason a country creates internal administrative boundaries.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

to organize government/services **B1** and to run elections/representation **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain why districts must be redrawn as population changes.

Solution 2.2

Method: Boundaries and representation

Worked steps

populations shift over time **B1**; redrawing keeps each district roughly equal so representation stays fair **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A federal country gives its provinces control over their own schools and police.

- (a) State how this differs from a unitary state.
- (b) State one benefit of strong internal units.

Solution 2.3

Method: Structure and boundaries

Worked steps

(a) a unitary state keeps such powers central **B1**. (b) local needs are better met / power is shared, reducing tension **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Redrawing internal voting districts after a census mainly aims to

- A** favour one party
- B** keep representation roughly equal
- C** erase relict boundaries
- D** raise carrying capacity

Solution 3.1

- A favour one party
- B keep representation roughly equal
- C erase relict boundaries
- D raise carrying capacity



Worked steps

- B. redistricting keeps district populations roughly equal for fair representation.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Internal units with real, constitutionally protected power indicate a

A unitary state

B federal state

C stateless nation

D relict boundary

Solution 3.2

Method: Structure and boundaries

A unitary state

B federal state



C stateless nation

D relict boundary

Worked steps

B. empowered internal units = federal state.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A country's regions demand more say over local matters.

- (a) State one way internal boundaries help meet this demand.
- (b) Explain how ignoring the demand could threaten unity.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

- (a) giving regions their own governments/powers (federalism/devolution) **B1**. (b) unmet demands can fuel centrifugal forces and calls to break away **B1**.