

Exercise walk-through

Defining Devolutionary Factors ■ 4.8

eXercise

You must be able to

- define **devolution** 权力下放
- explain how physical geography can drive devolution
- explain how ethnic and economic differences drive devolution
- define **irredentism** 收复失地主义

Method — Devolution

Devolution is the transfer of power from a central government to regional or local governments, often to satisfy groups seeking more control.

Method — Physical and ethnic factors

Physical geography (islands, mountains far from the capital) and strong **ethnic or cultural differences** in a region push for devolution or independence.

Method — Economic factors and irredentism

A region that feels it is unfairly rich or poor may seek self-rule. **Irredentism** is a state's claim to territory in another state where its people live.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define devolution.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

the transfer of political power from the central government **B1** to regional/local governments **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain how physical geography can encourage devolution.

Solution 2.2

Method: Physical and ethnic factors

Worked steps

remote regions (islands, mountains) are hard to govern centrally **B1**; distance/isolation strengthens local identity and calls for self-rule **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

A region with its own language and a distant island location seeks more self-government.

(a) Name two devolutionary factors at work.

Solution 2.3

Method: Economic factors and irredentism

Worked steps

(a) ethnic/cultural difference (own language) **B1** and physical geography (distant island) **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The transfer of powers from a national to a regional government is

A supranationalism

B devolution

C gerrymandering

D colonialism

Solution 3.1

Method: Devolution

A supranationalism

B devolution 

C gerrymandering

D colonialism

Worked steps

B. national-to-regional power transfer = devolution.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A state's claim to a neighbouring area where its ethnic kin live is

A irredentism

B devolution

C federalism

D neocolonialism

Solution 3.2

Method: Economic factors and irredentism

A irredentism



B devolution

C federalism

D neocolonialism

Worked steps

A. claiming kin-populated land abroad = irredentism.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A resource-rich region feels its wealth is taken by the central government.

- (a) State the type of devolutionary factor.
- (b) Explain how it can lead to demands for autonomy.

Solution 3.3

Method: Economic factors and irredentism

Worked steps

(a) economic **B1**. (b) the region may want to keep its wealth, fuelling calls for self-rule or independence **B1**.