

4.1 Introduction to Political Geography

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS state 国家 • nation 民族 • stateless nation 无国家民族 • multinational state 多民族国家
• nation-state 民族国家

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **political geography** 政治地理 — states, nations, and nation-states.

You must be able to:

- distinguish a **state** 国家 (政治), a **nation** 民族, and a **nation-state** 民族国家
- define a **stateless nation** 无国家民族
- distinguish a **multinational state** 多民族国家 from a **multistate nation** 多国民族
- give an example of each concept

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ State, nation, nation-state

A **state** is a territory with a government and sovereignty. A **nation** is a people with a shared identity. A **nation-state** is a state whose territory matches one nation.

■ Stateless nations

A **stateless nation** is a people with a strong shared identity but no state of their own (e.g. the Kurds).

■ Multinational and multistate

A **multinational state** contains several nations within one state. A **multistate nation** is one nation spread across several states.

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between a state and a nation. [2]

2.2 Define a stateless nation and give one example. [2]

2.3 Country X contains several distinct national groups under one government.

(a) What term describes Country X? [1]

(b) State one challenge it may face. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A politically organized territory with a permanent population, defined borders, and sovereignty is a [1]

- **A** nation
- **B** state
- **C** region
- **D** cultural landscape

3.2 A nation with no sovereign territory of its own is a [1]

- **A** nation-state
- **B** stateless nation
- **C** multistate nation
- **D** federal state

3.3 A single nation's people live across the borders of several neighbouring states.

(a) Name this concept. [1]

(b) Explain how it differs from a multinational state.

[1]

Solutions

2.1 a state is a sovereign territory with a government; a nation is a people with a shared culture/identity.

2.2 a nation with a shared identity but no sovereign state; e.g. the Kurds.

2.3 (a) a multinational state. (b) internal division / demands for autonomy or independence.

3.1 B. a sovereign bordered territory is a state.

3.2 B. a people without a state = stateless nation.

3.3 (a) a multistate nation. (b) here one nation spans many states; a multinational state has many nations inside one state.