

4.4 Defining Political Boundaries

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS boundary 边界 • political boundaries 政治边界 • superimposed 强加边界 • antecedent 先成边界
• relict 残余边界

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **political boundaries** 政治边界 and their types.

You must be able to:

- distinguish **antecedent** 先成边界, **subsequent** 后成边界, **superimposed** 强加边界, and **relict** 残余边界 boundaries
- define a **geometric boundary** 几何边界
- explain the stages: defined, delimited, demarcated, administered
- identify a boundary type from a description

1 Worked examples

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

■ Boundary types by history

Antecedent: drawn before dense settlement. **Subsequent:** drawn as a cultural landscape develops, fitting groups. **Superimposed:** forced on an area, ignoring existing cultures. **Relict:** no longer functions but still leaves marks.

■ Geometric boundaries

A **geometric boundary** follows straight lines or lines of latitude/longitude rather than physical or cultural features.

■ From idea to line

A boundary is **defined** (described in a treaty), **delimited** (drawn on a map), **demarcated** (marked on the ground), and **administered** (managed/enforced).

2 Practice

2.1 Define a superimposed boundary. [2]

2.2 State the difference between a delimited and a demarcated boundary. [2]

2.3 An old wall from a former border still stands, though the border is gone.

(a) Name this boundary type. [1]

(b) Name the type drawn along straight lines of longitude. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A boundary drawn before an area was heavily settled is [1]

- **A** subsequent
- **B** antecedent
- **C** superimposed
- **D** relict

3.2 A boundary marked on the ground with pillars and fences has been [1]

- **A** defined
- **B** delimited
- **C** demarcated
- **D** administered

3.3 Colonial powers drew a straight-line border across a region, splitting several cultural groups.

(a) Name this boundary type. [1]

(b) Explain one problem it can cause.

[1]

Solutions

2.1 a boundary forced onto an area by an outside power, ignoring the existing cultural pattern.

2.2 delimited = drawn on a map; demarcated = physically marked on the ground with fences/signs.

2.3 (a) relict boundary. (b) geometric boundary.

3.1 B. drawn before settlement = antecedent boundary.

3.2 C. physically marking it on the ground is demarcation.

3.3 (a) superimposed (and geometric). (b) it divides cultural groups, causing conflict or instability.