

4.6 Internal Boundaries

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS internal boundaries 内部边界 • boundary 边界 • relic 残余边界 • state 国家 • nation 民族

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **internal boundaries** 内部边界 and electoral geography.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ Why internal boundaries exist

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

■ Boundaries and representation

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

■ 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).

2 Practice

2.1 State one reason a country creates internal administrative boundaries. [2]

2.2 Explain why districts must be redrawn as population changes. [2]

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

(a) State how this differs from a unitary state. [1]

(b) State one benefit of strong internal units. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Redrawing internal voting districts after a census mainly aims to [1]

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

3.2 Internal units with real, constitutionally protected power indicate a [1]

- **A** unitary state
- **B** federal state
- **C** stateless nation
- **D** relict boundary

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

(a) State one way internal boundaries help meet this demand. [1]

(b) Explain how ignoring the demand could threaten unity. [1]

Solutions

2.1 to organize government/services and to run elections/representation.

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

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

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

3.2 B. empowered internal units = federal state.

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