

## 4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: 10 marks**

**KEY WORDS** devolution 权力下放 • irredentism 收复失地主义 • autonomy 自治 • state 国家 • nation 民族

### Objective

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Build the skills to answer exam questions on **devolution** 权力下放 and its causes.

**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

### 1 Worked examples

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

#### ■ Devolution

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

#### ■ 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.

#### ■ 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.

## 2 Practice

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**2.1** Define devolution. [2]

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**2.2** Explain how physical geography can encourage devolution. [2]

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

(a) Name two devolutionary factors at work. [2]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** The transfer of powers from a national to a regional government is [1]

- **A** supranationalism
- **B** devolution
- **C** gerrymandering
- **D** colonialism

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**3.2** A state's claim to a neighbouring area where its ethnic kin live is [1]

- **A** irredentism
- **B** devolution
- **C** federalism
- **D** neocolonialism

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

(a) State the type of devolutionary factor. [1]

(b) Explain how it can lead to demands for autonomy. [1]

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## Solutions

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

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

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

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

**3.2 A.** claiming kin-populated land abroad = irredentism.

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