

5.7 Spatial Organization of Agriculture

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS economies of scale 规模经济 • agribusiness 农业综合企业 • commodity chain 商品链
• monoculture 单一栽培 • spatial organization of agriculture 农业的空间组织

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **spatial organization of agriculture** 农业的空间组织 and agribusiness.

You must be able to:

- define **agribusiness** 农业综合企业 and the **commodity chain** 商品链
- explain **economies of scale** 规模经济 in farming
- define **monoculture** 单一栽培 and state a risk
- link large-scale farming to lower costs

1 Worked examples

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

■ Agribusiness and commodity chains

Agribusiness is the large-scale, integrated business of farming — seeds, growing, processing, and selling. A **commodity chain** links every step from farm to consumer.

■ Economies of scale

Large farms achieve **economies of scale**: producing in bulk lowers the cost per unit, so big commercial operations outcompete small ones.

■ Monoculture

Monoculture grows a single crop over a large area. It is efficient but risky — one pest or price crash can devastate the whole harvest.

2 Practice

2.1 Define agribusiness. [2]

2.2 Explain economies of scale in commercial farming. [2]

2.3 A huge farm plants only one crop across all its land.

(a) Name this practice. [1]

(b) State one risk it creates. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The full set of steps linking a farm product to the final consumer is a [1]

- **A** commodity chain
 - **B** relict boundary
 - **C** gravity model
 - **D** long-lot
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3.2 Large farms can undercut small farms mainly because of [1]

- **A** higher costs per unit
 - **B** economies of scale
 - **C** monoculture risk
 - **D** distance decay
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3.3 An agribusiness controls seeds, farming, processing, and shipping.

(a) State one advantage of this integration. [1]

(b) State one concern for small independent farmers. [1]

Solutions

2.1 the large-scale commercial business of agriculture integrating production, processing, and distribution.

2.2 producing in large quantities lowers the cost per unit of output.

2.3 (a) monoculture. (b) a single pest, disease, or price crash can wipe out the whole harvest.

3.1 A. farm-to-consumer steps = commodity chain.

3.2 B. bulk production lowers cost per unit = economies of scale.

3.3 (a) lower costs / control of the whole chain / reliable supply. (b) they cannot compete on price and may be squeezed out.