

4 Devolution, power and geopolitics — Part 2 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

4.6 Centripetal: a shared national language, a common external threat, or an integrated transport network. Centrifugal: religious or linguistic division, uneven regional development, or a minority nation seeking independence.

4.7 Devolution is the transfer of political power from a central government to regional units. A state uses it to relieve centrifugal pressure — granting a region control over its own affairs can satisfy demands for autonomy without breaking up the state.

4.8 Cracking splits an opposing group across many districts so it forms a majority in none; packing concentrates it into a single district it wins overwhelmingly, so its surplus votes are wasted and it loses everywhere else.

4.9 Advantage: access to a larger market, or collective security. Cost: some loss of sovereignty, since the state must accept rules it did not set alone.

4.10 Boundaries drawn by colonial powers cut across cultural groups and remain in place, so states still contain divided nations and rival groups. (Also accepted: transport networks built to move exports from the interior to a port still connect the country to the outside better than to itself.)