

Cultural Patterns and Processes

AP Human Geography • Unit 3

AP Human Geography



Cultural Patterns and Processes

What we will cover

- 1 Culture & landscape
- 2 Cultural patterns
- 3 Types of diffusion
- 4 Causes of diffusion
- 5 Religion & language
- 6 Effects of diffusion

1 Culture

Cultural Patterns and Processes

Culture

Culture and cultural landscape

- **Material culture** 物质文化 = objects; **nonmaterial culture** 非物质文化 = ideas, beliefs.
- The **cultural landscape** 文化景观 is the visible human imprint on the land.
- **Sequent occupance** 连续占用: successive cultures layered on one place.



The visible human imprint on land

Cultural Patterns and Processes

Culture

The units culture is analysed in

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| cultural trait 文化特征 | a single element – using chopsticks, a greeting, a hairstyle |
| cultural complex 文化丛 | a group of linked traits that go together |
| hearth 文化源地 | the place a trait or religion began , from which it diffused |
| cultural relativism 文化相对论 | judging a culture by its own standards rather than yours – the opposite of ethnocentrism 民族中心主义 |

Trait, complex, hearth: name which one you are talking about and the answer stops being a list of examples and becomes analysis.

Cultural Patterns and Processes

Culture

Cultural patterns

- **Universalizing religions** 普世宗教 seek converts; **ethnic religions** 民族宗教 tie to one people.
- **Centripetal** 向心 forces unify; **centrifugal** 离心 forces divide.
- Shared language, religion, ethnicity form cultural regions.



Ethnic enclaves mark cultural regions

Acculturation keeps your own culture



AP HuG · U3 · Three outcomes when two cultures meet

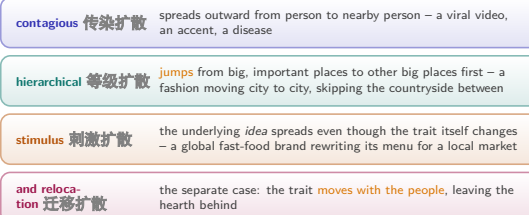
Acculturation keeps your own culture, assimilation replaces it, and syncretism blends both into something new

2 Diffusion

Types of diffusion

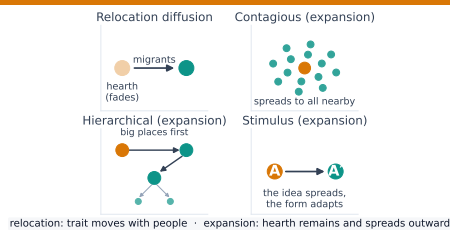
- **Relocation diffusion** 迁移传播: spreads as people move.
- **Expansion diffusion** 扩展传播: spreads outward, stays at source.
- Expansion = contagious, hierarchical, or stimulus.

Expansion diffusion comes in three forms



Expansion keeps the trait at the hearth and adds new places; relocation *carries* it away. That is the first split to make in any diffusion question.

Relocation diffusion moves with migrants; expansion



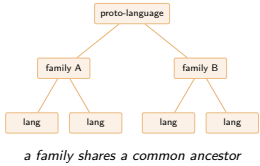
Relocation diffusion moves with migrants; expansion diffusion spreads outward while staying at the source

Causes of diffusion

- Historical: **colonialism** 殖民主义, trade routes, migration.
- Contemporary: **globalization** 全球化和 communication technology.
- **Time-space convergence** 时空收敛 makes places feel closer.



Trade and media shrink cultural distance

Cultural Patterns and Processes └ Diffusion	Cultural Patterns and Processes └ Diffusion								
What made diffusion fast <table border="1"> <tr> <td>historic</td><td>trade routes, migration, colonialism 殖民主义 and imperialism 帝国主义 carried language, religion and crops across continents</td></tr> <tr> <td>contemporary</td><td>globalisation 全球化, the internet and cheap transport – time-space compression means a trend can now cross the world in days</td></tr> <tr> <td>the tension</td><td>the same forces that spread culture also threaten local traditions</td></tr> <tr> <td>the debate</td><td>a global culture against local identity – and whether the two must be exclusive</td></tr> </table> Every diffusion answer should end here: what spread, how fast, and what it displaced on arrival.	historic	trade routes, migration, colonialism 殖民主义 and imperialism 帝国主义 carried language, religion and crops across continents	contemporary	globalisation 全球化, the internet and cheap transport – time-space compression means a trend can now cross the world in days	the tension	the same forces that spread culture also threaten local traditions	the debate	a global culture against local identity – and whether the two must be exclusive	Religion and language ■ A language family 语系 shares a common ancestor. ■ A lingua franca 通用语 is a shared language across groups. ■ A pidgin 皮钦语 becomes a creole 克里奥尔语 when learned as a first language. 
historic	trade routes, migration, colonialism 殖民主义 and imperialism 帝国主义 carried language, religion and crops across continents								
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Cultural Patterns and Processes └ Diffusion	Cultural Patterns and Processes └ Diffusion								
How religions and languages spread and split <table border="1"> <tr> <td>universalising religions 普世宗教</td><td>Christianity, Islam, Buddhism – seek converts everywhere, so they spread by expansion and relocation</td></tr> <tr> <td>ethnic religions 民族宗教</td><td>Hinduism, Judaism – tied to a people and a place, so they spread mainly by relocation</td></tr> <tr> <td>language families 语系</td><td>Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan and the rest – languages spread with migration and trade</td></tr> <tr> <td>splitting and dying</td><td>a language splits into dialects 方言, or dies out as its speakers switch to a dominant one</td></tr> </table> Whether a religion seeks converts predicts its map. That single question separates the two global patterns.	universalising religions 普世宗教	Christianity, Islam, Buddhism – seek converts everywhere, so they spread by expansion and relocation	ethnic religions 民族宗教	Hinduism, Judaism – tied to a people and a place, so they spread mainly by relocation	language families 语系	Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan and the rest – languages spread with migration and trade	splitting and dying	a language splits into dialects 方言, or dies out as its speakers switch to a dominant one	Worked example – name that diffusion Classify each: (a) Italians carry pizza to New York; (b) a dance trend spreads friend-to-friend; (c) a chain opens in Tokyo, Paris, then small towns; (d) Europeans see Chinese porcelain and invent their own. (a) relocation – the people moved. (b) contagious – near-neighbour contact. (c) hierarchical – biggest places first. (d) stimulus – the idea spread, not the thing. Ask one question first: did the source keep the trait? If yes it is expansion (then pick the sub-type); if the trait travelled with people, it is relocation.
universalising religions 普世宗教	Christianity, Islam, Buddhism – seek converts everywhere, so they spread by expansion and relocation								
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Cultural Patterns and Processes └ Diffusion	Cultural Patterns and Processes └ Diffusion								
Effects of diffusion ■ Cultural convergence 文化趋同 vs divergence 文化趋异. ■ Acculturation 涵化 keeps some identity; assimilation 同化 loses it. ■ Syncretism 文化融合 blends cultures into something new.	Convergence, divergence, and the tension between them <table border="1"> <tr> <td>cultural convergence 文化趋同</td><td>cultures become more alike as they share traits – global brands, English online, the same films everywhere</td></tr> <tr> <td>cultural divergence 文化分化</td><td>cultures grow apart, often as a deliberate resistance to convergence – language revival, local-food movements</td></tr> <tr> <td>the gain</td><td>new food, music, technology and ideas enrich a place</td></tr> <tr> <td>the loss</td><td>local languages and traditions erode, sometimes irreversibly</td></tr> </table> This is the central tension of a globalising world, and the essay wants both halves: what a place gained, and what it gave up to get it.	cultural convergence 文化趋同	cultures become more alike as they share traits – global brands, English online, the same films everywhere	cultural divergence 文化分化	cultures grow apart, often as a deliberate resistance to convergence – language revival, local-food movements	the gain	new food, music, technology and ideas enrich a place	the loss	local languages and traditions erode, sometimes irreversibly
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Cultural Patterns and Processes └─ Diffusion	Cultural Patterns and Processes └─ Diffusion
Key points	Worked example – the command word is the question
Relocation = people move; expansion = idea spreads Contagious/hierarchical/stimulus are expansion types Universalizing religions convert; ethnic pass by birth Diffusion causes convergence, syncretism, assimilation	“Explain how food preferences can be a culture trait.” (real AP question) <i>“Many dishes use ingredients or ways of cooking unique to one culture group – a national dish, say – so choosing and eating that food expresses belonging to the group, which is what makes it a culture trait.”</i> Explain needs a link, not a definition: connect the food preference to the idea of a shared culture. Listing foods earns zero.

Cultural Patterns and Processes └─ Diffusion	
Exam tips	
■ Distinguish relocation diffusion (people move) from expansion diffusion (the idea spreads and stays at its source). ■ Name the expansion sub-type precisely: contagious, hierarchical, or stimulus. ■ Separate universalizing religions (seek converts) from ethnic religions (spread mainly by birth). ■ Use the cultural landscape – architecture, toponyms, sequent occupance – as evidence of past groups. ■ For effects, keep acculturation, assimilation, and syncretism distinct; they are not the same.	3 Recap

Cultural Patterns and Processes └─ Recap	Cultural Patterns and Processes └─ Recap
Unit 3 – key takeaways	Check yourself
1 Diffusion relocation vs expansion; name the sub-type 2 Religion universalizing seeks converts; ethnic by birth 3 Landscape architecture, toponyms, sequent occupance as evidence 4 Contact acculturation, assimilation, syncretism – not synonyms	1 Contagious or hierarchical: a trend spreading from big cities down? 2 What is relocation diffusion? 3 Give one element of a cultural landscape. 4 Which diffusion carries the idea, not the people? Answers 1. hierarchical 2. people migrate and carry the culture with them 3. buildings, signs, land use, religious sites 4. expansion diffusion