AP Human Geography Practice Ladder

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. A map of fictional districts uses shading to show the share of resident workers who commute by rail. The districts have different numbers of resident workers. Which value should the map use?
   A. Resident workers who commute by rail per 100 resident workers
   B. The total number of rail commuters in each district
   C. Kilometers of track per district
   D. The total number of stations in each district

2. A fictional valley has 600 residents, 10 square kilometers of total land and 3 square kilometers of arable land. What is its physiological population density?
   A. 600 residents per square kilometer of arable land
   B. 60 residents per square kilometer of total land
   C. 200 residents per square kilometer of arable land
   D. 3 residents per square kilometer of total land

3. In a fictional region, farms near Town A cut their work shifts as City B advertises more year-round jobs. Several workers from Town A apply for jobs in City B. Which detail is a pull factor?
   A. The cuts to work shifts near Town A
   B. The year-round job openings in City B
   C. The workers’ original location in Town A
   D. The distance between Town A and City B

4. A geographer walks through a fictional market district. Which observation best shows people shaping the visible cultural landscape?
   A. The direction of the prevailing winds over the district
   B. The district’s latitude and longitude
   C. Rock layered beneath the district before it was settled
   D. Bilingual shop signs and a public plaza arranged for weekly markets

5. A fictional orchard grows apples, a factory makes applesauce and packages it in jars, and a shop sells the jars. Which activity is in the secondary sector?
   A. Growing the apples
   B. Making the applesauce in the factory
   C. Selling the jars in the shop
   D. Offering delivery as a service

6. A fictional city records 2,800 births, 1,600 deaths, 2,400 people moving in and 3,000 moving out. With no other adjustments, what are its natural increase and total population change, in that order?

A. An increase of 1,200 and an increase of 600
B. An increase of 1,200 and an increase of 1,800
C. An increase of 600 and an increase of 1,200
D. A decrease of 600 and an increase of 600

7. A fictional district has 2,400 people younger than 15, 6,000 people ages 15 through 64 and 1,600 people age 65 or older. About how many people in the two outside age groups are there per 100 working-age residents?

A. 150
B. 40
C. 60
D. 67

8. Families from a fictional valley settle in a coastal city. Later they share housing leads and job information with relatives from the valley who move to the same city. Which process best fits?

A. Step migration through a series of progressively larger settlements
B. Seasonal migration between the same two places each year
C. Chain migration through a network at the destination
D. Forced migration after an involuntary removal

9. An architectural style appears in a fictional country’s largest city. Through professional networks it reaches other major cities before spreading to smaller places, even though the designers stay in their own cities. Which pattern fits best?

A. Hierarchical diffusion
B. Contagious diffusion through neighboring places first
C. Relocation diffusion caused by designers moving to new cities
D. No diffusion because the designers did not move

10. A text map of one fictional metropolitan area shows a downtown office core, a separate industrial center near a rail junction and a second office cluster around a suburban university. Which urban model best describes this pattern?

A. The rank-size rule for a system of cities
B. The concentric-zone model
C. The sector model organized in wedges from one center
D. The multiple-nuclei model

11. A fictional market town is surrounded by equally fertile land with the same transport routes in every direction. A grower can sell delicate greens that must arrive daily or grain that can be stored for months. Assume the crops bring comparable returns before distance-related costs. Which crop is more likely to pay for a site near the town under a simplified von Thünen model?

A. The grain, because the model places the most perishable crop farthest away.
B. The grain, because a crop can be near town only if it can be stored.
C. The delicate greens, because shorter trips reduce transport and spoilage costs.
D. Both crops must use the same location because the land is equally fertile.

12. A fictional delivery service compares two locations. Its central site costs 700 dollars per day in rent plus 2 dollars per order to deliver. Its outer site costs 380 dollars in rent plus 6 dollars per order. With 110 orders in a day, which site costs less under these assumptions?

A. The outer site by 120 dollars
B. The central site by 120 dollars
C. The central site by 320 dollars
D. The sites cost the same.

13. A fictional country first has 10 million residents, including 5 million in urban areas. Later it has 8 million residents, including 4.8 million in urban areas. The definition of urban stays the same. What happened to its urban share?

A. It rose from 50% to 80% because the total population fell.
B. It fell from 60% to 50% because the urban population fell.
C. It stayed at 50% because both population totals fell.
D. It rose from 50% to 60% even though the urban population fell.

14. In a fictional transport model, 4 tonnes of raw crop become 1 tonne of finished product. The byproducts stay at the factory. The crop source and the market are 90 kilometers apart, and shipping costs 1 dollar per tonne per kilometer. If the factory must be at one end, which location saves on shipping per batch?

A. The crop source by 270 dollars
B. The market by 270 dollars
C. The crop source by 90 dollars
D. Both locations cost the same.

15. A fictional region has two neighborhoods. In North, 900 of 1,000 households can walk to a grocery store. In South, 50 of 500 can. A regional map uses one color for the two neighborhoods combined. Which interpretation uses the regional figure and the neighborhood data correctly?

A. About 90% overall, because North is the larger neighborhood.
B. Exactly 50% overall, with equal access in the two neighborhoods.
C. About 63% overall, with much lower access in South.
D. About 63% overall, meaning each neighborhood has about 63% access.