AP Human Geography Unit 1: Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives

A. Geography as a field of inquiry

1. Geography and the scientific method
2. Geography and the inquiry method
3. Asking geographic questions - the "why" of "where"

B. Evolution of key geographical concepts and models associated with notable geographers

1. The Four Traditions in Geography
2. The five themes in Geography
3. Models and notable geographers (you will learn these in each respective unit)

Unit	Person	Concept(s)
Population & Migration	Malthus, Boserup, Zelinsky, Ravenstein, Simon	Overpopulation, population explosion, population momentum, demographic transition, laws of migration
Cultural Patterns & Processes	Sauer, Zelinsky	Environmental determinism, possibilism, cultural landscape, cultural diffusion, cultural integration, cultural ecology, interaction vs. isolation, vernacular regions
Political Geography	Wollerstein, Mackinder	World systems theory, Heartland/Rimland, Globalization
Agriculture & Rural Land Use	Von Thunon, Sauer	Agricultural hearths, land use models agricultural revolutions
Industry & Economic Development	Rostow, Boserup, Losch, Weber	Core/periphery, sustainable development, least cost theory, micro development
Cities & Urban Land Use	Burgess, Hoyt, Harris & Ullman, Christaller, Ford, Hartshorn & Muller	Central place theory, models of urban structure, edge cities, sprawl, mega cities urban realms

C. Key concepts underlying the geographical perspective: location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization

1. Location

a. Site & situation
b. Absolute & relative location

2. Space

a. Spatial interaction
b. Time-space convergence
c. Intervening opportunities and obstacles
d. Diffusion (see Unit III)

3. Place

a. Unique physical and cultural characteristics
b. Why are different places unique and the same?
c. Sense of place
d. Perception of places (mental maps)
e. Toponyms

4. Scale
- a. Map scale
- b. Scale of analysis (local to global)

5. Pattern
- a. Distribution
  - - Concentration
    - -Dispersed
    - -Clustered
- b. Geometric
  - - Linear, rectangular, or square
- c. No pattern

D. Key geographical skills

1. How to use and think about maps and spatial data
- a. Elements of a map
- b. Map projections
- c. Types of maps
- d. Map interpretation

2. How to understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places
- a. Networks, linkages, accessibility, and connectivity between places
- b. Spatial interaction
- c. Interdependence
- d. Cultural ecology

3. How to recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes
- a. Analyzing phenomenon from local to global scales

4. How to define regions and evaluate the regionalization process (see Unit III)
- a. Defining regions
- b. Describing and analyzing different types of regions
  - - Formal, functional, and vernacular

5. How to characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places
- a. Historical approach and the role of transportation & technology
- b. Changing functional distances
- c. Distance decay & frictional distance
- d. Globalization

E. New geographic technologies, such as GIS and GPS
1. Computer mapping
2. GPS
3. Remote sensing
4. Aerial photography
5. Satellite imagery

F. Sources of geographical ideas and data: the field, census data
1. The importance of observation
2. Field work
3. Census data
4. Google Earth
5. Internet sources of geographic data