

2005 AP Human Geography Question

Since 1950 many states have faced challenges in developing a strong national identity.

A. Using contemporary examples, explain how each of the following has contributed to the development of national identity and the strengthening of a state.

1. Economic development
2. Relocation of a state's capital (since 1950)

B. Using contemporary examples, explain how each of the following may detract from the development of national identity and weaken a state.

1. Ethnicity
2. Transportation infrastructure

Answers are on p.2

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Part A (4 points)

Using contemporary examples, explain how each of the following has contributed to the development of national identity and the strengthening of a state.

1. Economic development
2. Relocation of a state's capital (since 1950)

	Examples of states (1 point)	Explanation of factor (1 point)
A1. Economic development (to strengthen national identity and the state)	China, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong economy creates jobs, supports a sense of well-being, and supports confidence in leadership and loyalty to the state — all lead to unity. • Economic prosperity tends to mask ethnic divisions. • National pride reinforces national identity.
A2. Relocation of political state's capital (to strengthen national identity and the state)	Brazil, Nigeria, Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralized capital that breaks ties with colonial past is intended to overcome regional imbalance and strengthen the state; OR • May strengthen historic focus on the interior; OR • May focus on poorly developed interior/resource frontier; OR • May return to a historically symbolic location.

Part B (4 points)

Using contemporary examples, explain how each of the following may detract from the development of national identity and weaken a state.

1. Ethnicity
2. Transportation infrastructure

	Examples of states (1 point)	Explanation of factor (1 point)
B1. Ethnicity (to weaken national identity and the state)	Belgium, Canada, Russia/USSR, Yugoslavia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnic tension erodes loyalty to the state. • Tension between ethnic groups can lead to balkanization, separatism, devolution, regionalism, sectionalism, ethnonationalism. • Placement of political boundaries without regard to traditional ethnic territories can lead to fissure between ethnic groups who lose or gain territory. Ethnic strife defeats any attempts at nationalism. • Immigration causes cultural change.
B2. Transportation infrastructure (to weaken national identity and the state)	Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor transportation infrastructure contributes to isolation and a sense of separation. • Friction of distance, e.g., topography/other barriers. • Size or shape of a state may hinder development of transportation infrastructure. • Colonial legacy affects transportation networks.