A Vocabulary List for AP Human Geography

Unit I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives—Basic Vocabulary and Concepts

**Basic Concepts**
Changing attributes of place (built landscape, sequent occupance)
Cultural attributes (cultural landscape)
Density (arithmetic, physiological)
Diffusion (hearth, relocation, expansion, hierarchical, contagious, stimulus)
Direction (absolute, relative)
Dispersion/concentration (dispersed/scattered, clustered/agglomerated)
Distance (absolute, relative)
Distribution
Environmental determinism
Location (absolute, relative, site, situation, place name)
Pattern (linear, centralized, random)
Physical attributes (natural landscape)
Possibilism
Region (formal/uniform, functional/nodal, perceptual/vernacular)
Scale (implied degree of generalization)
Size
Spatial (of or pertaining to space on or near Earth’s surface)
Spatial interaction (accessibility, connectivity, network, distance decay, friction of distance, time-space compression)

**Geographic Tools**
Distortion
Geographic Information System (GIS)
Global Positioning System (GPS)
Grid (North and South Poles, latitude, parallel, equator, longitude, meridian, prime meridian, international date line)
Map (Maps are the tool most uniquely identified with geography; the ability to use and interpret maps is an essential geographic skill.)
Map scale (distance on a map relative to distance on Earth)
Map types (thematic, statistical, cartogram, dot, choropleth, isoline)
Mental map
Model (a simplified abstraction of reality, structured to clarify causal relationships): Geographers use models to explain patterns, make informed decisions, and predict future behaviors.
Projection
Remote sensing
Time zones

Unit II. Population—Basic Vocabulary and Concepts

**Population**
Age distribution
Carrying capacity
Cohort
Demographic equation
Demographic momentum
Demographic regions
Demographic Transition model
Dependency ratio
Diffusion of fertility control
Disease diffusion
Doubling time
Ecumene
Epidemiological Transition model
Gendered space
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Infant mortality rate
J-curve
Maladaptation
Malthus, Thomas
Mortality
Natality
Neo-Malthusian
Overpopulation
Population densities
Population distributions

Population explosion
Population projection
Population pyramid
Rate of natural pyramid
S-curve
Sex ratio
Standard of living
Sustainability
Underpopulation
Zero population growth

Migration
Activity space
Chain migration
Cyclic movement
Distance decay
Forced
Gravity model
Internal migration
Intervening opportunity
Migration patterns
Intercontinental
Interregional
Rural-urban
Migratory movement
Periodic movement
Personal space
Place utility
Push-pull factors
Refugee
Space-time prism
Step migration
Transhumance
Transmigration
Voluntary

Unit III. Cultural Patterns and Processes—Basic Vocabulary and Concepts

Concepts of Culture
Acculturation
Assimilation
Cultural adaptation
Cultural core/periphery pattern
Cultural ecology
Cultural identity
Cultural landscape
Cultural realm
Culture
Culture region
Formal—core, periphery

Functional—node
Vernacular (perceptual)—regional self-awareness
Diffusion types
Expansion—hierarchical, contagious, stimulus
Relocation
Innovation adoption
Maladaptive diffusion
Sequent occupancy

Folk and Popular Culture
Adaptive strategies
Anglo-American landscape characteristics
Architectural form
Built environment
Folk culture
Folk food
Folk house
Folk songs
Folklore
Material culture
Nonmaterial culture
Popular culture
Survey systems
Traditional architecture
### Language
- Creole
- Dialect
- Indo-European languages
- Isogloss
- Language
- Language family
- Language group
- Language subfamily
- Lingua franca
- Linguistic diversity
- Monolingual/multilingual
- Official language
- Pidgin
- Toponymy
- Trade language

### Religion
- Animism
- Buddhism
- Cargo cult pilgrimage
- Christianity
- Confucianism
- Ethnic religion
- Exclave/enclave
- Fundamentalism
- Geomancy (feng shui)
- Hadj
- Hinduism
- Interfaith boundaries
- Islam
- Jainism
- Judaism
- Landscapes of the dead
- Monotheism/polytheism
- Mormonism
- Muslim pilgrimage
- Muslim population
- Proselytic religion
- Reincarnation
- Religion (groups, places)
- Religious architectural styles
- Religious conflict
- Religious culture hearth
- Religious toponym
- Sacred space
- Secularism
- Shamanism
- Sharia law
- Shintoism
- Sikhism
- Sunni/Shia
- Taoism
- Theocracy
- Universalizing
- Zoroastrianism

### Ethnicity
- Acculturation
- Adaptive strategy
- Assimilation
- Barrio
- Chain migration
- Cultural adaptation
- Cultural shatterbelt
- Ethnic cleansing
- Ethnic conflict
- Ethnic enclave
- Ethnic group
- Ethnic homeland
- Ethnic landscape
- Ethnic neighborhood
- Ethnicity
- Ethnocentrism
- Ghetto
- Plural society
- Race
- Segregation
- Social distance

### Gender
- Dowry death
- Enfranchisement
- Gender
- Gender gap
- Infanticide
- Longevity gap
- Maternal mortality rate