



Queen Anne's County Public Schools Textbook Evaluation Form

Date: _____

- Recommend
 Do not recommend

Title: The Cultural Landscape

Subject Area: Social Studies

Publisher: Pearson Prentice Hall

Author: James M. Rubenstein

Copyright: 2011

Cost: \$150

School/Committee: QACHS

Evaluators: Michelle Emond

Lacey Biehl

Curricular/
Program Supervisor: _____

Tina Thomas

1. To what extent does the textbook relate to the curricular objectives of the County/State/National Standards? Each topic in the AP Outline for Human Geography directly correlates to a key issue (focus questions) in the text. The Correlation Guide is located on pages xviii-xix. This is the most recommended textbook from AP Central and College Board.
2. Cite examples which indicate that the book is accurate and objective. (e.g. author's credibility and copyright) The 2011 edition changed and updated information from the previous edition. For example, the new edition includes the Chrysler & GM bailouts, the effects of the recession on migration, and the growth of Brazil, Russia, India and China (pg. xii).

The author of the book, Dr. Rubenstein is credible. He received his PhD from Johns Hopkins Universtiy, is a professor of Geography at Miami University of Ohio, and has published texts on urban planning and the geographic factors of auto manufacturing (pg. iv).

3. With what grade and level of students will it be used? 9-12 Give evidence of readability. Each chapter is broken into key issues, phrased as essential questions. Within each section, the text is further broken down into headings and subheadings. Bold text denote key terms which are defined at the end of the chapter. Almost every page includes a visual (map, graph, photo, etc.) to help students comprehend written text.
Page 1-2 Text selection Flesh-kincaid level 7th grade.
Chapter 2 selection level 10th grade
Chapter 4 selection level 12th grade
Selections were measured using readability.com

How does the book accommodate various learning styles and levels? The book aids students by including many different types of visuals (maps, graphs, photos, etc) to supplement written text. The book also aids students by chunking information within the chapters and boldfacing and defining key terms. The instructor resource DVD provides videos for auditory learners and figures and presentations for visual learners. There are case studies that provide real world experience and for the correlation of understanding how the world's people interact with each other and the environment.

Cite examples of universal design for learning (UDL) features. The texbook has multiple means of engagement. Each chapter begins with a case study that focuses on current events that will engage the learner. At the end of the chapter, the case study is revisited. For example, the chapter one case study is called "Big Mac Attack" (pg.4) and relates important geographic questions to McDonald's

decisions on where to place their restaurants. Because the text comes with supplemental materials, students who need more help to access the information have resources to do so.

4. Give evidence of appropriate graphics. Comparative maps of formal regions, utilizing the 2008 Presidential election (pg. 19). Agriculture and climate map (pg. 312-313). Photos showing income distribution in Paris (pg. 415). Folk culture depicted by photo of indigenous Peruvian at Lake Titicaca (pg. 104)
5. Specify whether this book is arranged chronologically or thematically. Thematically
6. Cite examples which indicate the book is free of sexual stereotyping. Man working in cotton yarn production (Figure 11-16, pg. 357). Cultural diffusion has led to an increase in illegal marriage dowries in India, described as "a negative impact for women in India" (pg. 127).
7. Cite examples which indicate that this book represents a multicultural approach. Equal attention is paid to each major world religion (Chapter 6). Illegal immigration is addressed through the eyes of Mexico along the Mexico-Central American border (pg. 91). Housing types are viewed through the lenses of different countries including the United States, China, and Laos (Chapter 4).
8. What are the weaknesses of this book? The 2011 copyright. Human geography is constantly changing, so there are undoubtedly going to be things missing from the text as years pass. Also, the text is not accompanied by a workbook.
9. What are the major reasons for the recommendation of this book? Students will benefit from the fact that this text is almost perfectly aligned with the AP Human Geography Outline. Also, the text is accompanied by supplemental materials, a study guide a test preparation book, and an instructor resource DVD including test questions, videos, figures, and PowerPoint presentations.
10. Does this book replace an existing textbook? No If so, specify. This is a new course being offered in the SY 2013-2014.

Comments

Advanced Placement Human Geography is a college-level introduction to the study of the patterns and processes of human activity on the earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in Human Geography. To understand what happens in Human Geography is to relate theory to practice. We will be studying the nature and perspectives of geography, population, cultural patterns and processes, the political organization of space, agricultural and rural land use, industrialization, economic development and urbanization across countries and to derive generalizations. Students should be prepared to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to Human Geography in an attempt to describe how our interactions with the environment affect how we live.

Cultural landscape is defined as the human-modified environment, including fields, houses, churches, highways, planted forests, and mines, as well as weeds and pollution. A cultural landscape defined as: "a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with an historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values."