

Honors English I/AP Human Geography

Students will be presented with a short passage that includes written text and visuals such as maps, charts, and photographs. They will be asked to write a response to a prompt connected to the content. The sample case study below – with the prompt “Explain why geographers might have concerns about growing inequality in India.” – is similar in style and difficulty to the case study and prompt on the placement test.

Responses will be evaluated based on 1) demonstrated reading comprehension, 2) effective analysis of the evidence, and 3) a clear and cohesive written response to the prompt.

1. Reading Comprehension
 - demonstrated comprehension of the passage, including its main ideas and important supporting details
2. Analysis of Evidence
 - demonstrated understanding of the analytical task
 - effective analysis of the author’s use of evidence, reasoning, and/or stylistic or persuasive elements
 - incorporation of multiple examples of evidence from the reading to support overall argument
3. Clear and Cohesive Writing
 - effective synthesis of evidence and images from the reading
 - organized, cohesive writing in clear and precise language with a variety of sentence structures
 - clear introductory paragraph with a thesis statement
 - well-developed body paragraphs and a conclusion
 - demonstrated command of the conventions of standard written English (proper grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation)

CASE STUDY

INDIA— REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN SCALE

THE ISSUE India has experienced impressive economic growth this century, but large portions of its population aren't experiencing a fair share of the benefits.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

PSO-1.C Define scales of analysis used by geographers.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$452.7 BILLION

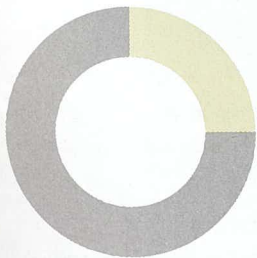
GDP in 2000

2.6 TRILLION

GDP in 2017

25%

Poverty rate in rural areas



Source: World Bank



The contrast between poverty and wealth is evident in Mumbai, India, where skyscrapers rise behind an informal housing settlement on the city's outskirts.

SINCE THE TURN OF THE 21ST CENTURY, India has experienced astonishing economic growth, seeing its gross domestic product (GDP) increase from \$452.7 billion in 2000 to 2.6 trillion in 2017, a 474 percent increase in the size of its economy. To put that into perspective, the U.S. economy has grown by 88 percent during the same timeframe.

However, as geographers focus on more local scales of analysis, they find that this new wealth is not distributed evenly throughout the country. Indians in some regions have become very rich, while many parts of the country remain very poor. Much of the wealth is concentrated in just a handful of states, such as Maharashtra, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Since economic growth began to accelerate in India 20 years ago, the wealth divide between certain regions has continued to expand.

Before the acceleration of economic growth, incomes between different states were converging. Since the acceleration, incomes have diverged, with the average person in the three richest states having three times more wealth than the average person in the three poorest states. Looking at patterns within states reveals a rural-urban divide—a large proportion of the new wealth is being generated in cities like Mumbai and Delhi. Mumbai, a port city located on the Arabian Sea in southwestern India, is considered to be the financial and commercial center of India. The country's central bank is located in Mumbai, as is a government-owned life insurance corporation, investment institutions, and the Bombay Stock Exchange. In addition to its robust service sector, the economy of Delhi, which is where the country's capital is located, has created many jobs in trade, finance, public administration, and professional services.

In the less wealthy regions of India, fewer people are living in abject poverty, but the growing wealth divide concerns geographers. Most of the country's wealth—77 percent of the total national wealth—is held by just 10 percent of the population. Many accusations of corrupt dealings between India's politicians and the rich have been made, giving rise to anger and protests among the less wealthy. Without political reforms to fight corruption and expand social services to people who are being left behind, geographers worry the problems will continue to get worse. ■

GEOGRAPHIC THINKING

Explain why geographers might have concerns about growing inequality in India.