Geographers use the term "cultural imperialism" to describe a trend especially dominant in our current global society.

(A) What is cultural imperialism?
(B) Describe three global effects of the spread of Western popular culture to the rest of the world.

Religions exhibit several different patterns for diffusing across the globe.

(A) Describe the major diffusion mechanisms for two dominant world religions: Buddhism and Christianity.
(B) How has the difference between how these two religions are spread affected the current distribution of these two religious traditions?

Explain how English has become the most dispersed language on Earth by answering the following questions.

(A) Explain in detail how the English language is a product of relocation diffusion and cultural convergence.
(B) Discuss the global distribution of English starting with colonization and ending with globalization.
(C) Explain why English is spoken so differently around the world and even in different regions of the same country (for example, the United States). Give examples of different English dialects and the geographic factors that contribute to them.

FRQ Questions: Cultural Geography
• Cultural imperialism is dominance by one culture over another. For example, American fast food chains, pop music, and films have infiltrated other countries across the world. Traditional British, French, Japanese, Spanish, and Russian cultures have also been widely disseminated.
• Although many people in these places enjoy their access to Western popular culture, others claim that new ways of life are diluting traditional cultural practices and social systems.
• Cultural extinction is one potential consequence of imperialism. In cultural extinction, traditional ways of life are lost as new, dominant ways are adopted. Linguistic diversity, in particular, is affected by cultural imperialism, as more and more people abandon native tongues in favor of widespread world languages like English and French.

• Christianity is an evangelical religion, meaning that its practitioners have a mandate to spread the gospel. Buddhists have no such mandate.
• Christians have been extremely successful at spreading their beliefs. Christianity is now the most widespread world religion, with practitioners in every corner of the globe, particularly in the former mission lands and colonized regions of North and South America.
• Christian missionaries spread the gospel through relocation diffusion; they purposefully moved to new regions of the world to convert native peoples.
• Until relatively recently, Buddhism was mostly limited to central and eastern Asia. Historically, Buddhism has spread through contagious diffusion, meaning that it was passed on to people because of their proximity to other practitioners.
• In recent years, Buddhism has gained a foothold with Americans and Europeans, due to their increasing exposure to Eastern cultures and to Buddhism's peaceful and individualistic teachings.
Total point value for question 1 = 7

Part A—Two points possible:

- One point for discussing how English is a product of relocation diffusion.
  - English is a product of the Angles', Jutes', and Saxons' Germanic languages combined with linguistic influences from indigenous peoples, the French, and Vikings.
- One point for discussing the role cultural convergence played in shaping the English language.
  - The above mentioned groups converged to create the English language.

Part B—Two points possible:

- One point for describing how colonization diffused the English language to different parts of the world.
  - The British colonized North America, parts of Africa, South Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.
- One point for describing how globalization is diffusing English to most or all parts of the world.
  - The United States dominates internationally and diffuses the English language around the world.

Part C—Three points possible:

- One point for describing examples of where English is spoken differently in the world.
  - Difference between American English and British English or Australian English and British English.
- Two points for examining how geography contributes to dialects and language divergence.
  - Isolation (geographic separation) leads to differences in spelling, pronunciation, and word usage.
PART A

The English language is a product of relocation diffusion. Three Germanic tribes, the Jutes, the Angles, and the Saxons, invaded the British Isles and brought their linguistic traditions with them. These tribes intermingled with the indigenous Celts, blending various languages. In the 9th century, Vikings invaded parts of the British Isles, impacting language mainly on the eastern coastline. In 1066, the Normans conquered England, and French became the dominant language of England for nearly three hundred years. As a result of these migrations and invasions, modern English did not become the dominant language until the 1500s.

PART B

With Britain colonizing many parts of the world from the 1600s to the 1800s, the English language diffused around the world. The British colonized South Asia, Australia, and New Zealand; most of North America; and parts of the Caribbean and Africa. As a result of British colonization, English was spoken around the world by the 1800s. Today English is the dominant language in the world largely because of American power and influence. American television shows, movies, and music are diffused via various forms of technology. Very few places on Earth seem to be off limits or not touched by American popular culture. The United States is also a leader in high-tech, so computer technological terminology is in English. The combination of American-driven computer technology and popular culture ensures that English will touch most places in the world.

PART C

As English diffused around the world, English-language speakers became isolated from one another, and over time the language diverged and a multitude of dialects emerged. One of the best examples of this is the difference between American English and British English. American colonists' isolation from England and each other in the 1600s and 1700s helped to create many distinctive American English dialects. In general, American English diverged in spelling, pronunciation, and vocabulary from British English. It didn't take long for American English itself to diverge into many dialects in the colonies. In general, on the East Coast there are three main dialects: northern, midlands, and southern. Each of these areas contains many sub-regions or dialects. In addition to the development of dialects in the United States, other areas of the British Empire developed their own distinct dialects too. Australia, for example, has a distinct dialect with unique vocabulary and pronunciation.