Chapter 15

**Knowledge based**

1. What is the relationship between regional political identities and distinct regional cultures?
2. Unitary and federal states have more in common than it seems at first glance. What accounts for this?
3. How are territorially concentrated national minorities influencing the prospects for democracy in the Western world and beyond?
4. What have been the contributions of minority nations in Canada, the UK, and Spain to the development of federal and regional practices in their respective countries?
5. How has the process of capitalist development affected the formation and uneven development of regions?

**Critical thinking**

1. Can it be argued that regions are on the rise while the nation-state is becoming a thing of the past?
2. Do strong regions naturally produce federalism, or is it federalism that creates strong regions?
3. Why is the concept of region so difficult to define? What are the factors giving rise to a ‘regionality’ continuum?
4. What are some of the different theoretical approaches that can be used to understand the meaning and significance of regions?
5. What is the ‘new regionalism’ and how does it reflect the changing role of regions in the context of globalization? What are the economic challenges they face?