

Past-paper walk-through

Writing a thesis statement ■ 6.4

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 1 Q1 ■ 6 marks
- 2025 Set 2 Q1 ■ 6 marks
- 2024 Set 1 Q1 ■ 6 marks
- 2024 Set 2 Q1 ■ 6 marks
- 2023 Set 1 Q1 ■ 6 marks
- 2023 Set 2 Q1 ■ 6 marks

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 1

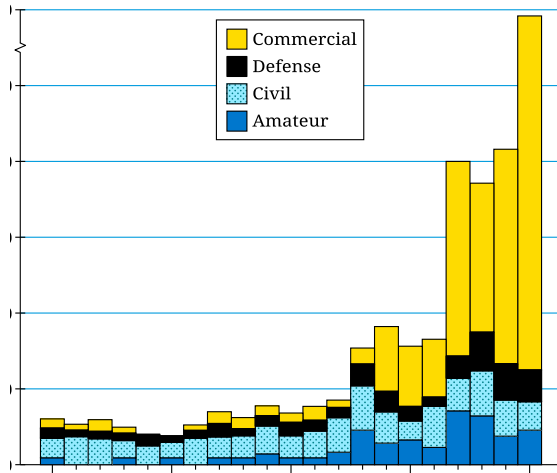
2025 Set 1 ■ Q1 ■ 6 marks

Synthesis. As nations and space agencies have sent spacecraft and satellites into space, human-created debris—or “space junk”—has accumulated in orbit around Earth. Space debris may range in size from small parts and flecks of paint to whole defunct satellites, but all of it poses a potential risk if it collides with a spacecraft. Many countries have agreed that the management of space debris is a priority because it poses a threat to space exploration and satellites. However, removing it is difficult and costly. Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources and develops your position on the most important factors that space agencies and nations should consider when dealing with the problem of space debris. Source A (O’Callaghan article) Source B (graph from ESA) Source C (Quell

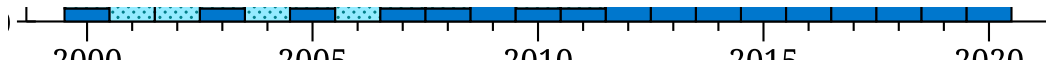
Question 1

article) Source D (Rossettini opinion article) Source E (NOAA article) Source F (chart from Mosher and Kiersz) **[6]**

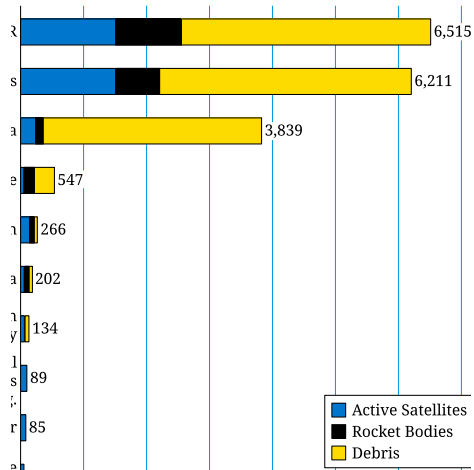
Question 1



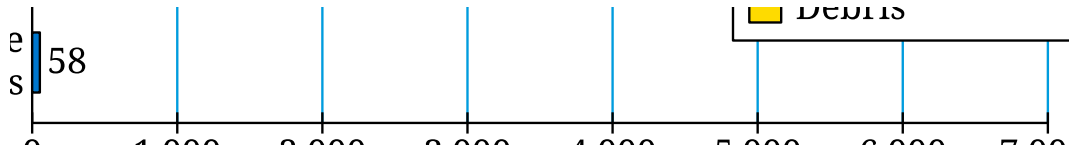
Question 1



Question 1



Question 1



Solution 1

- Synthesis essay (6 points). Prompt: As nations and space agencies have sent spacecraft and satellites into space, human-created debris—or “space junk”—has accumulated in orbit around Earth. Space debris may range in size from small parts and flecks of paint to whole defunct satellites, but all of it poses a potential risk if it collides with a spacecraft. Many countries have agreed that the management of space debris is a priority because it poses a threat to space exploration and satellites. However, removing it is difficult and costly. Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources and develops your

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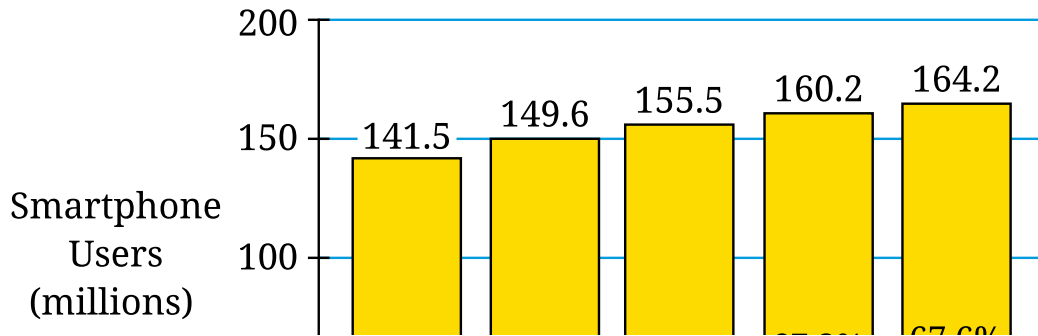
Question 1

2025 Set 2 ■ Q1 ■ 6 marks

Synthesis. Mapping software and Global Positioning System (GPS) devices are used regularly by travelers and commuters. Since these devices and apps are updated in real time with user-supplied information, they have become associated with a number of problems. While commuters attempt to avoid traffic on highways, they often create traffic on smaller, local roads that are less able to handle this new burden. Users also lose a sense of their geographical surroundings as they rely more on mapping software or GPS devices for navigation. Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources and develops your position on the value, if any, of mapping software and devices. Source A (Foderaro article) Source B (National Research Council book) Source C (graph from He) Source D (Grabar article) Source E (chart from BuildFire) Source F (Paulas article)

[6]

Question 1



Solution 1

- Synthesis essay (6 points). Prompt: Mapping software and Global Positioning System (GPS) devices are used regularly by travelers and commuters. Since these devices and apps are updated in real time with user-supplied information, they have become associated with a number of problems. While commuters attempt to avoid traffic on highways, they often create traffic on smaller, local roads that are less able to handle this new burden. Users also lose a sense of their geographical surroundings as they rely more on mapping software or GPS devices for navigation. Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources

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2024 Set 1 ■ Q1 ■ 6 marks

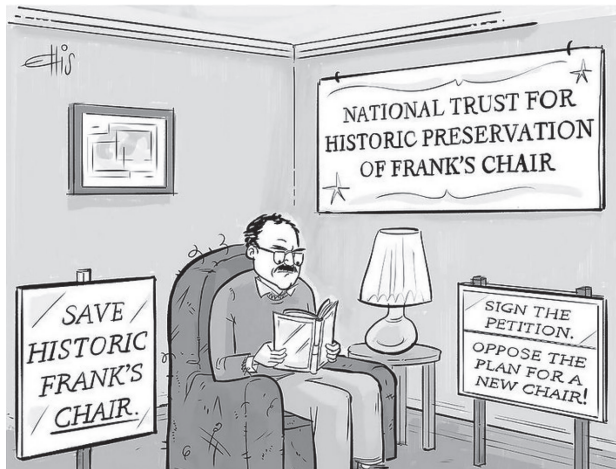
Synthesis. Historic preservation laws are intended to protect buildings deemed to be of historic, cultural, or architectural value. The laws affect both government buildings and private property, putting constraints on how and to what extent the structures can be altered, renovated, or replaced. Proponents of these laws claim they are necessary for the preservation of history and culture and the architectural integrity of a neighborhood. Opponents of the laws argue that such laws prevent progress and negatively impact real estate development, building renovation, and building design. Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources and develops your position on the value, if any, of laws designed to preserve buildings deemed to be of historic importance. Source A (National Park Service Web site)

Question 1

Source B (Merlino book) Source C (Appelbaum opinion article) Source D (Webb graph) Source E (Martin article) Source F (Rosen cartoon)

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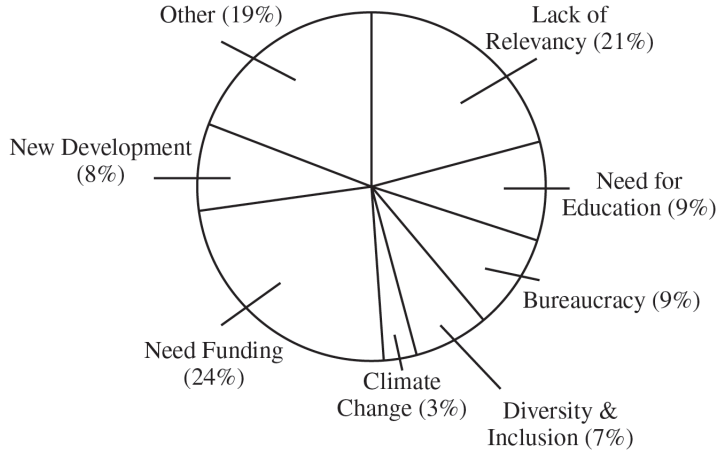
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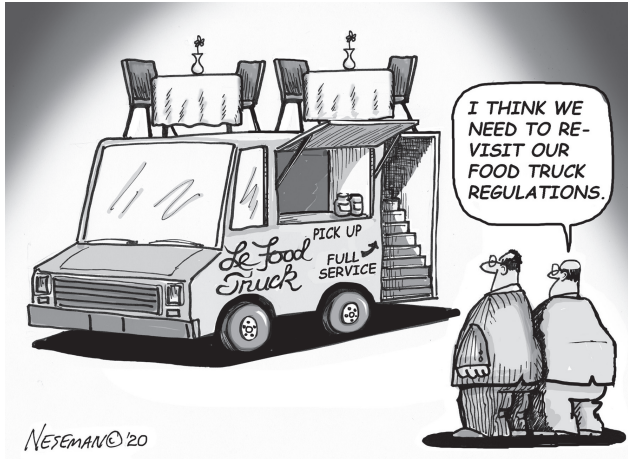
2024 Set 2 ■ Q1 ■ 6 marks

Synthesis. Mobile food service establishments, such as food trucks and food carts, have become increasingly trendy in recent years, offering customers appealing and often innovative dining options out of vehicles that can easily be located near workplaces and leisure activities. These businesses have sometimes been held back from expanding because of local regulations that restrict their activities and require operators to obtain licenses and certifications. Proponents of these regulations say that laws are needed to ensure that the meals offered by mobile food services are safe and that these businesses do not have an unfair advantage over traditional restaurants. Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources and develops your position on what are the most important factors for cities to consider when regulating mobile food service establishments. Source A (Baker article) Source B

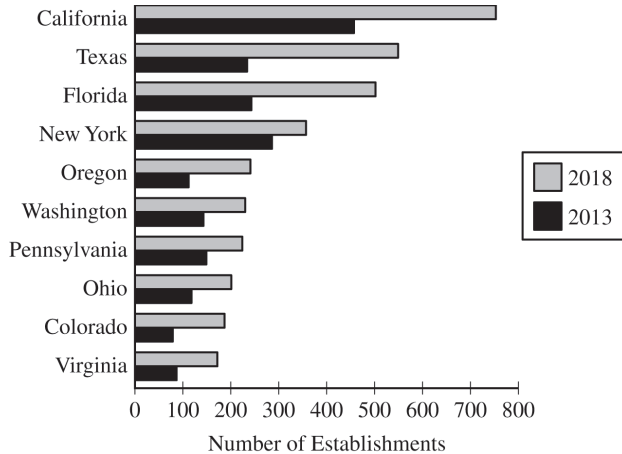
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(New Orleans permit guide) Source C (U.S. Census Bureau graph) Source D (Meehan article) Source E (Neseman cartoon) Source F (Weber book) **[6]**

Question 1



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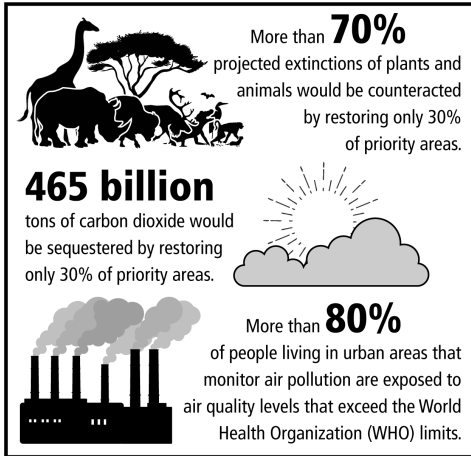
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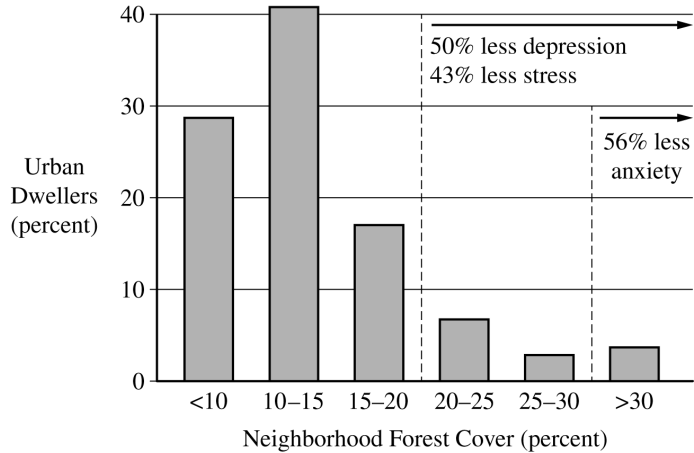
Synthesis. Urban rewilding is an effort to restore natural ecological processes and habitats in city environments. Many cities around the world have embraced rewilding as part of larger movements to promote ecological conservation and environmentally friendly design. Now, a movement to promote urban rewilding is beginning to take shape in the United States as well. Carefully read the six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources and develops your position on the extent to which rewilding initiatives are worthwhile for urban communities to pursue. Source A (infographic from Fastnacht) Source B (Jepson and Schepers policy brief) Source C (NRPA article) Source D (Garland article) Source E (graph from McDonald et al.) Source F (Chatterton book excerpt)

[6]

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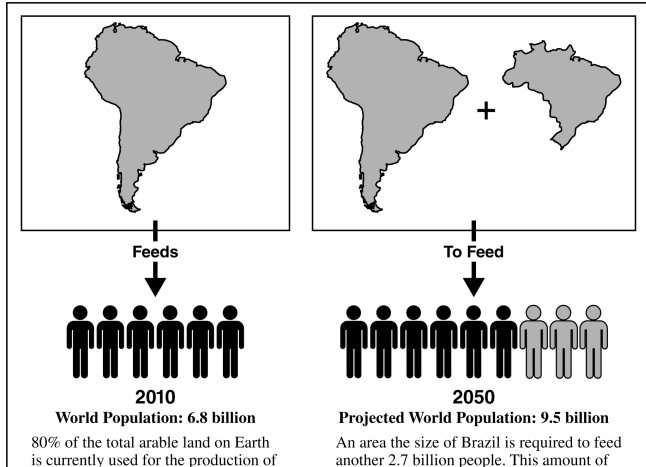
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2023 Set 2 ■ Q1 ■ 6 marks

Synthesis. Vertical farms are indoor agricultural facilities in which plants are grown, often in a hydroponic (soilless) environment, on tall stacks of shelves. Plants are given water, nutrients, and light mostly through automated processes. Advocates say that vertical farms are key to providing food for the future, yielding high-quality produce while making efficient use of land and water. Critics warn about the energy consumption associated with vertical farms' automated processes as well as problems related to cost and nutritional value. Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources and develops your position on the value, if any, of vertical farms to the future of agriculture. Source A (Severson article) Source B (Ling and Altland interview) Source C (table from Kozai and Niu) Source D (Foley article) Source E (Benke and Tomkins article) Source F (graphic from Despommier) **[6]**

Question 1



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is currently used for the production of food. That's equivalent in size to the continent of South America.

another 2.7 billion people. This amount of arable land is simply not available.

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