

The local government of a newly built town has contracted with an electrical company to provide energy to the town. The company generates electricity primarily through the burning of coal and has built a new power plant for the town. A nearby deposit of coal was discovered close to the surface. To access the coal, the company decides to remove the overburden and vegetation over the deposit.

3. Respond to parts A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

A. **Identify** a type of surface mining the company could use to access the coal.

B. **Describe** an environmental problem associated with surface mining.

C. The town is located downwind of the new coal-burning power plant.

Describe an environmental problem the town could experience as a result of the electricity generation at the coal-burning power plant.

D. The local government is concerned about the environmental consequences of using coal to generate electricity for the town.

Propose a realistic solution the local government could enact that would reduce the negative environmental consequences of using coal to generate electricity.

E. Burning one pound of coal produces an average of 0.88 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. An average household in the United States uses 1.064×10^4 kWh of electricity each year.

Calculate how many pounds of coal would need to be burned to generate enough electricity to power a town with 11,000 houses for a year. **Show** your work.

F. Researchers are concerned about the impact of noise pollution on songbirds in a forest near the power plant. Since the power plant was installed, bird species richness has declined from 7.5 species per hectare to 6.0 species per hectare.

Calculate the percent change in bird species per hectare since the power plant was installed. **Show** your work.

G. The town has been growing since it was built and had a growth rate of 5.38% in 2022, with a population of 26,250.

Assuming that the growth rate remains constant, **calculate** the year in which the population will reach 52,500. **Show** your work.

STOP

END OF EXAM

3. North Carolina is one of the fastest-growing states by population in the United States, with most growth concentrated in major cities like Charlotte. Increased population leads to increased demands for resources such as power and water.

The majority of electrical energy in North Carolina is produced during the combustion of coal.

- (a) **Identify** one negative human health effect linked to the exposure to pollutants resulting from the combustion of coal.
- (b) Coal ash, the powdery, solid substance that remains after coal combustion, presents a variety of potential environmental issues. Disposal of toxic coal ash is a growing concern in the state. Coal ash can be mixed with water and disposed of in large, unlined pits or as dry ash in landfills.
- (i) **Describe** an environmental problem associated with coal ash waste disposal.
- (ii) A proposed solution is to dispose of North Carolina's coal ash in clay-lined pits. **Justify** this solution by providing one advantage of using clay soil.
- (c) The population of Charlotte, North Carolina, has grown over the last few decades. The table shows the increase in the population size of Charlotte from 2013 to 2019.

Population of Charlotte, North Carolina, 2013–2019

Year	Population
2013	757,278
2014	774,807
2015	792,137
2016	808,834
2017	826,060
2018	841,611
2019	857,425

- (i) **Calculate** the percent change in Charlotte's population from 2013 to 2019. **Show** your work.
- (ii) Based on Charlotte's 2019 growth rate of 1.88%, **calculate** the year when the population of Charlotte will double, assuming the growth rate stays the same. **Show** your work.
- (iii) The average Charlotte resident uses 90 gallons of water per day. **Calculate** the gallons of water used by the population of Charlotte in the year 2018. **Show** your work.
- (d) Drought periods are becoming more frequent in North Carolina, causing water resources to become more scarce. **Describe** one realistic action that citizens could take to reduce domestic outdoor water use.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

STOP

END OF EXAM

3. Haiti shares a border with the Dominican Republic on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.
- (a) The border between the two countries can be seen using satellite images because of the severe deforestation in Haiti.
- (i) **Provide** one reason why deforestation commonly occurs in a less developed country such as Haiti.
- (ii) **Describe** one realistic strategy to reduce deforestation in a less developed country.
- (b) Deforestation can affect water quality. **Identify** one change that can occur in the water quality of streams within a watershed that has been deforested. **Explain** how deforestation can lead to this change.
- (c) **Identify** TWO environmental benefits, other than those related to water quality, of maintaining forest ecosystems.

The table below contains demographic data for Haiti in 1995 and 2015.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR HAITI

Measure	1995	2015
Fertility rate (number of children per woman)	5.2	2.7
Life expectancy (years)	55	64
Infant mortality (deaths per 1,000)	85	48

- (d) **Identify** and **discuss** one factor in a less developed country that could contribute significantly to a change in life expectancy, similar to what occurred in Haiti from 1995 to 2015.
- (e) **Identify** and **discuss** one economic or cultural factor in a less developed country that could contribute significantly to a change in the fertility rate, similar to what occurred in Haiti from 1995 to 2015.