

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

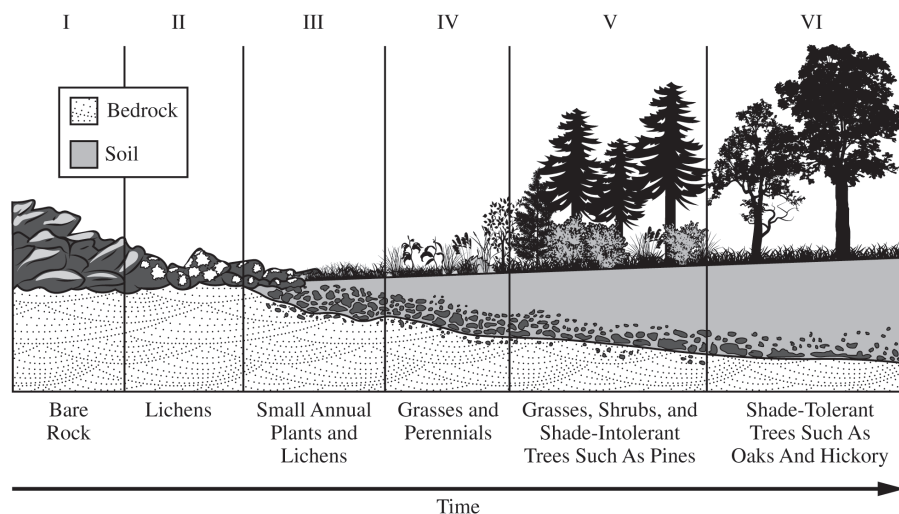
SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 10 minutes

3 Questions

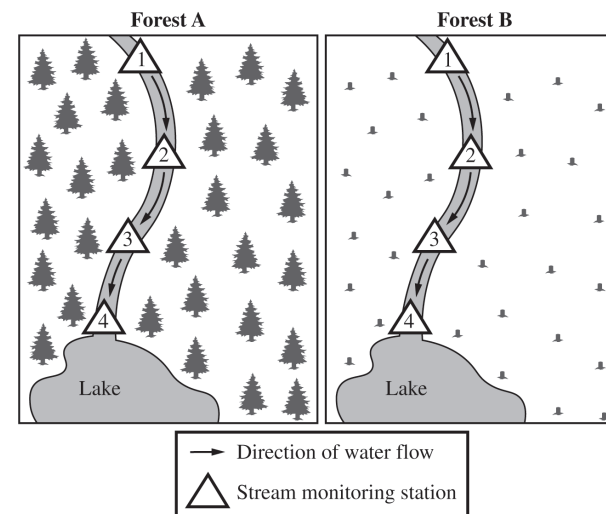
Directions: Answer all three questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers in the Free Response booklet. Where calculations are required, clearly show how you arrived at your answer. Where explanation or discussion is required, support your answers with relevant information and/or specific examples. You may plan your answers in this orange booklet, but no credit will be given for anything written in this booklet. **You will only earn credit for what you write in the separate Free Response booklet.**

1. The following diagram shows how an area changed over time. The dominant vegetation in each stage is labeled in the diagram. Each roman numeral represents a stage in the ecological process.



- Identify** the ecological change over time illustrated in the diagram.
- Identify** the stage in which pioneer species first appear.
- Describe** how soil forms from stage II to stage III.
- Identify** a cultural ecosystem service that may be provided by a mature forest.

Researchers are interested in investigating the effect of the removal of trees on the water quality of nearby waterways. To conduct their experiment, the researchers locate two identical forest watersheds, both with a river running through them. Forest A is an intact forest and forest B is a clear-cut forest. Four stream monitoring stations are set up in each forest study area. Each station monitors a variety of water quality indicators, including water temperature, at various locations along the river. The experimental setup is shown in the following diagrams. The arrows shown in the rivers represent the direction of water flow. The triangles in the river show the location of the stream monitoring stations.



- Identify** a testable hypothesis being investigated by the researchers.
- Identify** the independent variable in the experiment.
- Describe** the purpose of forest A in the experiment.
- Explain** why the water temperature might change because of clear-cutting trees in forest B.

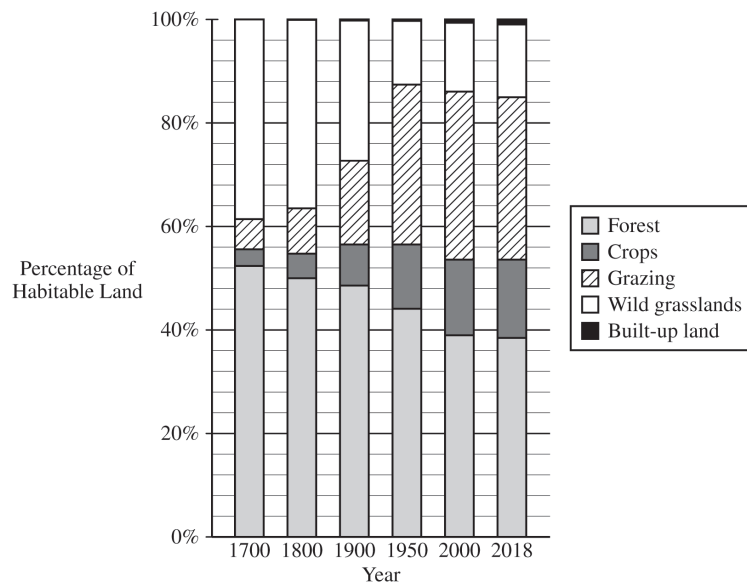
After the experiment was completed, land developers constructed a golf course in the clear-cut area of forest B. To prepare the land, developers removed any remaining stumps and newly grown trees and began planting and fertilizing new grass. The researchers are interested in the effect the golf course may have on the water quality of the river. To monitor the river in forest B, the researchers repeated the experiment once the golf course had been constructed.

- Explain** why an indicator of water quality other than temperature could be altered by the golf course in forest B.
- Explain** how the aquatic organisms living in the lake illustrated in the diagram of forest B are likely to be affected by the new golf course.

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.

2. The following graph shows how global uses of habitable land have changed since 1700.

Land Use Changes on Earth, 1700–2018



- (a) Based on the data in the graph, **identify** the year with the highest percentage of forest.
- (b) Based on the data in the graph, **describe** the relationship between the land use changes in the wild grasslands and grazing from 1700 to 1950.
- (c) **Identify** an environmental problem associated with overgrazing by livestock.
- (d) A student hypothesized that the change in the percentage of forest from 1700 to 2018 has decreased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. **Explain** whether the hypothesis is supported or refuted based on the data in the graph.

Urban environments have accounted for an increasing percentage of land use within the last few decades.

- (e) **Describe** a water-related environmental problem associated with urbanization.
- (f) **Describe** a potential response to mitigate the environmental problem identified in part (e).

Farmers who own large sections of cropland notice that bobcats, a medium-sized predatory forest cat, were present many years ago but are now virtually absent in the area. Instead, smaller mammal species now inhabit the area. Over time, the farmers have cleared nearly all of the forest on their property and converted it to farmland.

- (g) **Explain** why there are fewer bobcats present on the farmland now compared to several decades ago.

The small mammal species are considered pests by the farmers. The farmers partner with a conservation group to increase the number of bobcats in the area. As a solution, the conservation group will introduce bobcats onto the few isolated patches of the original forested habitat left in the area. They can introduce only a small number of bobcats in each patch.

- (h) **Describe** a disadvantage of introducing only a small population of bobcats.

- (i) **Propose** a solution to improve the chances that the bobcat reintroductions will be successful in reestablishing wild populations.

- (j) **Justify** the solution proposed in part (i) by describing an additional advantage, other than reestablishing the bobcat population near the farms.

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3. Habitat destruction and fragmentation can have many different effects on species.

- (a) **Describe** a characteristic of a specialist species that would make the specialist species more likely to be negatively affected by habitat fragmentation than a generalist species.

A rapidly growing suburban municipality purchases nearby forested land and proposes a newly planned housing development, which would involve clear-cutting much of the area for the construction of single-family homes. While evaluating the land, the development committee discovers that development will encroach upon the habitat of a wood thrush population. The wood thrush is a solitary, territorial bird whose preferred habitat consists of large, intact densely forested areas. Wood thrush populations are also threatened by cowbirds. A cowbird lays her egg in an existing nest of a wood thrush. After the cowbird egg hatches, the cowbird pushes the unhatched wood thrush eggs out. The wood thrush parents raise the cowbird hatchling as their own.

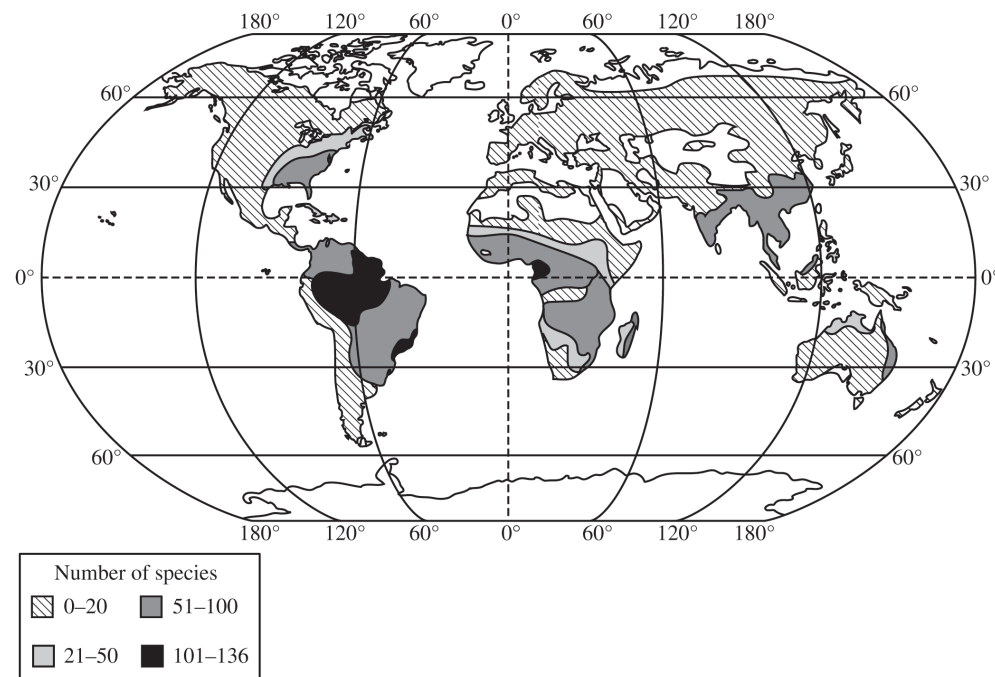
- (b) **Identify** the symbiotic relationship between the wood thrush and the cowbird.
- (c) **Describe** one ecological advantage of leaving areas of undeveloped forest in the development plan as compared to clear-cutting the property.
- (d) **Propose** a solution that will minimize the effect of development on the resident population of wood thrush while still meeting the municipality's need for a housing development.
- (e) A male wood thrush needs a minimum of 800 m^2 of territory for reproduction. The municipal development committee has set a biodiversity preservation target of 275 male wood thrush territories. **Calculate** the area that must be set aside to support the goal of 275 male thrush territories. **Show** your work.
- (f) A real estate developer wants to build houses on the property. The plan will support 1,000 lots with a lot size of $1,100 \text{ m}^2$. The developer has proposed setting aside land equal to 10% of the size of each lot it sells. **Calculate** the maximum number of male wood thrush territories that could be created under this proposal. **Show** your work.
- (g) **Calculate** the percentage of each of the 1,000 lots that would need to be set aside in order to support the goal of 275 male wood thrush territories. **Show** your work.

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STOP

END OF EXAM

GLOBAL AMPHIBIAN SPECIES RICHNESS



2. Biodiversity around the world is changing as a result of anthropogenic influences.

- (a) The map represents species richness of amphibians around the globe. Use the map to answer the following questions.
- (i) **Identify** the latitudinal range with the greatest amphibian species richness.
- (ii) **Identify** what biome this range most likely represents.
- (iii) **Describe** one reason amphibian species richness would tend to be highest in this region.
- (b) There are many environmental threats facing amphibians today, such as deforestation. **Describe** one possible anthropogenic reason for deforestation.
- (c) Many factors influence biodiversity.
- (i) **Explain** how the species richness of an ecosystem influences its response to environmental stressors.
- (ii) **Explain** why amphibian biodiversity is declining globally, other than from deforestation.
- (d) Currently, wildlife species are going extinct at an alarming rate. To combat this threat, governments around the world have enacted legislation and signed treaties to protect species threatened by extinction.

- (i) **Identify** one specific piece of legislation that has been designed to protect species threatened by extinction.
- (ii) **Explain** how the requirements of the legislation identified in part (d)(i) specifically protect species threatened by extinction.
- (e) A town is considering selling an undeveloped parcel of land along its border for residential developments. The square parcel of land consists of approximately 30% wetland and 70% pasture. The wetland runs through the middle of the property for its entire width and is home to three native frog species.
- (i) **Propose** a viable solution that will result in the protection of the native frog species while still allowing for maximum profit of the property development.
- (ii) **Justify** the solution proposed in (e)(i) by describing a potential advantage of the plan, other than frog protection.

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3. Approximately 350 coal-fired power plants in the United States are older than the 30-year anticipated life-span for a coal generator. One problem with these aging power plants is that many lack the necessary modern air pollution controls. Additionally, there are concerns about rising fuel costs, so many utility companies are planning to retire coal-fired plants and build new natural-gas power plants.

- (a) **Describe** why coal is considered a nonrenewable energy source.
- (b) **Describe** one potential environmental advantage of replacing a coal-fired power plant with a natural-gas power plant.
- (c) **Describe** one economic advantage of using natural gas, rather than coal, in producing electricity.
- (d) When natural gas is used to heat homes, it can produce carbon monoxide gas, which can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning in humans. **Propose** a solution to reduce the incidence of carbon monoxide poisoning in humans.

Particulate matter is another common pollutant in emissions from vehicles, coal-fired power plants, and various other sources. One size of particulates, $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, presents a particular risk to human health.

ATMOSPHERIC CONCENTRATION OF PARTICULATE MATTER IN 1990 AND 2016

Year	Average Annual Atmospheric Concentration of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
1990	85
2016	188

- (e) **Calculate** the percent change in the average annual $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration in the air from 1990 to 2016. **Show** your work.
- (f) Trees can remove $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ from the atmosphere when particulates settle on the leaves and are subsequently washed onto soil by rain. The average annual removal of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ is 2.3 kilograms per hectare. **Calculate** the decrease in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ removal in kilograms if logging reduced a forested area from 50,000 hectares to 43,000 hectares. **Show** your work.
- (g) Research has shown that hospital admissions for cardiovascular problems increase 1% with every 10% increase in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration. A city experienced a 23% increase in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration and had 7,390 hospital admissions for cardiovascular issues over a one-year period. **Calculate** the anticipated increase in the number of hospital admissions for cardiovascular issues during the next year if the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration continues to rise at an identical rate. **Show** your work.

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

AP Environmental Science: **2017**

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.