

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

- A.** One major environmental problem is air pollution. Air pollution can come from natural or anthropogenic sources. Motor vehicles can be a source of particulate matter (PM) and other pollutants.

Identify an anthropogenic source of particulate matter, other than from motor vehicles.

- B.** One way to reduce pollutants associated with motor vehicles is to use a vapor recovery nozzle. **Describe** one way a vapor recovery nozzle is used to reduce atmospheric pollution.
- C.** Acid rain is another air pollutant linked to motor vehicles. Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of people working from home, so fewer people are commuting to work in their personal vehicles.

Explain how a decrease in the number of people commuting to work in their personal vehicles could lead to a reduction in acid rain.

- D.** The average gas mileage for a small gasoline-powered sport utility vehicle (SUV) is 22 miles per gallon (mpg) in the city. The average gas mileage for a small hybrid SUV is 36 mpg in the city. One commuter sells their gasoline-powered SUV and replaces it with a hybrid SUV.

Calculate the percent change in gas mileage between the gasoline-powered SUV and the hybrid SUV based on the data provided. **Show** your work.

- E.** Both the gasoline-powered SUV and the hybrid SUV have 14-gallon gas tanks. As stated in part D, the average gas mileage for a small gasoline-powered sport utility vehicle (SUV) is 22 miles per gallon (mpg) in the city. The average gas mileage for a small hybrid SUV is 36 mpg in the city.

Calculate how many more miles the owner can drive in the hybrid SUV in the city than they could have driven in the gasoline-powered SUV. **Show** your work.

- F.** In addition to vehicles, buildings such as schools often have high energy consumption. The primary sources of energy use in many buildings are heating, cooling, and lighting.

Propose a realistic solution that schools could implement to decrease energy use for heating and cooling, other than a reduction in the amount of time the school building is occupied.

- G.** The school plans to upgrade its lighting to save money and reduce both its electricity use and its ecological footprint. The sustainability committee proposes that the school reduce its electricity use by switching to energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. The school building uses 2.8×10^4 bulbs. The LED bulbs would each use 0.0085 kilowatts per hour. Each bulb would be used for an average of 2,340 hours per year.

Calculate the energy use in the school building in kilowatts per year using LED light bulbs. **Show** your work.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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. Crude oil is extracted, transported, and refined for various uses by humans.

- (a) **Describe** one environmental impact on marine ecosystems associated with extraction or transportation of crude oil.
- (b) **Identify** an atmospheric pollutant released during the combustion of refined oil products.
- (c) **Propose** a solution an individual can use to reduce their reliance on refined oil products for transportation.
- (d) **Justify** the solution proposed in part (c) by providing a benefit to human health.

Other natural resources, such as gold and silver, are also extracted. These resources can be used to make components for the electronics humans use. One metric ton of gold ore contains 5.0 grams of gold.

- (e) A deposit is estimated to contain 260 million metric tons of gold ore. **Calculate** the number of grams of gold that could be extracted from the deposit. **Show** your work.
- (f) Assuming the price of gold is \$62.56 per gram, **calculate** the value of the gold that could be recovered from 1,000 metric tons of gold ore in the deposit. **Show** your work.
- (g) A typical cell phone contains 0.034 grams of gold. **Calculate** how many metric tons of gold ore would need to be mined to extract enough gold to manufacture 100,000 cell phones. **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.

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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

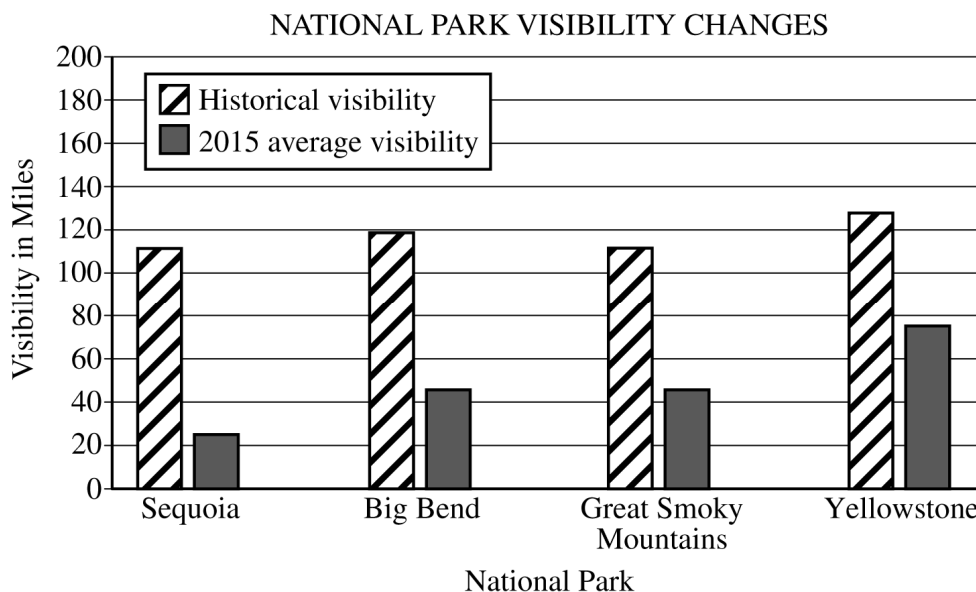
- (i) **Calculate** the percent change in Charlotte's population from 2013 to 2019. **Show** your work.
- (ii) Based on Charlotte's 2019 growth rate of 1.88%, **calculate** the year when the population of Charlotte will double, assuming the growth rate stays the same. **Show** your work.
- (iii) The 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.

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END OF EXAM

4. One reason that people visit national parks is to view the scenery. Visibility at the four parks in the graph has been reduced over time so that by 2015 the visibility was an average of 70 miles less than the historical visibility. Regional air pollutant sources are commonly located over 100 miles away from national parks.



- (a) Based on the data provided in the graph, **identify** the national park that had the greatest loss of visibility as of 2015 when compared with the historical natural visibility.
- (b) Visibility in national parks can be affected by many different air pollutants.
- Identify** a primary air pollutant.
 - Describe** how a primary air pollutant becomes part of the atmosphere.
 - Identify** a secondary air pollutant.
 - Describe** how a secondary air pollutant is formed within the atmosphere.
- (c) In 1990 Great Smoky Mountains National Park had a visibility of 25 miles. Visibility data for 2015 can be determined from the graph above.
- Calculate** the percentage increase in visibility from 1990 to 2015.
 - Discuss** TWO specific actions that the state or federal government could take or encourage to further improve the visibility in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- (d) Excluding air pollution, **discuss** TWO additional ways national park ecosystems are being degraded by high levels of visitor use.

STOP

END OF EXAM