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# AP<sup>®</sup> Human Geography

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

### **Inside:**

#### **Free-Response Question 1**

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
- ☒ **Student Samples**
- ☒ **Scoring Commentary**

**Question 1: No Stimulus****7 points**

<b>A</b> (Point 1)	<b>Describe one type of voluntary migration.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A1. Transnational (external) migration is the movement of people across international borders to another country.</li><li>• A2. Transhumance is a seasonal or cyclical movement of people and livestock along traditional migratory routes, trade routes, and/or pathways between different climate or ecological zones.</li><li>• A3. Internal migration is the movement of people within the borders of their home country.</li><li>• A4. Chain migration is the movement of people who have followed other people (e.g., family members) to a particular location.</li><li>• A5. Step migration is the movement of people along a set or series of intermediate stops or stages toward a final destination.</li><li>• A6. Rural-to-urban migration and/or the movement of pastoral, country, farming, agrarian, mining, fishing, and/or forest peoples to cities or metropolitan areas.</li><li>• A7. Labor migration is the movement of people for the purpose of work, wages, education opportunities, employment opportunities (e.g., guest workers), and/or technological skills (e.g., brain drain).</li><li>• A8. Family migration is the movement of people to connect or reunify family members who have been separated.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>
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<b>B</b> (Point 2)	<b>Explain how migration may affect a city's economy.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• B1. Migrants may contribute to economic development by expanding the size, capabilities, and/or productivity of a city's labor force.</li><li>• B2. Migrants may start new businesses, expand existing businesses, and/or invest in existing businesses, resulting in local economic development, growth, and/or multiplier effects.</li><li>• B3. Migrants may increase a city's tax base (e.g., sales, income, property taxes) used to fund governments, resulting in additional funds for infrastructure (e.g., transportation, sanitation) and/or social programs (e.g., education, health care).</li><li>• B4. Migrants may purchase, rent, or invest in housing or commercial space, resulting in a more valuable real estate market.</li><li>• B5. Migrants may contribute to the ethnic or cultural makeup of the city, resulting in a more diverse workforce, improved availability of goods or services, or ethnic neighborhoods that develop new business (e.g., food, tourism).</li><li>• B6. Migrants moving away from a city may reduce the size and capabilities of that city's economy, reduce the size of its labor force, decrease the local tax base, and/or decrease local investment in business, housing, or real estate.</li><li>• B7. Governments may allocate funding to services for migrants (e.g., health care, education).</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>
<b>C</b> (Point 3)	<b>Describe one type of housing discrimination that may occur in urban areas.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• C1. Redlining is a discriminatory practice in which providers (e.g., lenders, insurers) deny services or impose unfair terms on people in specific neighborhoods.</li><li>• C2. Blockbusting is a discriminatory housing practice in which realtors persuade homeowners to sell their homes cheaply because people of a specific race or ethnicity of people are moving to the neighborhood.</li><li>• C3. Urban areas may lack affordable housing, leaving lower-income residents with limited housing options and/or potentially leading to de facto segregation (e.g., zoning rules, regional planning initiatives, urban design initiatives).</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>

<b>D</b> (Point 4)	<b>Explain how a city's infrastructure affects society.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• D1. Patterns of social development and/or societies are affected by a city's infrastructure (e.g., transportation, communications, energy, housing, industry) because the location and/or quality of infrastructure influence quality of life (e.g., access to health care, levels of education, quality of life, standards of living).</li><li>• D2. High-quality city infrastructure (e.g., housing, transportation, communications, schools, commercial buildings) may improve residents' quality of life by improving access to goods, services, and/or places of employment.</li><li>• D3. High-quality city infrastructure (e.g., public utilities, health care) may improve residents' quality of life by improving public health and sanitation.</li><li>• D4. Insufficient city infrastructure may inhibit social development by creating challenges such as lack of housing, lack of public utilities, pollution, and/or inadequate sanitation.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>
<b>E</b> (Point 5)	<b>Describe one challenge to sustainability in urban areas.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E1. Expanding areas of suburban sprawl, insufficient sanitation systems, climate change causing local environmental effects, pollution affecting air and/or water, the large ecological footprint of cities, and/or inefficient energy use.</li><li>• E2. Any environmental and/or economic condition that may limit the long-term or continuous use of a resource or type of land use.</li><li>• E3. Rapid urbanization can increase the demand for resources (e.g., water, food, energy), strain infrastructure, reduce green spaces, lead to housing shortages, and/or proliferate informal settlements.</li><li>• E4. Public health challenges (e.g., sanitation, the availability of clean water) can challenge urban sustainability.</li><li>• E5. Aging or inadequate infrastructure can challenge urban sustainability.</li><li>• E6. Ineffective urban governance or planning may challenge urban sustainability.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>

<b>F</b> (Point 6)	<b>Explain how urban design initiatives are intended to affect cities.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• F1. The initiatives (e.g., zoning practices, mixed land use, walkability, transportation-oriented development, smart-growth policies, New Urbanism) are intended to reduce sprawl, improve walkability, accessibility, and/or transportation.</li><li>• F2. The initiatives are intended to improve or diversify housing options, improve livability, and/or promote sustainable options (e.g., land or resource use, combined living and workspace).</li><li>• F3. Socially, urban design initiatives are intended to improve public spaces (e.g., create parks, plazas, recreational areas), boost inclusivity (e.g., ensure accessibility), and/or enhance public health (e.g., reduce pollution) in cities.</li><li>• F4. Environmentally, implementing green building materials, renewable energy sources, and/or urban greenery can minimize environmental impact in cities.</li><li>• F5. Economically, by improving infrastructure (e.g., transportation, housing, public services, open space), urban planning, and/or zoning, cities can attract investment, create jobs, foster sustainable communities, and/or improve accessibility or mobility.</li><li>• F6. Culturally, urban design initiatives can incorporate the preservation of historical sites or cultural landmarks, design spaces for public art, cultural events, and/or community gatherings, fostering a sense of place, identity, and/or community.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>
<b>G</b> (Point 7)	<b>Explain why urban design initiatives may be criticized.</b>  <b>Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• G1. Criticism might arise because initiatives may negatively affect the local population through increased housing costs (e.g., the cost of new construction, land speculation) and/or by resulting in possible de facto segregation (e.g., limited low-income housing options).</li><li>• G2. Urban design initiatives may reduce or eliminate land that could be used for housing development and/or for the development of institutions (e.g., schools, health care) or amenities (e.g., parks, play areas).</li><li>• G3. Urban design initiatives may attract outside visitors or vehicles that increase traffic or congestion or increase the cost of goods and services in the local area.</li><li>• G4. Urban design initiatives could be expensive to implement and/or could cost the city money that could be used in other ways.</li><li>• G5. Urban design initiatives may result in the potential loss of historical or place character.</li><li>• G6. Urban design initiatives may be seen as ineffective due to cost, lack of impact on the local economy, and/or lack of improvement in quality of life.</li></ul>	<b>1 point</b>

- A. One type of voluntary migration is chain migration, during which members of a certain ethnic or cultural group follow each other to a certain country or region. The migrants are most likely moving due to opportunity, a common trait of voluntary migration.
- B. Migration may affect a city's economy by providing economic growth to the city, as a working age population of migrants is able to increase economic productivity in a certain area. Additionally, migrants will spend money in the new country, contributing to the economy of the city or state.
- C. One type of housing discrimination that may occur in urban areas is a lack of affordable housing, which could lead to homelessness and internal displacement for those who cannot afford the adequate housing.
- D. A city's infrastructure affects its society because an area with worse infrastructure is likely to have a lower standard of living and development than an area with better infrastructure, as infrastructure such as plumbing and transportation are vital to daily life and productivity in a city.
- E. One challenge to sustainability in urban areas is large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, which often increase air pollution as a result. For example, a highly populated urban area is likely to have a large amount of commuters who drive cars that release these greenhouse gasses.
- F. Urban design initiatives are intended to affect cities by increasing connectivity and livability. For example, infill movements look to increase housing in vacant lots, which will provide more housing closer to the center of an urban area, decreasing the need for commuting or traveling for work or economic interaction.
- G. Urban design initiatives may be criticized due to a growth in property values, as areas that adopt these initiatives will likely see more gentrification, which is the replacement of low income residents with higher income residents as a city undergoes renewal.

A) One type of voluntary migration would be chain migration. Chain migration is when people migrate to another country because their relatives or family has migrated there before.

B) Migration may affect a city's economy because of something called brain drain. Brain drain is when people with higher degrees of education migrate into another country for better education and better jobs. This improves the economy of the city that is getting those migrants with higher degrees of education because there are more people for labor and the people in labor happen to be people with higher degrees of education, which is good for the economy.

C) Blockbusting may occur in urban areas where white neighborhoods or people do not want to live with African Americans. In these neighborhoods, real estate agents might show up at the white people's doorsteps to encourage them to sell their house and move into another neighborhood because African-Americans are moving into the neighborhood.

D) A city's infrastructure affects society because if a city's infrastructure is not well developed or weak, then it directly affects the economy, affecting the society as a whole. A city having a weak infrastructure means that it lacks organization and transportation systems which are crucial for the connections and unity of societies in cities.

E) One challenge to urban sustainability in urban areas would be pollution and CO<sub>2</sub> admissions from factories and transportation. Cars, trucks, and buses are all common forms of transportation within a city and constant use of these automobiles may result in lots of carbon admissions. Additionally, the mass production of products in factories also release mass amounts of carbon dioxide, polluting the air.

F) Urban initiatives are intended to affect cities and attempt to improve them in the long term. Raising the price of residential areas may seem like a negative affect, and it is in the short term. However, in the long term, the city might need these costs to keep the city active and the same or they might need extra money to expand the city and make it better.

G) Urban design initiatives may be criticized because they are often not in favor of the people. For example, an urban initiative may be increasing the cost of housing in residential areas. However the people living in those residential areas do not want this and will criticize their decisions because they do not want to pay more money.

**A-**One type of voluntary migration is migrating to a new area for better job opportunities and new experiences.

**B-**Migration may affect a city's economy by having a higher population growth and more population density which can lead to less jobs and housing.

**C-**One type of housing discrimination is redlining. Redlining shows segregation through not offering the same opportunities that you would for a suburban neighborhood then you would for an urban neighborhood that may have more crime rates.

**D-**A city's infrastructure affects society through ways like population density and where houses are placed as well as a change in urban landscapes through migration.

**E-** Some challenges that urban areas might face that goes against sustainability are gerrymandering and population growth for their city which cause less housing.

**F-** Urban design initiatives are intended to affect cities by making them more visually appealing. As well as creating a better home for people in urban areas. This also creates a problem of a higher population density in the urban area then before since the area is more visually appealing then more people are going to want to live there.

**G-** Urban design initiative may be criticized because people believe that the government shouldn't waste funds on an area that isn't worth it and is already ruined and should use the money for better things like schooling and fixing other things.



## Question 1

**Note:** Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

### Overview

**NEW for 2025:** The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses on AP Central*.

### Sample: 1A

**HG Point 1 Score: 1**

**HG Point 2 Score: 1**

**HG Point 3 Score: 1**

**HG Point 4 Score: 1**

**HG Point 5 Score: 1**

**HG Point 6 Score: 1**

**HG Point 7 Score: 1**

**Score: 7**

The response to part A earned 1 point. The response correctly describes one type of voluntary migration by stating that, “One type of voluntary migration is chain migration, during which members of a certain ethnic or cultural group follow each other to a certain country or region.”

The response to part B earned 1 point. The response correctly explains how migration may affect a city’s economy by stating that, “a working age population of migrants is able to increase economic productivity” and that “migrants will spend money in the new country, contributing to the economy of the city or state.”

The response to part C earned 1 point. The response correctly describes one type of housing discrimination that may occur in urban areas by stating that, “a lack of affordable housing ... could lead to homelessness and internal displacement for those who cannot afford the adequate housing.”

The response to part D earned 1 point. The response correctly explains how a city’s infrastructure affects society by stating that, “an area with worse infrastructure is likely to have a lower standard of living and development than an area with better infrastructure, as infrastructure such as plumbing and transportation are vital to daily life and productivity in a city.”

The response to part E earned 1 point. The response correctly describes one challenge to sustainability in urban areas by stating that, “One challenge to sustainability in urban areas is large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, which often increase air pollution as a result. For example, a highly populated urban area is likely to have a large amount of commuters who drive cars that release these greenhouse gasses.”

The response to part F earned 1 point. The response correctly explains how urban design initiatives are intended to affect cities by stating that such initiatives seek to increase “connectivity and livability” and provide the example of “infill movements look to increase housing in vacant lots, which will provide more housing closer to the center of an urban area, decreasing the need for commuting or traveling for work or economic interaction.”

The response to part G earned 1 point. The response correctly explains why urban design initiatives may be criticized by stating that, “Urban design initiatives may be criticized due to a growth in property values, as areas that adopt these initiatives will likely see more gentrification, which is the replacement of low income residents with higher income residents as a city undergoes renewal.”

**Question 1 (continued)****Sample: 1B****HG Point 1 Score: 1****HG Point 2 Score: 1****HG Point 3 Score: 1****HG Point 4 Score: 1****HG Point 5 Score: 1****HG Point 6 Score: 0****HG Point 7 Score: 1****Score: 6**

The response to part A earned 1 point. The response correctly describes one type of voluntary migration by stating that, “Chain migration is when people migrate to another country because their relatives or family has migrated there before.”

The response to part B earned 1 point. The response correctly explains how migration may affect a city’s economy by stating that, “Brain drain is when people with higher degrees of education migrate into another country for better education and better jobs. This improves the economy of the city that is getting those migrants with higher degrees of education because there are more people for labor and the people in labor happen to be people with higher degrees of education, which is good for the economy.”

The response to part C earned 1 point. The response correctly describes one type of housing discrimination that may occur in urban areas by stating that, “Blockbusting may occur in urban areas where white neighborhoods or people do not want to live with African Americans. In these neighborhoods, real estate agents might show up at the white people’s doorsteps to encourage them to sell their house and move into another neighborhood because African-Americans are moving into the neighborhood.”

The response to part D earned 1 point. The response correctly explains how a city’s infrastructure affects society by stating that, “if a city’s infrastructure is not well developed or weak, then it directly affects the economy, affecting the society as a whole. A city having a weak infrastructure means that it lacks organization and transportation systems which are crucial for the connections and unity of societies in cities.”

The response to part E earned 1 point. The response correctly describes one challenge to sustainability in urban areas by stating that, “Cars, trucks, and buses are all common forms of transportation within a city and constant use of these automobiles may result in lots of carbon admissions. Additionally, the mass production of products in factories also release mass amounts of carbon dioxide, polluting the air.”

The response to part F did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains how urban design initiatives are intended to affect cities by stating that rising prices of residential areas is an effect of urban design initiatives but did not explain how. The response would have earned the point if it had stated that the initiatives are intended to reduce sprawl, improve walkability, accessibility, or transportation.

The response to part G earned 1 point. The response correctly explains why urban design initiatives may be criticized by stating that, “an urban initiative may be increasing the cost of housing in residential areas. However the people living in those residential areas do not want this and will criticize their decisions because they do not want to pay more money.”

**Question 1 (continued)****Sample: 1C****HG Point 1 Score: 1****HG Point 2 Score: 0****HG Point 3 Score: 0****HG Point 4 Score: 0****HG Point 5 Score: 0****HG Point 6 Score: 0****HG Point 7 Score: 1****Score: 2**

The response to part A earned 1 point. The response correctly describes one type of voluntary migration by stating that, “One type of voluntary migration is migrating to a new area for better job opportunities and new experiences.”

The response to part B did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains how population growth leads to fewer jobs. The response would have earned the point if it had stated that migrants may contribute to economic development by expanding the size, capabilities, or productivity of a city’s labor force.

The response to part C did not earn a point. The response incorrectly describes redlining. The response would have earned the point if it had stated that redlining is a discriminatory practice in which providers (e.g., lenders, insurers) deny services or impose unfair terms on people in specific neighborhoods.

The response to part D did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains how a city’s infrastructure affects society by stating that, “A city’s infrastructure affects society through ways like population density and where houses are placed as well as a change in urban landscapes through migration.” The response would have earned the point if it had stated that patterns of social development or societies are affected by a city’s infrastructure because the location or quality of infrastructure influence quality of life.

The response to part E did not earn a point. The response incorrectly identifies gerrymandering as one challenge to sustainability in urban areas. The response would have earned the point if it had described expanding areas of suburban sprawl, insufficient sanitation systems, climate change causing local environmental effects, pollution affecting air or water, the large ecological footprint of cities, or inefficient energy use.

The response to part F did not earn a point. The response incorrectly explains how urban design initiatives are intended to make cities more “visually appealing” as well as to create “a better home for people in urban areas.” The response would have earned the point if it had explained how urban design initiatives can incorporate the preservation of historical sites or cultural landmarks, design spaces for public art, cultural events, or community gatherings, fostering a sense of place, identity, or community.

The response to part G earned 1 point. The response correctly explains why urban design initiatives may be criticized due to the cost by stating that, “people believe that the government shouldn’t waste funds on an area that isn’t worth it and is already ruined and should use the money for better things like schooling and fixing other things.”