

Question 1

(Suggested time – 40 minutes. This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

This question requires you to synthesize a variety of sources into a coherent, well-written essay. Synthesis refers to combining the sources and your position to form a cohesive, supported argument and accurately citing sources.

Introductory ¶

Carefully read the following [#] sources, including the introductory information for each source. Then synthesize information from at least three of the sources and incorporate it into a coherent, well-developed essay that

- argues a clear position on whether the USPS should be restructured to meet the needs of a changing world, and if so, how
- identifies the key issues associated with the locavore movement and examines their implications for the community
- develops a position on the extent to which government should be responsible for fostering green practices
- evaluate the most important factors that a school should consider before using particular technologies in curriculum and instruction

Make sure your argument is central; use the sources to illustrate and support your reasoning. Avoid merely summarizing the sources. Indicate clearly which sources you are drawing from, whether through direct quotation, paraphrase, or summary. You may cite the sources as Source A, Source B, etc., or by using the descriptions in parentheses.

Source A (Name/Description)
Source B (Name/Description)
Source C (Name/Description)
Source D (Name/Description)
Source E (Name/Description)
Source F (Name/Description)

Comment [M1]: This prefatory text was removed from the exam beginning in 2011. Leave it in your mock prompt; it will remind you what skills you are testing, and it serves to frame the introduction that follows.

Comment [M2]: Your introduction will be unique. Use the introductions from the 2010, 2011, and 2012 exam as models, noting that you need about a paragraph of background information to provide context. Note also that these introductions present a brief overview of both sides of an issue, if that is necessary; the 2010 exam offers an example.

Comment [M3]: You must have five, six, or seven sources. Most will be argumentative or expository, and they will fit the roundtable discussion model outlined in your guide to synthesis writing. One must be a visual source, such as a political cartoon or print advertisement. You should also attempt to include some hard data, such as statistics or a graph. Use the exam prompts as models, and ask questions when necessary.

Comment [M4]: The next phrase is the most important one in your prompt. The verbs in that phrase are arguably the most important words in your prompt. The list here is drawn from recent exams; the bolded words dictate the shape and purpose of the responses students must write. Your prompt must be kept as a sentence, not a list; you should not bold the key phrases, either.

Comment [M5]: This dictates an argumentative response with a clearly articulated policy position.

Comment [M6]: This dictates that, in addition to the general policy argument, the response must offer a solution to the problem.

Comment [M7]: This dictates an argument of fact — essentially, the presentation in the essay of which issues are key to the discussion.

Comment [M8]: To examine implications is to think critically about data. It's another argument of fact; in this case, the response must infer and analyze either as it identifies key issues or afterward.

Comment [M9]: Using the phrase "develop a position" allows writers to approach the argument in many different ways. The phrase "the extent to which" dictates a response that develops its position (not that any response should be undeveloped).

Comment [M10]: The verb "evaluate" dictates that the factors involved be ranked or otherwise compared to each other; it also allows for an argument of policy to accompany the evaluative writing.

Comment [M11]: Keep this paragraph exactly as it is printed here. It dictates the compositional and argumentative skills necessary for effectiveness.

Comment [M12]: Use the last name of the author in most cases. When an author is not attributed in the original source, use a one- or two-word description as a placeholder.

Source A

Cicero, M.F. "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet." *The Extremes of Good and Evil*. 1 January 45 BC.

[Introductory information.]

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed iaculis imperdiet scelerisque. Fusce aliquet lorem eu ligula varius viverra. Mauris sit amet arcu sapien, sed laoreet mauris. Suspendisse ultricies aliquam erat nec laoreet. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Praesent ac nibh urna, ut tincidunt mauris. Vestibulum ligula nibh, tristique sit amet commodo eu, laoreet quis sem. Quisque mi elit, auctor ut malesuada in, condimentum luctus justo. Integer quis nisi quis quam rhoncus adipiscing. Morbi tortor tortor, congue quis commodo ullamcorper, egestas vel arcu.

Comment [M13]: Follow the models in the exam prompts to provide correct introductory information. Note that most of the introductory blurbs are just that—short and succinct, giving just enough background to frame the argumentative or expository text or image that follows.

Comment [M14]: This is Latin filler text still used in publishing to mimic the look of real writing. It is from the document cited in most of the mock source boxes here; the varying lengths simply show the varying lengths of texts you can use. Always look to the exam prompts and sources for a sense of what you can and can't use.

Source B

Cicero, M.F. "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet." *The Extremes of Good and Evil*. 1 January 45 BC.

[Introductory information.]

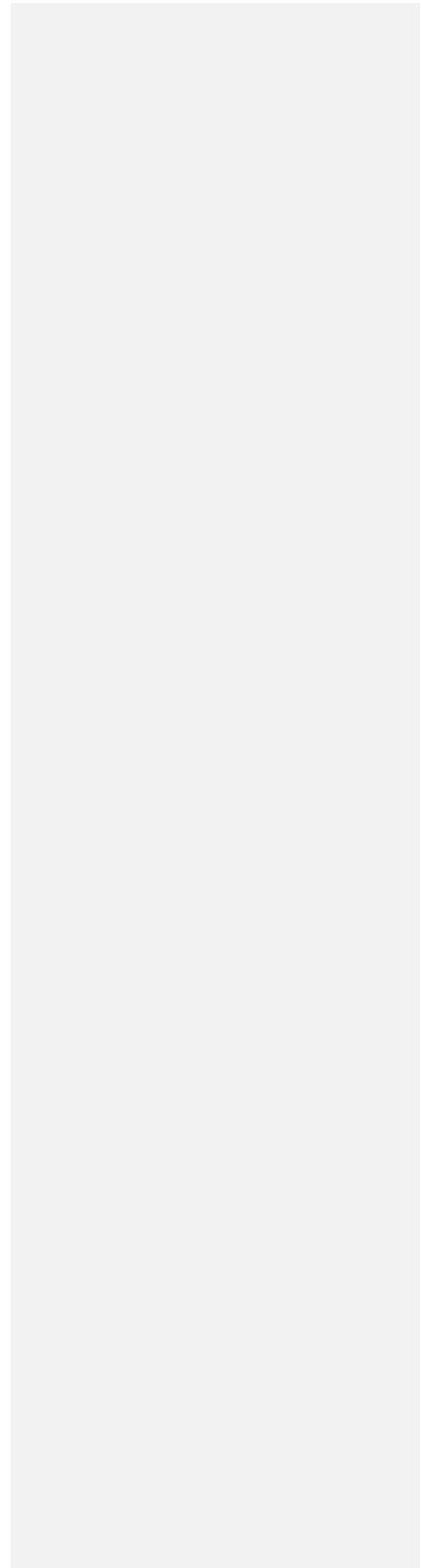
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Source C

"Sisyphus-cat tries again." Cheezburger.com. 8 August 2008.
Web. 15 December 2012.

[Introductory information.]



Source D

Cicero, M.F. "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet." *The Extremes of Good and Evil*. 1 January 45 BC.

[Introductory information.]

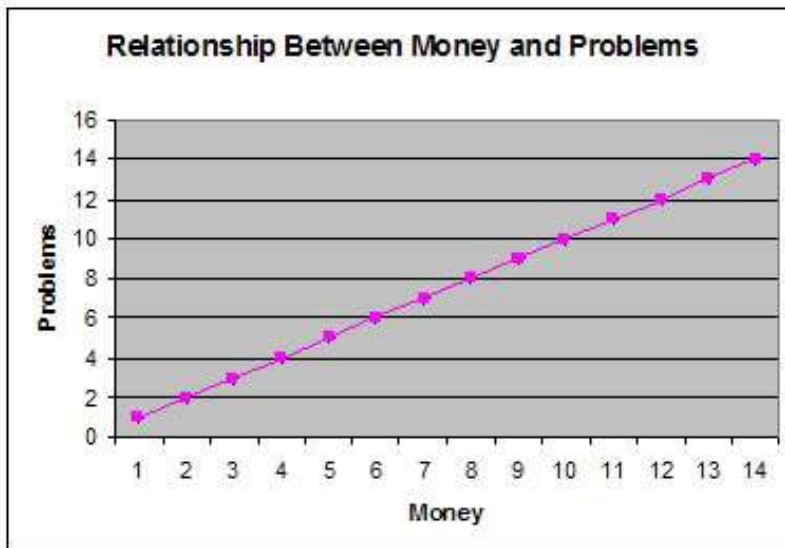
Nulla sit amet magna vitae lorem lacinia lobortis sed eu massa. Cras dignissim cursus metus, ac iaculis tellus ornare vitae. Cras nibh justo, auctor ac tristique ac, rhoncus a nisi. Vivamus tempor tristique lacus, sed aliquet augue volutpat sed. Vivamus ullamcorper neque quis nisl iaculis pharetra. Donec dictum elit eu massa consequat id feugiat neque consequat. Phasellus aliquam eleifend neque quis ultrices. Curabitur vitae facilisis leo. Phasellus vulputate, tortor ac consequat bibendum, enim lacus vestibulum velit, a malesuada ipsum orci eget quam. Donec bibendum tortor nec justo consequat vel egestas eros scelerisque. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Integer vel dui sed tortor laoreet suscipit a ac nisi. Ut elementum posuere nibh, id tincidunt lacus interdum eget. Nam quis est sapien. Donec cursus velit ligula.

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Source E

Wallace, C. "Socioeconomic Status and the Problematizing of Relationships." *Life After Death*. 25 March 1997.

[Introductory information.]



Source F

Cicero, M.F. "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet." *The Extremes of Good and Evil*. 1 January 45 BC.

[Introductory information.]

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed iaculis imperdiet scelerisque. Fusce aliquet lorem eu ligula varius viverra. Mauris sit amet arcu sapien, sed laoreet mauris. Suspendisse ultricies aliquam erat nec laoreet. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Praesent ac nibh urna, ut tincidunt mauris. Vestibulum ligula nibh, tristique sit amet commodo eu, laoreet quis sem. Quisque mi elit, auctor ut malesuada in, condimentum luctus justo. Integer quis nisi quis quam rhoncus adipiscing. Morbi tortor tortor, congue quis commodo ullamcorper, egestas vel arcu.