
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II

TIME – 2 HOURS AND 15 MINUTES

Question 1

Suggested reading and writing time—55 minutes

It is suggested that you spend 15 minutes reading the question, analyzing and evaluating the sources, and 40 minutes writing your response.

Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

1. Mapping software and Global Positioning System (GPS) devices are used regularly by travelers and commuters. Since these devices and apps are updated in real time with user-supplied information, they have become associated with a number of problems. While commuters attempt to avoid traffic on highways, they often create traffic on smaller, local roads that are less able to handle this new burden. Users also lose a sense of their geographical surroundings as they rely more on mapping software or GPS devices for navigation.

Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources and develops your position on the value, if any, of mapping software and devices.

Source A (Foderaro article)

Source B (National Research Council book)

Source C (graph from He)

Source D (Grabar article)

Source E (chart from BuildFire)

Source F (Paulas article)

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position.
- Select and use evidence from at least three of the provided sources to support your line of reasoning. Indicate clearly the sources used through direct quotation, paraphrase, or summary. Sources may be cited as Source A, Source B, etc., or by using the description in parentheses.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

Source A

Foderaro, Lisa W. “Navigation Apps Are Turning Quiet Neighborhoods Into Traffic Nightmares.” *The New York Times*, 24 Dec. 2017, www.nytimes.com/2017/12/24/nyregion/traffic-apps-gps-neighborhoods.html.

The following is excerpted from an online article published in a national newspaper:

It is bumper to bumper as far as the eye can see, the kind of soul-sucking traffic jam that afflicts highways the way bad food afflicts rest stops.

Suddenly, a path to hope presents itself: An alternate route, your smartphone suggests, can save time. Next thing you know, you’re headed down an exit ramp, blithely following directions into the residential streets of some unsuspecting town, along with a slew of other frustrated motorists.

Scenes like this are playing out across the country, not just in traffic-choked regions of the Northeast. But one town has had enough.

With services like Google Maps, Waze and Apple Maps suggesting shortcuts for commuters through the narrow, hilly streets of Leonia, N.J., the borough has decided to fight back against congestion that its leaders say has reached crisis proportions.

In mid-January, the borough’s police force will close 60 streets to all drivers aside from residents and people employed in the borough during the morning and afternoon rush periods, effectively taking most of the town out of circulation for the popular traffic apps—and for everyone else, for that matter.

“Without question, the game changer has been the navigation apps,” said Tom Rowe, Leonia’s police chief. “In the morning, if I sign onto my Waze account, I find there are 250,000 ‘Wazers’ in the area. When the primary roads become congested, it directs vehicles into Leonia and pushes them onto secondary and tertiary roads. We have had days when people can’t get out of their driveways.”...

Waze defends its practice of rerouting motorists from congested highways through residential streets in nearby communities. And the company says it shares free traffic data with municipal planners nationwide who might, for instance, want to monitor the effectiveness of a new time sequence for a traffic signal.

Terry Wei, a spokeswoman for Waze, said the app benefited from a community of local volunteer editors who ensure that the maps stay up-to-date and reflect the local law. “If a road is legally reclassified into a private road,” she said, “our map editors will make that change. It is our goal to work holistically with our community of drivers, map editors and city contacts to improve the driving experience for all.”

From *The New York Times*. © 2017 The New York Times Company. All rights reserved. Used under license.

Source B

National Research Council. *Understanding the Changing Planet: Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences*, 2010, doi.org/10.17226/12860.

The following is excerpted from a book about geographical sciences.

The popularity of Web mapping sites such as Google Maps, Google Earth, and Microsoft Virtual Earth has exploded in recent years. Particularly in wealthier parts of the world, these sites have become a central part of daily life (the “next utility”) as they are used to navigate to places of work, pleasure, and commerce, and to allow citizens to increase their knowledge of the world. Not only do people want to receive information from these sites; they increasingly want to share it as well. Sites, such as Wikimapia.org, OpenStreetMap.org, MapAction.org, and Flickr.com are empowering millions of citizens to create a global patchwork of geographical information. This information is already serving society in many ways—assisting in local tourism and community planning, disaster response (e.g., citizen maps of Southern California fires), humanitarian aid, habitat restoration, public health monitoring, and personal assessments of environmental impacts. This citizen mapping “workforce” is largely untrained, under no authority, and the mapping is often done for no obvious reward (Goodchild, 2007).

Goodchild (2007) terms this recent phenomenon “volunteered geographic information” (VGI), wherein a private citizen participates in the creation, assembly, and dissemination of geographical information on the Web. The information is “volunteered” primarily by adding a geographical identifier (known also as a geotag) to a Wikipedia article, photograph, or video, or by adding one’s own geographical data to an interactive, Web-based map, often by marking locations of certain features that are of importance, places where various events have occurred, or places where an individual has been or would like to go ... For those with more advanced computing skills, Google Earth and other virtual globes are providing ways for citizen mappers (known also as neogeographers) to develop their own mapping applications, such as geoGreeting, which create greeting messages in Google Maps spelled out in satellite images of real buildings from all over the world that happen to be shaped as letters when viewed from above. VGI can be a boon, for example, to international development and humanitarian relief organizations, which can supply these organizations with the most up-to-date detailed data....

The power of such Web sites to increase the efficiency, pleasure, and safety of our lives is becoming increasingly apparent.

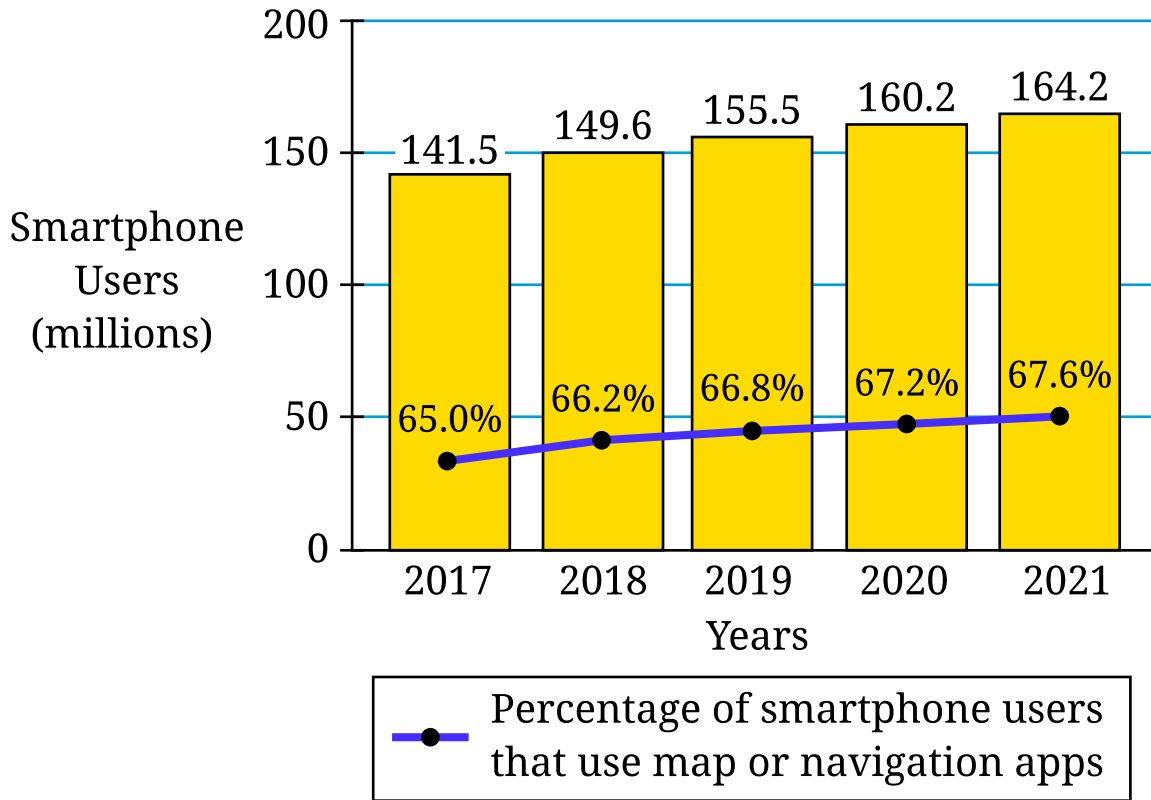
National Research Council. 2010. *Understanding the Changing Planet: Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences*. doi.org/10.17226/12860. Reprinted with permission by the National Academy of Sciences, Courtesy of the National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.

Source C

He, Amy. “People Continue to Rely on Maps and Navigational Apps.” *Insider Intelligence*, 18 July 2019, www.emarketer.com/content/people-continue-to-rely-on-maps-and-navigational-apps-emarketer-forecasts-show.

The following is adapted from a graph published in an article forecasting market trends.

Smartphone Map/Navigation App Users (US, 2017–2021)



Source D

Grabar, Henry. “Smartphones and the Uncertain Future of ‘Spatial Thinking.’” *Bloomberg*, 9 Sept. 2014, www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-09-09/smartphones-and-the-uncertain-future-of-spatial-thinking.

The following is excerpted from an online business magazine.

Wayfinding¹ is certainly easier than ever before. The advent of self-driving cars, projected to make up a sizable share of the American auto market by 2030, represents the culmination of the cartographer’s ancient quest to eliminate human effort and error from navigation. Even the classic dashboard GPS, according to Nick Cohn, a traffic expert at TomTom, induces a state of rest. “The overall effect is that people are more calm when they’re using navigation,” he says. By extension, they drive safer.

Your brain is indeed relaxing. In a handful of studies conducted over the last decade in the United States, England, Germany and Japan, researchers have shown that GPS navigation has a generally pernicious² effect on the user’s ability to remember an environment and reconstruct a route. Toru Ishikawa, a spatial geographer at the University of Tokyo, quantified the difference in a study published earlier this year. Asked to recall various aspects of their surroundings, participants using GPS navigation performed 20 percent worse than their paper-map peers.

As Ishikawa pointed out to me, these findings raise questions beyond urban anthropology. Spatial thinking helps us structure, integrate, and recall ideas. It’s less an independent field of study than a foundational skill; a 2006 report from the National Research Council called spatial literacy the “missing link” in the K-12 curriculum at large.

Navigating is among the greatest incubators of that ability. A sophisticated internal map, as a famous study of London cab drivers showed, is tied to greater development in the hippocampus, the brain region responsible for spatial memory. In another study, participants with stronger hippocampus development tended to navigate with complex cognitive maps, while those with less developed spatial memory memorized turn-by-turn directions.

Isn’t it ironic: the easier it is for me to get where I’m going, the less I remember how I got there. As a conscious consumer of geographic information, should I be rationing my access to navigation tools—the mental equivalent of taking the stairs instead of taking the elevator?

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1: the process of navigating to a destination

2: harmful

Source E

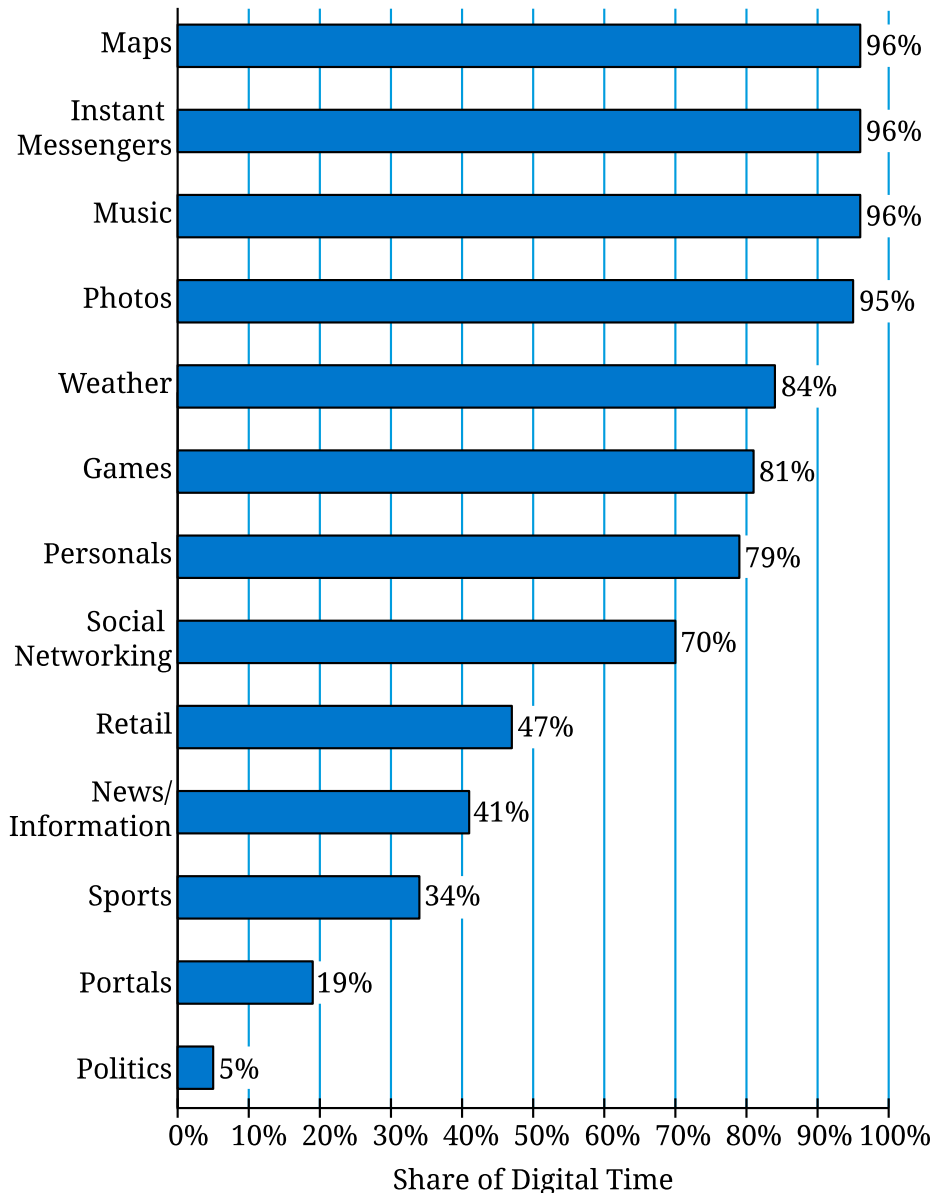
“Mobile App Download and Usage Statistics (2024).” *BuildFire*, n.d., buildfire.com/app-statistics/.
The following is adapted from a chart of digital application usage published on an app developer website.

Digital content can be consumed from so many devices.

People have smartphones, tablets, desktop computers, and laptops. You can even access content and apps from smart TVs, watches, smart home devices, and smart vehicles.

But there are certain categories that are dominated with smartphone app usage. These are the top categories that people turn to their smartphones for.

Smartphone App Usage



Source F

Paulas, Rick. “For the Good of Society—and Traffic!—Delete Your Map App.” *Intelligencer*, Vox Media, 11 Dec. 2017, nymag.com/intelligencer/2017/12/waze-and-google-maps-create-traffic-in-cities.html.

The following is excerpted from an article published in an online magazine.

Pull up a simple Google search for “neighborhood” and “Waze,” and you’re bombarded with local news stories about similar once-calm side streets now the host of rush-hour jams and late-night speed demons. It’s not only annoying...it’s a scenario ripe for accidents; among the top causes of accidents are driver distraction (say, by looking at an app), unfamiliarity with the street (say, because an app took you down a new side street), and an increase in overall traffic.

“The root cause is the use of routing apps,” says Bayen, “but over the last two to three years, there’s the second layer of ride-share apps.”

It’s worth breaking down the layers. The first is the large number of drivers that utilize the apps, a percentage that grows by the day. In 2011, Waze had 7 million downloads; that number climbed to 50 million by 2013, and 65 million in 185 countries by 2016. Meanwhile, Google Maps has well over 1 billion monthly users.

The second, newer layer is the fleet of ride-share vehicles. There are an estimated 45,000 Uber and Lyft drivers in San Francisco, compared to 1,500 cab drivers. The two ride-sharing titans have each designed their own mapping apps—Lyft Navigation and Uber Driver—but Navigation was built using Google Maps, and Uber’s app has yet to be fully rolled out...Whatever the device, it’s one dictated on concrete route efficiency, as opposed to the whims of cab drivers, who use thoroughfares or “their own” shortcuts.

All that extra traffic down previously empty streets has created an odd situation in which cities are constantly playing defense against the algorithms.

“Typically, the city or county, depending on their laws, doesn’t have a way to fight this,” says Bayen, “other than by doing infrastructure upgrades.”

Fremont, California, has lobbied some of the harshest resistance, instituting rush-hour restrictions, and adding stop signs and traffic lights at points of heavy congestion. San Francisco is considering marking designated areas where people can be picked up or dropped off by ride-shares....Los Angeles has tinkered with speed bumps and changing two-way streets into one-ways....

My favorite coalition of grumps have been the residents of Takoma Park, Maryland, who actually spent time falsifying accident reports to Waze in order to prompt the algorithm to shift the route elsewhere. But all of the actions, either infrastructure changes performed by the city or hacks by community groups, have the same intended purpose: “I will make driving through our neighborhoods more difficult, so you will not use the street,” says Jeff Ban, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin.

Perhaps you see the problem. If cities thwart map apps and ride-share services through infrastructure changes with the intent to *slow traffic down*, it has the effect of *slowing down traffic*. So, the algorithm may tell drivers to go down another side street, and the residents who’ve been griping to the mayor may be pleased, but traffic, on the city whole, has been negatively affected, making *everyone’s* travel longer than before.

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| Reporting Category | Scoring Criteria | |
|--|--|---|
| Row A Thesis (0–1 points) | 0 points For any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no defensible thesis. The intended thesis only restates the prompt. The intended thesis provides a summary of the issue with no apparent or coherent claim. There is a thesis, but it does not respond to the prompt. | 1 point Responds to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position. |
| Decision Rules and Scoring Notes | | |
| Responses that do not earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only restate the prompt. Do not take a position, or the position is vague or must be inferred. Equivocate or summarize other’s arguments but not the student’s (e.g., some people say it’s good, some people say it’s bad). State an obvious fact rather than making a claim that requires a defense. | | Responses that earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to the prompt by developing a position on the value, if any, of mapping software and devices, rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt. Clearly take a position rather than just stating there are pros/cons. |
| Examples that do not earn this point: Restate the prompt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“Many people use GPS to get around because information can be updated by users to provide real-time traffic updates.”</i> Address the topic of the prompt but do not take a position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“There are some advantages and some disadvantages to using GPS.”</i> Address the topic of the prompt but state an obvious fact as a claim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“If you rely on GPS to get everywhere, you will be able to see many different neighborhoods as you navigate to your destination.”</i> | | Examples that earn this point: Present a defensible position that responds to the prompt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“GPS is valuable because it helps people get where they need to go as efficiently as possible.”</i> <i>“Mapping apps can be a valuable tool to help people keep from getting lost. It can also make their lives easier but only if people use them when absolutely needed.”</i> <i>“Although GPS may seem like a good thing, the harm that it does to local roads and the way it affects your understanding of your surroundings mean that its disadvantages ultimately outweigh its value.”</i> |
| Additional Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The thesis may be more than one sentence, provided the sentences are in close proximity. The thesis may be anywhere within the response. For a thesis to be defensible, the sources must include at least minimal evidence that <i>could</i> be used to support that thesis; however, the student need not cite that evidence to earn the thesis point. The thesis <i>may</i> establish a line of reasoning that structures the essay, but it needn’t do so to earn the thesis point. A thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning. | | |

| Reporting Category | Scoring Criteria | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Row B Evidence AND Commentary (0–4 points)</p> | <p>0 points Simply restates thesis (if present), repeats provided information, or references fewer than two of the provided sources.</p> | <p>1 point EVIDENCE: Provides evidence from or references at least two of the provided sources. AND COMMENTARY: Summarizes the evidence but does not explain how the evidence supports the student’s argument.</p> | <p>2 points EVIDENCE: Provides evidence from or references at least three of the provided sources. AND COMMENTARY: Explains how some of the evidence relates to the student’s argument, but no line of reasoning is established, or the line of reasoning is faulty.</p> | <p>3 points EVIDENCE: Provides specific evidence from at least three of the provided sources to support all claims in a line of reasoning. AND COMMENTARY: Explains how some of the evidence supports a line of reasoning.</p> | <p>4 points EVIDENCE: Provides specific evidence from at least three of the provided sources to support all claims in a line of reasoning. AND COMMENTARY: Consistently explains how the evidence supports a line of reasoning.</p> |
| Decision Rules and Scoring Notes | | | | | |
| <p>Typical responses that earn 0 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are incoherent or do not address the prompt. • May be just opinion with no textual references or references that are irrelevant. | <p>Typical responses that earn 1 point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tend to focus on summary or description of sources rather than specific details. | <p>Typical responses that earn 2 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consist of a mix of specific evidence and broad generalities. • May contain some simplistic, inaccurate, or repetitive explanations that don’t strengthen the argument. • May make one point well but either do not make multiple supporting claims or do not adequately support more than one claim. • Do not explain the connections or progression between the student’s claims, so a line of reasoning is not clearly established. | <p>Typical responses that earn 3 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniformly offer evidence to support claims. • Focus on the importance of specific words and details from the sources to build an argument. • Organize an argument as a line of reasoning composed of multiple supporting claims. • Commentary may fail to integrate some evidence or fail to support a key claim. | <p>Typical responses that earn 4 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniformly offer evidence to support claims. • Focus on the importance of specific words and details from the sources to build an argument. • Organize and support an argument as a line of reasoning composed of multiple supporting claims, each with adequate evidence that is clearly explained. | |
| <p>Additional Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing that suffers from grammatical and/or mechanical errors that interfere with communication cannot earn the fourth point in this row. | | | | | |

| Reporting Category | Scoring Criteria | |
|--|--|--|
| Row C Sophistication (0–1 points) | 0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point. | 1 point Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation. |
| | Decision Rules and Scoring Notes | |
| | Responses that do not earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to contextualize their argument, but such attempts consist predominantly of sweeping generalizations (“<i>In a world where ...</i>” OR “<i>Since the beginning of time ...</i>”). • Only hint at or suggest other arguments (“<i>While some may argue that ...</i>” OR “<i>Some people say ...</i>”). • Use complicated or complex sentences or language that is ineffective because it does not enhance the argument. | Responses that earn this point may demonstrate sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation by doing any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crafting a nuanced argument by consistently identifying and exploring complexities or tensions across the sources. 2. Articulating the implications or limitations of an argument (either the student’s argument or arguments conveyed in the sources) by situating it within a broader context. 3. Making effective rhetorical choices that consistently strengthen the force and impact of the student’s argument throughout the response. 4. Employing a style that is consistently vivid and persuasive. |
| Additional Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This point should be awarded only if the sophistication of thought or complex understanding is part of the student’s argument, not merely a phrase or reference. | | |

Sample 1A (1 of 2)

Mapping software and Global Positioning System are technologies that have made traveling and movement from place to place incredibly easier. It allows people to get from point A to point B without any knowledge of their path or surroundings. All it takes is a phone and a data connection. GPS is an extremely useful tool that presents no negative aspects in the world of driving.

GPS allows drivers to remain in better condition when driving making the entire travel experience far better. Through the use of the GPS, the term "lost" is almost never used. No matter where one is and if one has access to the internet, the chances of that person getting lost is close to nothing. GPS gives directions to places no matter where one is regardless of the direction. Because of these chances, the drivers ability to stay calm when driving is far greater than when they must rely on paper maps. Since there is quite a low chance of getting lose, there is almost no worry that affects the driver and the people in the car : "The overall effect is that people are more calm when they'er using navigation"(Source D). GPS "induces a state of rest" which allows the drivers to push out all the fear and generally "drive safer"(Source D). When drivers remain more calm, there is a far less chance that they get into an accident and hurt the people the care about. If GPS and other navigation systems bring advantages such as general increased safety, there is no reason why one should not use GPS. It brings upon safety and in the situation of driving, there is no greater importance than safety of the driver and the people in car.

To build on top of the previous paragraph, GPS and navigation systems also bring upon great knowledge of the surrounding area that one is in. GPS functions in a way such that it allows people to create "a global patchwork of geographical information"(Source B). GPS gives "private citizens" the ability and potential to add and create to the entire model of the geography in the surrounding area. When people reach a place, the the information of their surroundings are used for another person who is also trying to reach that place. If one person is moving quite slow in a paticular place, then it is evident that traffics exists in that route. This is how navigation apps determine the fastest route to a specific place. Just like this example, a constant flow of information from each person's phone is being sent and used to create a geographical model of one's surroundings. This massive amount of information and knowledge could be used for countless aspects that are seemingly distant. This information could be utilized in "assisting local tourism and community planning, disaster response" and countless other integral parts of our world. By using GPS, the people are not only making their lives easier, they are also making it far easier for others. It has the potential to save lives and truly help those in need. With such massive advantages under GPS's built, GPS will continue to develop and help society in every way possible.

GPS definitely contains countless benefits and strengths under its belt but problems still exist. Because of the way GPS works, it also brings upon problems in different aspects. Since GPS most vaccated route that would take the fastest time to get to the destination, all the people trying to get to that one place would be directed to that one road. Meaning a usually quiet and distant road would now be packed with cars all trying to go one specific place. This would especially horrible during rush hours and for the residents of that secluded street, the noise and commotion could be devastating. When an abnormal amount cars enter a street that is not meant for that much traffic, "it's a scenario ripe for accidents; among the top causes of accidents are driver distraction"(Source F). These navigation apps generally make the entire travel experience far longer than before. Due to how these navigations apps function, Leonia, N.J is taking this serious problem into their own hands. Their police force of Leonia blocked up "60 streets to all drivers aside from residents"(Source A). By doing this, the police force

Sample 1A (2 of 2)

was able to block up most of the town limited the scope the navigation apps have. This practically means that excess traffic would stay on the main roads of the city, subsequently solving the problem. Unfortunately, this fix is not permanent and every city does not have the capabilities for something like this. Navigation apps are going to continue causing problems and difficulties without any real way to combat them.

Sample 1B (1 of 2)

As mapping software continues to become more common throughout the globe, many are beginning to question whether it has had beneficial effects on society. Many countries have been completely mapped all over the globe, but as a result traffic is being diverted from free ways and highways, into residential neighborhoods to avoid traffic rushes. While GPS has done wonders for mapping the globe, it has had many negative effects on residential areas and the way that motorists understand navigation.

Global Positioning Systems, otherwise known as GPS have made travel easier than ever before. When traveling the world, or even a new place you have never been before, navigation can be quite difficult while operating a motor vehicle. Previously, drivers would use paper maps to find the correct route for travel. Now this research can be instantaneous, with updated routes to help escape traffic and provide less distractions while driving. An article from Internet Magazine explains, "Even the classic dashboard GPS... Induces a state of rest. 'The overall effect is that people are more calm when they're using navigation,' ... By extension, they drive safer." (DOC D) With quick and easy navigation, drivers are able to have less distractions while driving. This may help them focus when traveling through unfamiliar territory. On the topic of unfamiliar territory, imagine you are driving through a country in eastern Asia. You can not read the language that the signs are written in, therefore it should be extremely difficult to navigate. However, you have your trusty GPS to help you find your way through this foreign place. This technological advancement could potentially be helpful to travelers all across the world. While GPS seems pretty amazing to most people, it also has its downsides.

One major issue with GPS usage is the way that it diverts traffic from highways into residential areas. This diversion of traffic may seem wonderful for the driver who is able to get to work 5 minutes early, but it can also be hurtful to the locals who live in such residential areas. In a newspaper article, the chief of police from a residential neighborhood explains, "In the morning, if I sign onto my Waze account, I find there are over 250,000 'wazers' in the area" (DOC A) To a small town, 250 thousand cars can be devastating to the functionality of the local roads. Later in the article the chief of police explains that residents aren't able to leave their driveways due to the amount of traffic on their residential streets. So the current dilemma stands, is the five minute detour on your route to work worth the impact your journey has on these residential neighborhoods? No. In fact lawmakers from this town's jurisdiction have begun classifying this town's roads as private to avoid travelers from passing through without probable cause. The issue of mass migrations through residential areas is not the only problem stemming through GPS devices.

GPS have been known to desensitize our sense of direction as well. As we continue to put less effort into memorizing our path, and spend more time putting trust into our GPS, our brains spend less time observing our surroundings. The article from Internet Magazine mentioned earlier also explained the ways that GPS affects our brains and the way we challenge our cognitive abilities, "Participants with stronger hippocampus development tended to navigate with complex cognitive maps, while those with less developed spatial memory memorized turn-by-turn directions." In other words, turn by turn directions provided by GPS systems require less spatial memory and do not challenge the hippocampus to the same extent. This is true for the majority of GPS users across the globe. For the roughly 164 million smartphone users, over 65% of them use GPS on their smartphones to navigate. (DOC C) This means that a good majority of smartphone users are not challenging their brains with spatial cognitive skills while navigating. Those who choose to travel with GPS are weakening their instinctive navigation abilities.

Sample 1B (2 of 2)

In conclusion, GPS has important benefits, but it comes with some pretty disappointing consequences. As the world becomes more accessible to travel and exploration, small local neighborhoods become flooded, and instinctive navigation skills become weaker.

Sample 1C (1 of 1)

Since the beginning of the creation of technology many had struggled finding locations of interests. Once the final Global Positioning Systems or the GPS's were created people seemed at ease. Of course, there were still many issues. Some would come to an extreme difficulty when trying to find the proper signal to continue travelling on the road with the GPS on. There was also a difficulty with being stuck in traffic even when taking a short cut recommended by the GPS.

One reason the use of the GPS is not very effective is because it makes the direction in which you are travelling very confusing. The GPS often times also loses signal, making it more difficult to continue on the road. According to Source B, many experienced "local tourism" and "community planning"(para. 1). These two things did not have a positive effect in the attempt to travel. The National Academies Press may even say it was a "disaster response"(para.1).

The next reason to believe that the use of GPS is terrible is because people lose track of where they are going and in certain occassion may even forget where they are. Climate may also be a factor related to this. According to the fourth document " it effect's the user's ability to remember"(para.2). Not to mention that a cellphone with a GPS installed may even lose battery percentage while giving out directions on how to get somewhere.

Yet another reason is because a GPS may be leading to the incorrect location or mis-communicating with the person using it. Although many do believe that a GPS would be a great thing to use for directions, it does not mention anything about roads being re-constructed or danger zones. This would complicate everything for the person using the software or app. In fact, in the first source Lisa Foderaro mentions that she indeed has experienced something similar, " ...blithely following directions into the residential streets of some unsuspecting town, along with a slew of other frustrated motorists.

Both source b and a so happen to claim that there has been few difficulties while using a GPS system or software on a phone. These experiences are very similar because they are scenarios in which one does not have much control over. It probably would have been a great idea to be advised by the software that there was a difficulty in the road being taken. It is important to also take in mind that by using the GPS one is trying to get to somewhere of interests or somewhere as soon as possible.

To conclude a GPS may seem helpful to just anyone but many have experienced difficulties by using the software or app.

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

Score: 1-4-0

Thesis (0–1 points): 1

The response offers a defensible position in paragraph one: “GPS is an extremely useful tool that presents no negative aspects in the world of driving.”

Evidence and Commentary (0–4 points): 4

The response provides specific evidence to support all claims in its line of reasoning that “Mapping software and Global Positioning System are technologies that have made traveling and movement from place to place incredibly easier.” For example, it states “GPS ‘induces a state of rest’ which allows the drivers to push out all the fear and generally ‘drive safer’(Source D)” as evidence of the claim that “GPS allows drivers to remain in better condition when driving making the entire travel experience far better.”

The commentary consistently and clearly explains how the evidence supports the line of reasoning, such as “By using GPS, the people are not only making their lives easier, they are also making it far easier for others.”

Sophistication (0–1 points): 0

The response does not demonstrate sophistication of thought or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.

Question 1 (continued)**Sample: 1B**
Score: 1-3-0**Thesis (0–1 points): 1**

The response offers a defensible position in paragraph one: “While GPS has done wonders for mapping the globe, It has had many negative effects on residential areas and the way that motorists understand navigation.”

Evidence and Commentary (0–4 points): 3

The response provides specific evidence to support all claims in its line of reasoning. For example it states “the chief of police from a residential neighborhood explains, ‘In the morning, if i sign onto my Waze account, i find there are over 250,000 ‘wazers’ in the area’(DOC A)” as evidence to support the claim that “One major issue with GPS usage is the way that it diverts traffic from highways into residential areas.”

The commentary explains how some of the evidence supports a line of reasoning, such as “In other words, turn by turn directions provided by GPS systems require less spacial memory and do not challenge the hipocampus to the same extent.”

However, some commentary does not effectively support a key claim. In paragraph four, the response supports the claim, but commentary for the evidence does not clearly connect to the claim. For example, the response states “This means that a good majority of smart phone users are not challenging their brains with spatial cognitive skills while navigating.”

Sophistication (0–1 points): 0

The response does not demonstrate sophistication of thought or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.

Question 1 (continued)**Sample: 1C**
Score: 1-2-0**Thesis (0–1 points): 1**

The response offers a defensible position in paragraph 1: “Some would come to an extreme difficulty when trying to find the proper signal to continue travelling on the road with the GPS on. There was also a difficulty with being stuck in traffic even when taking a short cut recommended by the GPS.”

Evidence and Commentary (0–4 points): 2

The response provides relevant evidence from three sources. Some evidence is specific: “In fact, in the first source Lisa Foderaro mentions that she indeed has experienced something similar, ‘blithely following directions into the residential streets of some unsuspecting town, along with a slew of other frustrated motorists.’”

The response provides commentary that explains how some of the evidence relates to the argument, such as “This would complicate everything for the person using the software or app.” However, it does not explain the connections or progression between the claims, so a line of reasoning is not clearly established.

Instead, the response contains some simplistic explanations that do not strengthen the argument, such as “It is important to also take in mind that by using the GPS one is trying to get to somewhere of interests or somewhere as soon as possible.”

Sophistication (0–1 points): 0

The response does not demonstrate sophistication of thought or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.