

2024



AP[®] English Language and Composition

Free-Response Questions Set 2

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II

Total time—2 hours and 15 minutes

3 Questions

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.

(This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Mobile food service establishments, such as food trucks and food carts, have become increasingly trendy in recent years, offering customers appealing and often innovative dining options out of vehicles that can easily be located near workplaces and leisure activities. These businesses have sometimes been held back from expanding because of local regulations that restrict their activities and require operators to obtain licenses and certifications. Proponents of these regulations say that laws are needed to ensure that the meals offered by mobile food services are safe and that these businesses do not have an unfair advantage over traditional restaurants.

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 what are the most important factors for cities to consider when regulating mobile food service establishments.

- Source A (Baker article)
- Source B (New Orleans permit guide)
- Source C (U.S. Census Bureau graph)
- Source D (Meehan article)
- Source E (Neseman cartoon)
- Source F (Weber book)

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

Baker, Linda. “Food Trucks ‘Are No Longer a Novelty,’ but They Are Adapting.”
New York Times, 5 Feb. 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/02/05/business/food-truck-expansion-entrepreneurship.html.

The following is excerpted from a newspaper article about the food truck industry.

Enticing hungry customers and luring celebrity backers, food trucks have been quickly expanding nationwide for the last decade. But in pioneering cities like Austin, Tex., and Portland, Ore., the industry is feeling growing pains as fickle customers move on and regulators clamp down.

So entrepreneurs are finding new locations to park their mobile restaurants.

Last October, a development team created a new dining concept in an up-and-coming neighborhood of Charleston, S.C. Called the Container Bar, it features a bar constructed from a shipping container with space for four food trucks that rotate daily.

“Charleston has a reputation of being a culinary mecca, but it is unique in that there are no spaces for food trucks to congregate,” said Brad Creger, one of three Container Bar owners. The others are Mike Veeck, president of the Charleston RiverDogs, a minor league baseball team, and the actor Bill Murray.

“One need go no further than Austin or Portland to see how food trucks have evolved into the culinary culture,” Mr. Creger said. “Charleston is a little behind in that regard, but we’re catching up very quickly.”

Portland may be the aspirational model for many cities in the early stages of building a food cart¹ scene. But being a pioneer has its own challenges. A surge in new construction over the past couple of years has forced the closing of several food cart pods on former parking lots. Concern about the closings came to a head last fall with the news that the city’s flagship food cart venue, the Alder Street pod, would be shuttered this summer to make way for the city’s first five-star hotel.

“One hundred and thirty food carts are under threat to vanish,” said Daniel Huerta, owner of the Portland food truck Churros Locos. “We are losing the culinary fabric that Portland is.”

Street food vendors have been in big cities for decades. But a newer breed of entrepreneurs surfaced around 10 years ago as a scrappy response to the recession — it is far easier to secure start-up capital for a cart than a restaurant. Since then, it has morphed into a nationwide urban development and culinary business phenomenon. Revenue from food carts reached \$2.7 billion in 2017, according to a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study.

But as the industry matures, challenges are emerging. In some areas, owners are building mini empires, adding second or third trucks as well as brick-and-mortar restaurants. But elsewhere, regulatory and market pressures are creating a tough operating environment for vendors. Oversaturation and changing culinary tastes are also concerns.

¹ Food trucks and food carts are subject to similar regulations; in this article, they are referred to interchangeably.

From *The New York Times*. © 2019 The New York Times Company. All rights reserved. Used under license.

Source B

“Mobile Food Truck Permit and License.” *City of New Orleans One Stop Permits & Licenses*, City of New Orleans, n.d., nola.gov/nola/media/One-Stop-Shop/Revenue/Food-Truck-Permit-Guide.pdf.

The following is excerpted from an informational guide published on the City of New Orleans website.

FACTS AND REGULATIONS FOR PERMITTED MOBILE FOOD TRUCKS

- **Food Truck permits and licenses expire on December 31st** and renewals are required by January 31.
- **As of January 1, 2014**, there is a **limit of 100 mobile Food Truck Permits per calendar year**. No permit shall be issued until the City receives and approves a completed application.
- There is **no proximity restriction from restaurants** for food trucks.
- Licenses and permits must be displayed and affixed to the front windshield in the lower corner on the passenger side.
- Vendors must obey all applicable parking, traffic and vehicle safety laws, regulations, and restrictions. **This includes the feeding of parking meters.**
- Trucks **can remain in one location no longer than 4 hours.**
- Trucks may only sell food; no other goods, wares, or other items may be sold.
- **Mobile food trucks may not operate:**
 - Within 20 feet of any intersection;
 - Within 20 feet of any stop sign, flashing beacon, yield sign, or other traffic control signal located on the side of a roadway;
 - Within 3 feet of any public or private driveway, wheelchair ramp or bicycle ramp;
 - In any manner that impedes an exit or entrance of an operating building.
- **No vendor may sell alcoholic beverages**, controlled substances, or any other illegal item.
- **No furniture**, or any other objects can be placed in the street, sidewalk, or any right-of-way, except a trash receptacle.
- **All vendors must provide a trash receptacle** within three feet of the front or back of the truck on a public street.
- **All vendors must keep a 50 foot radius around the truck clean** during operation and upon ceasing operation.

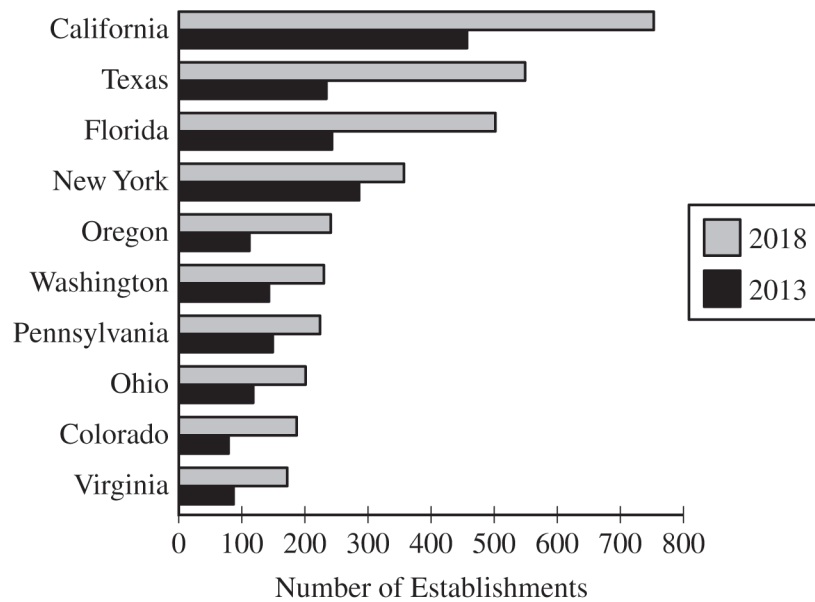
- **No horns, amplification systems, or other sound-producing devices or music systems** which can be heard outside of the truck may be used.
- **No third party advertising** may be displayed on any mobile food truck.

Source C

Hait, Andrew W. “Fast-Growing Food Truck Industry Can Operate Amid COVID-19 Social Distancing Rules, No Indoor Seating Orders.” *United States Census Bureau*, 2 Sept. 2020, www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/09/food-trucks-one-way-to-eat-out-during-pandemic.html.

The following is adapted from a graph published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Number of Mobile Food Services Establishments



Source D

Meehan, Sarah. “Challenges to Food-Truck Restrictions Cropping Up beyond Baltimore.”
Baltimore Sun, 26 May 2016, www.baltimoresun.com/food-drink/bs-fo-food-truck-300-foot-rule-20160526-story.html.

The following is excerpted from a newspaper article about food truck regulation in Baltimore.

The turf battle brewing in Baltimore involving the city’s food trucks is one that is playing out across the country as mobile vendors fight to park where they want, when they want.

Food truck owners Nikki McGowan and Joey Vanoni teamed up this month with a national legal advocacy group to sue the city of Baltimore, contending that a rule that prohibits mobile vendors from operating within 300 feet of businesses that sell similar products is an unconstitutional, protectionist measure.

Parking restrictions on food trucks have affected entrepreneurs as close as Baltimore County and as far away as San Antonio, where a law similar to Baltimore’s buffer rule was repealed last year after a challenge from the same group at work in the Baltimore case, the Institute for Justice. Closer to home, Baltimore County doesn’t allow food trucks to park within 200 feet of restaurants. And the Annapolis city council is considering a bill that would expand the areas where food trucks can park but prohibit them from setting up within 100 feet of an established restaurant.

“From a national level, you’re seeing a major amount of push-back toward inefficient and inconsistent issues that are holding back this industry from growing as fast as it could,” said Andrew Alvarez, an industry analyst with the international market research firm IBISWorld.

Baltimore’s buffer law was enacted as part of a swath of measures to regulate the burgeoning local food truck industry. And some restaurant owners support the rule that prohibits food trucks from pulling up in front of their businesses. Brian McComas, president of the Federal Hill Hospitality Association and owner of Ryleigh’s Oyster, said it’s not about the competition.

“I actually support food trucks from the perspective of the culinary experience and the food scene of Baltimore City,” he said.

Rather, he said, it comes down to the commitment that brick-and-mortar restaurants make to the neighborhoods in which they are rooted, and the price they pay to do business there.

“I don’t see anything constitutional about parking your food truck or mobile restaurant within those distances of restaurants that are there 365 days a year, paying taxes, utilities, et cetera,” he said. “We’ve decided to be there every day of the year. We pay taxes, and unless they can tell us otherwise how that would work, why would we even want them taking a parking space?”

That’s especially true in areas like Federal Hill, where bars and restaurants are concentrated and parking comes at a premium.

Matt Geller, founder of the National Food Truck Association, said much of the controversy surrounding food truck regulation stems from the fact that the industry is relatively young. The U.S. food truck industry is worth \$857 million, according to a September 2015 report by IBISWorld, with annual growth of 9.3 percent.

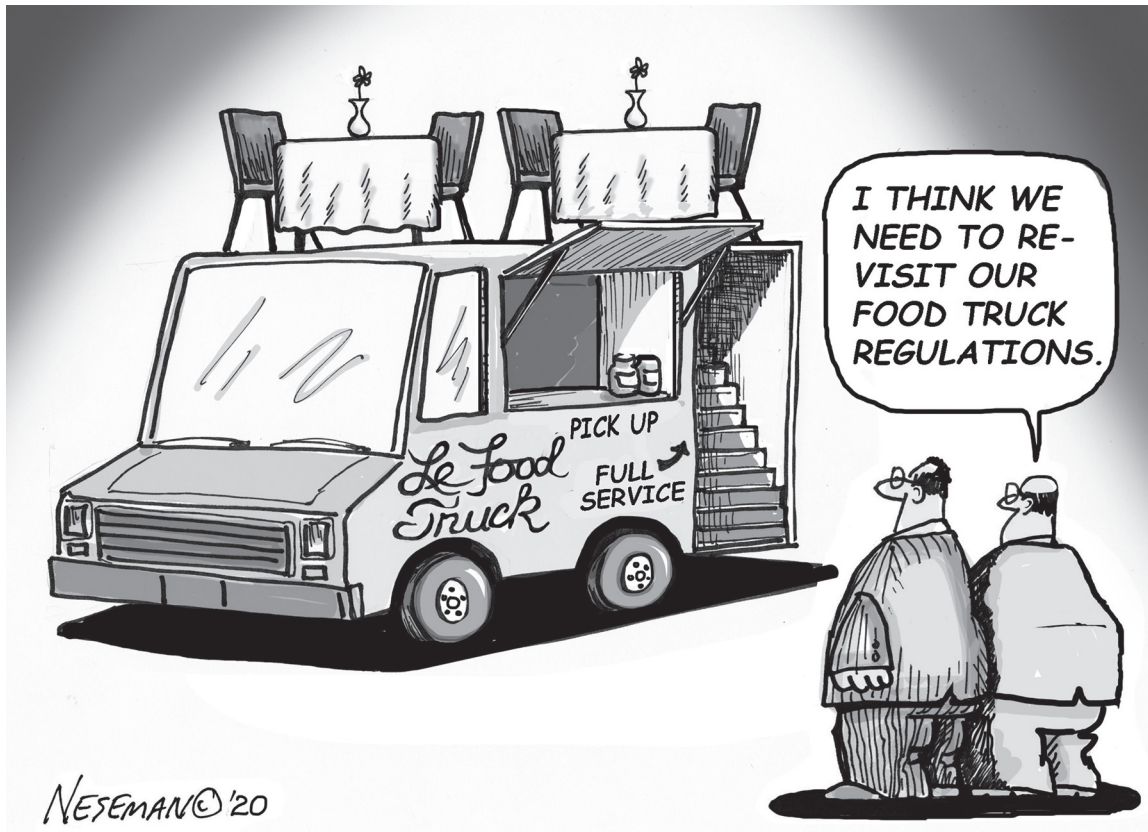
“This is such a new industry, so people have these weird things they believe to be fair or unfair,” said Geller, who is also CEO of the Southern California Mobile Food Vendors Association. “People don’t know how to regulate it yet.”

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Source E

Neseman, Dale. "Full Service." *Advertiser-News South*, Strauss News, 3 Feb. 2020,
www.advertisernewssouth.com/opinion/cartoons/cartoon-full-service-LK840836.

The following is an editorial cartoon that appeared in an online local newspaper.



"Full Service" by Dale Neseman, from *Advertiser-News South*. © 2020, Strauss News. Used by permission.

Source F

Weber, David. *The Food Truck Handbook: Start, Grow, and Succeed in the Mobile Food Business*. Wiley, 2012.

The following is excerpted from a book on how to start a food truck business.

The Future of Food Trucks

Food trucks are far from hitting their peak. The market is still developing, and there are many opportunities for new operators who want to open trucks to sell food that they are passionate about. Technomic, a food industry consulting firm, reported in July 2011 that 91 percent of customers polled believe that food trucks are not a passing fad, but rather a trend with “staying power.” Growth in food trucks is driven by two major forces: the growth of a mobile food culture in new municipalities across the United States and the improved access to food that the trucks offer in these markets as well as established markets. Customers appreciate the value and quality of mobile food and will continue to embrace the industry so long as operators deliver clean, tasty, and interesting products at a fair price.

Food trucks are great for cities. They get customers out on the street and create a sense of community. As local municipalities learn the value of what food trucks have to offer in terms of tax revenues, job growth, tourism, activating public space, and fostering entrepreneurship, local regulations will improve. One of the most compelling aspects of food trucks is their ability to act as an incubator for entrepreneurs to start a viable, cash flow–positive business that they can grow into a brick-and-mortar establishment to become a more stable part of the community.

In addition to opportunities for food truck entrepreneurs, there is also a wide variety of opportunities in supporting industries that will develop as the food truck market matures. Food truck operators are looking for better trucks, more eco-friendly power supplies, quieter generators, small-run food manufacturers, more customizable insurance resources, more robust financing tools, marketing partners, and information technology resources.

It is an exciting time for mobile food in America. The industry is big and growing fast. I look forward to seeing what you will bring to the streets.

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.

Question 2

Suggested time—40 minutes

(This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Simu Liu is an actor who has starred in television shows and movies, including *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*. His 2022 memoir, *We Were Dreamers: An Immigrant Superhero Origin Story*, describes his experiences as a Chinese immigrant in Canada. Liu’s parents emigrated to Canada from China when Liu was a baby, leaving him with his grandparents. In the following excerpt from Liu’s memoir, the family is getting the four-year-old Liu ready to reunite with his father and travel to Canada himself. Read the passage carefully. Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical choices Liu makes to convey his message about the experience of preparing to emigrate from China.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that analyzes the writer’s rhetorical choices.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

In the summer of 1993 I noticed that my English flash card lessons were starting to pick up, along with talk that my departure date to Canada was drawing even nearer.

5 I didn’t like that one bit.

My whole family—my yéye, nǎinai, gūgu, gūfū,¹ even my cousin JingJing—spoke of this “Canada” as if it were some sort of idyllic paradise, a place of abundant snacks and endless affection.

10 “You can eat whatever you want,” Nǎinai would say, as if I didn’t already have pretty regular access to all of my favorites on Héxìnglù.²

15 “You will finally reunite with your parents,” my gūgu added reassuringly, as if I didn’t already have five amazing people around me who loved me.

Looking back, it felt kind of cult-y, like gospel from the Church of Canadology that I was supposed to just accept. I played along, even though I was still rough on the exact terms of this proposition. Sure, I welcomed the thought of meeting more members of my family . . . but I had no idea that said new family members would come at the cost of everyone that I knew and loved.

25 So, with about as much agency as any four-year-old possessed, I kept on, ever the obedient child, dutifully memorizing my English flash cards. 苹果 (píngguo)—Apple. 猫 (māo)—Cat. 香蕉

(xiāngjiāo)—Banana. 爸爸妈妈 (bàbāmāma)
—Parents, whom I would meet in the winter.

30 An air of excitement permeated our household in the days leading up to my father’s arrival in late December. Word had come to us that Bàba³ would fly over to pick me up and escort me back to Canada, while Māma would meet us at the airport once we landed in Toronto. If my grandparents were dreading letting me go (they were), they went to great lengths not to show it. We made a big WELCOME BACK sign in giant letters and hung it on our door. I wore my nicest clothes on the day, an outfit of absolute fire consisting of a collared rugby shirt with blue and purple stripes, a pair of brown overalls with yellow polka dots and a vest that looked like a burlap sack. That’s right, I was pattern clashing way before it was cool.

45 My gūgu and gūfū came over and we prepared a feast that filled our little round table: white mushrooms with sliced pork, large tail-on shrimp, bean curd, soy-sauce ribs and Russian-style red sausage—my father’s favorite, apparently.

50 The food is starting to get cold when we hear a little knock on our door. I perk up anxiously as my yéye answers, opening the door to reveal a scrawny, square-faced man with bowl-cut hair wearing a big cozy sweater along with the bleary gaze of exhaustion

55 that comes after an eighteen-hour train ride from Beijing. This man who resembles an Asian Eric Forman from *That '70s Show* is my bàba, the man who I had waited my entire four-and-a-half-year life to reunite with.

60 This is the man who is going to bring me to the promised land of Canada.
 “Máomao!⁴ It’s me!”
 I freeze.
 I had imagined this moment in my head many

65 times, as I’m sure my father had. I wanted to run to him, embracing him enthusiastically and without any reservations, as any child would run to their own father—but I just . . . *can’t*. Everything about this man is foreign to me, from his voice to his smell. I had

70 only seen his face in photographs, only heard recordings of his disembodied voice. He feels almost like a celebrity, someone I recognize from somewhere, but who is himself unknown and unknowable.

75 I scurry to my nǎinai’s side nervously. I’m sure my

father was a little disappointed, but he respected my space, taking only a small step toward me.
 “Do you know who I am?”
 I ponder this for a moment.

80 “You . . . you are Zhenning Liu.”⁵
 Everyone around me bursts out laughing. The ice is broken, and I laugh along, even though I don’t get the joke. “Zhenning Liu” is exactly who this man is to me; not “Dad,” not “Father,” not “Bàba” . . . but a

85 stranger, an acquaintance at best.
 Slowly, over the next few days, it dawns on me that this stranger is going to take me away from my family, my home and everything that I have ever known.

¹ grandfather, grandmother, aunt, uncle
² Hexing Street
³ Father
⁴ Chinese nickname for a small child
⁵ the father’s full name

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.

Question 3

Suggested time—40 minutes

(This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

In a 2019 interview, award-winning poet and memoirist Jimmy Santiago Baca asserted: “In America we value possessions. We would much rather talk about a new car than talk about a story that happened between grandfather and me. We’d much rather get on the computer and play video games and enact some cataclysmic¹ epic² than to talk about the epics in our own lives.”

Write an essay that argues your position on the extent to which Baca’s claim about the value of possessions is valid.

¹ destructive on a large scale

² a narrative or story of grand proportions

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position.
- Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

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