



NSW Education Standards Authority

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Centre Number

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Student Number

2025 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

Geography

General Instructions

- Reading time – 10 minutes
- Working time – 3 hours
- Write using black pen
- Calculators approved by NESA may be used
- A Stimulus Booklet is provided with this paper
- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page

Total marks: 100

Section I – 15 marks (pages 2–7)

- Attempt Questions 1–15
- Allow about 30 minutes for this section

Section II – 45 marks (pages 9–20)

- Attempt Questions 16–21
- Allow about 1 hour and 20 minutes for this section

Section III – 20 marks (page 21)

- Attempt Question 22
- Allow about 35 minutes for this section

Section IV – 20 marks (page 22)

- Attempt Question 23
- Allow about 35 minutes for this section

Section I

15 marks

Attempt Questions 1–15

Allow about 30 minutes for this section

Refer to the Stimulus Booklet

Use the multiple-choice answer sheet for Questions 1–15.

- 1 Which term refers to ecosystems generating useful materials and absorbing waste for humans?
- A. Biocapacity
 - B. Continentality
 - C. Geomorphic process
 - D. Ecological disturbance

Refer to Source A on page 1 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer Question 2.

- 2 Which row of the table correctly describes the density of housing and urban vegetation evident in Source A?

	<i>Density of housing</i>	<i>Urban vegetation</i>
A.	Low	Bare
B.	Medium	Bare
C.	Low	Moderate
D.	Medium	Moderate

Refer to Source B on page 1 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer Question 3.

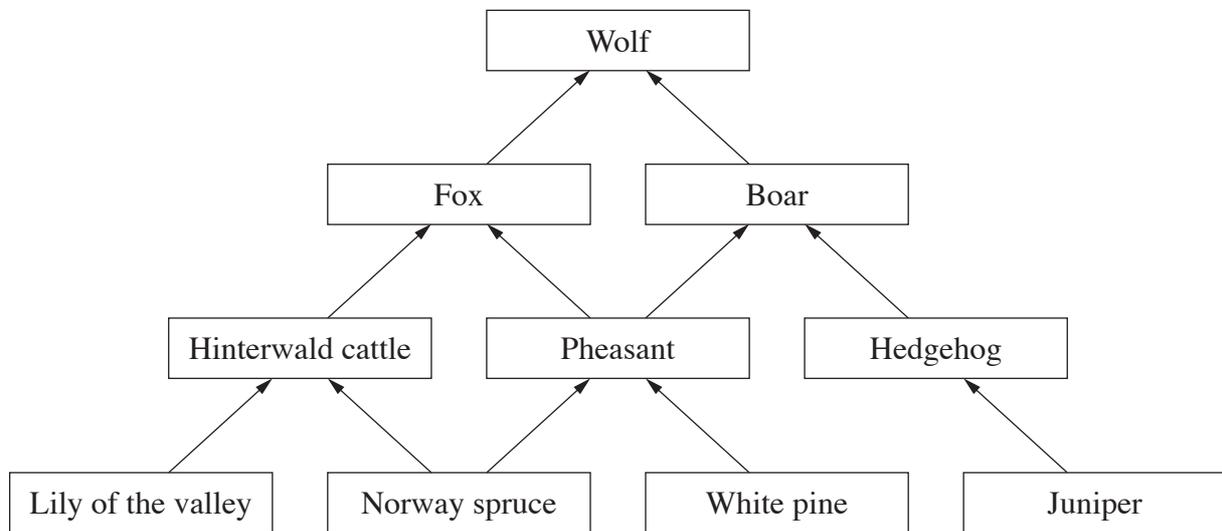
- 3 Which of the following best describes each winter month in the climate graph?

	<i>Mean daily minimum temperature</i>	<i>Monthly precipitation</i>
A.	Between 0°C and 3°C	Between 15 and 35 mm
B.	Between 0°C and 3°C	Between 55 and 75 mm
C.	Between 5°C and 8°C	Between 15 and 35 mm
D.	Between 5°C and 8°C	Between 55 and 75 mm

Refer to Source C on page 2 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer Question 4.

- 4 To which of the following targets linked to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals is this city contributing?
- A. Decrease the proportion of youth not in employment or education
 - B. End poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna
 - C. Reduce environmental impacts by improving air quality and waste management
 - D. Ensure the conservation of marine ecosystems, including their biodiversity and recreational uses

5 A forest food web is shown.



The pheasant population in an area of the forest declines significantly.

What is a likely flow-on effect in this area of the forest?

- A. Boars feed less on hedgehogs.
- B. Foxes feed more on Hinterwald cattle.
- C. Less white pine is able to grow into full size trees.
- D. There are more foxes and boars for wolves to hunt.

Refer to Source *D* and Source *E* on page 2 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer Question 6.

6 What types of image are shown in Source *D* and Source *E*?

	<i>Source D</i>	<i>Source E</i>
A.	Oblique aerial photograph	Ground level photograph
B.	Oblique aerial photograph	Oblique aerial photograph
C.	Vertical aerial photograph	Oblique aerial photograph
D.	Vertical aerial photograph	Ground level photograph

7 A geographer creates a cross-section from a topographic map.

Why would vertical exaggeration be used?

- A. To make the map look more accurate
- B. To show the exact shape of landforms
- C. To adjust the horizontal scale of the map
- D. To make elevation changes more obvious

Refer to Source *F* on page 3 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer Questions 8–11.

8 In which direction would the stream at point *R* (AR 2630) flow?

- A. NE
- B. NW
- C. SE
- D. SW

9 A tram departs the tram stop at GR 275343 heading south.

Approximately how far does it travel to get to the end of the line?

- A. 2.6 km
- B. 2.9 km
- C. 3.3 km
- D. 3.6 km

- 10** What is the local relief between point *S* (AR 2631) and point *T* (AR 2732)?
- A. 50 m
 - B. 150 m
 - C. 210 m
 - D. 360 m

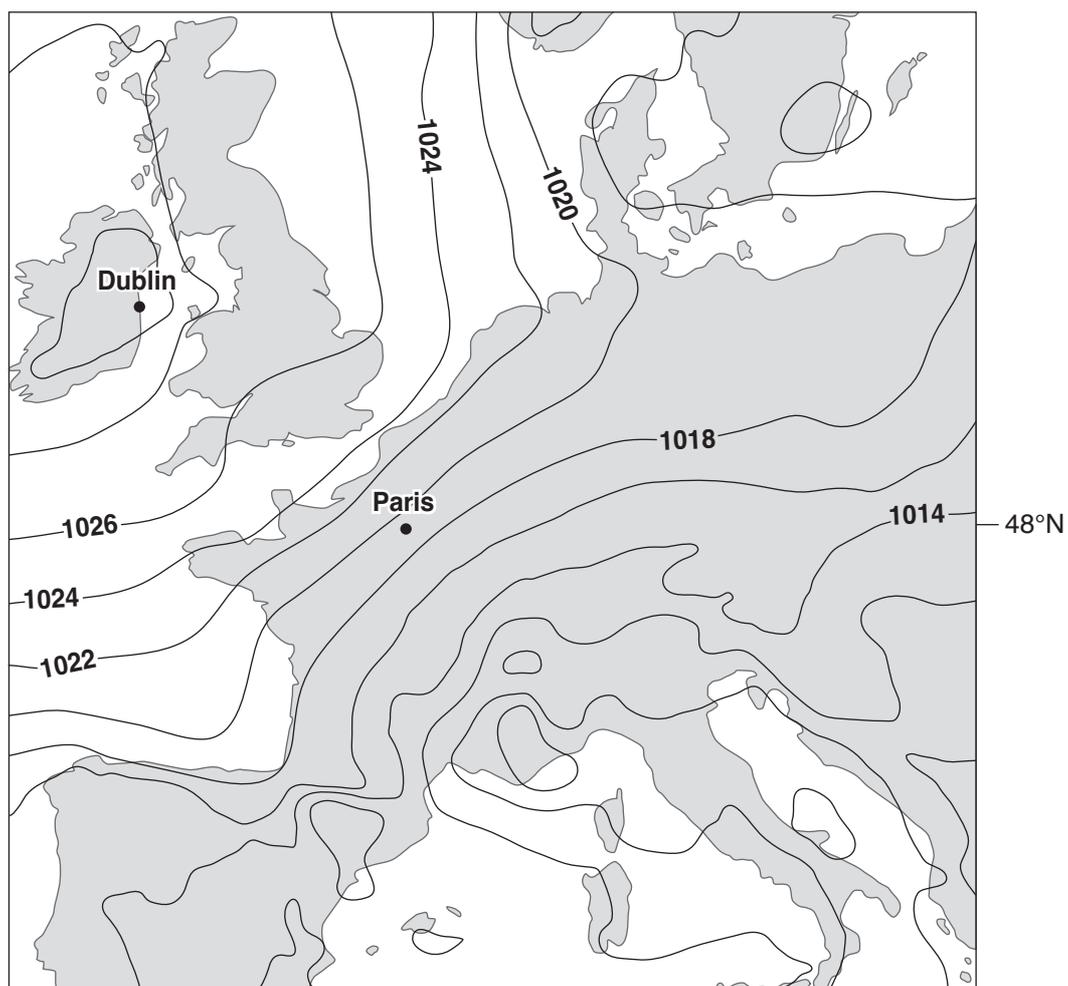
- 11** What is the aspect and gradient between point *P* and point *Q* (AR 2531)?

	<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Gradient</i>
A.	West	1:4
B.	West	1:8
C.	East	1:4
D.	East	1:8

Refer to Source *D* on page 2 and Source *F* on page 3 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer Question 12.

- 12** What is the approximate bearing from the body of water in the south-west quadrant of Source *D* to the closest tram stop?
- A. 50°
 - B. 130°
 - C. 240°
 - D. 320°

13 A weather map is shown.



Which row of the table correctly describes the weather conditions shown?

	<i>Wind flow around Dublin</i>	<i>Wind direction in Paris</i>
A.	Clockwise	SSW
B.	Anti-clockwise	SSW
C.	Clockwise	NNE
D.	Anti-clockwise	NNE

Refer to Source *G* on page 4 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer Question 14.

- 14** What is the difference in public transport use between the most populated city and the least populated city shown?
- A. 6%
 - B. 13%
 - C. 55%
 - D. 59%

Refer to Source *E* on page 2 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer Question 15.

- 15** The hikers are walking in an easterly direction.

At what time of day was the photograph taken?

- A. 7 am
- B. 10 am
- C. 2 pm
- D. 5 pm

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Centre Number

Geography

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Student Number

Section II Answer Booklet

45 marks

Attempt Questions 16–21

Allow about 1 hour and 20 minutes for this section

Instructions

- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page
- Use the Stimulus Booklet and your knowledge of geography to answer Questions 16–21 in the spaces provided. These spaces provide guidance for the expected length of response
- Show all relevant working in questions involving calculations
- Extra writing space is provided at the back of this booklet. If you use this space, clearly indicate which question you are answering

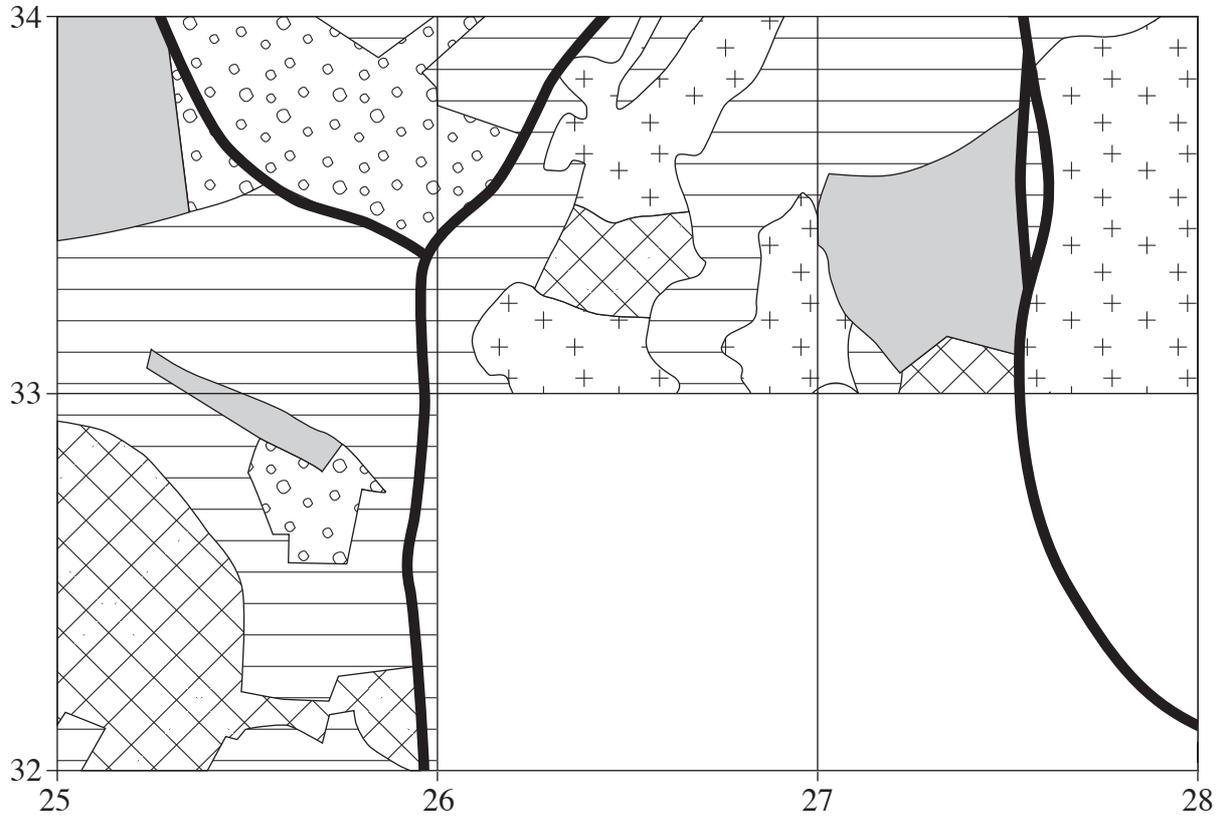
Please turn over

Question 16 (6 marks)

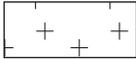
Refer to Source *F* on page 3 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer parts (a) and (b).

(a) Complete the précis map using Source *F*.

3



KEY

	Industrial		Forest		Community green space
	Residential		Agriculture		Major road

Question 16 continues on page 11

Question 16 (continued)

(b) Describe how a précis map of the Freiburg area could be useful for geographers. **3**

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End of Question 16

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Do NOT write in this area.

Question 17 (5 marks)

Refer to the information below and Source *F* on page 3 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer parts (a) and (b).

Students are investigating the interaction between residential areas and the Black Forest with a focus on the boundary between them. They are looking to conduct fieldwork at a number of sites.

Two proposed sites are Site 1 (AR 2631) and Site 2 (AR 2632) on Source *F*.

- (a) Outline ONE issue with using Site 1 as a fieldwork location. **2**

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- (b) Justify ONE fieldwork method for collecting geographical data at Site 2. **3**

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Question 18 (6 marks)

- (a) Outline ONE value of the Black Forest ecosystem that can be seen in Source *E* on page 2 or Source *F* on page 3 of the Stimulus Booklet. **2**

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- (b) Explain ONE trend in global biodiversity. **4**

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Question 19 (9 marks)

- (a) Account for the identity of ONE place within a larger urban settlement.

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Place:

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- (b) Analyse how ONE place in a rural setting is linked to other places.

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Place:

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Question 20 (13 marks)

- (a) Describe the role of global forums in achieving global sustainability. **3**

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Answer parts (b) and (c) with reference to a global economic activity you have studied.

Activity:

- (b) Discuss the effect of ONE influence on the global economic activity identified. **5**

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Question 20 continues on page 16

Question 20 (continued)

- (c) Compare TWO strategies for achieving sustainability in the global economic activity identified.

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End of Question 20

Do NOT write in this area.

Section II extra writing space

If you use this space, clearly indicate which question you are answering.

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Geography

Section III

20 marks

Attempt Question 22

Allow about 35 minutes for this section

Answer the question in the Sections III and IV Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- apply geographical knowledge and understanding relevant to the question
 - communicate ideas and information using geographical terms and concepts appropriately
 - use relevant examples, geographical information and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate to support the response
 - present a sustained, logical and cohesive response
-

Question 22 (20 marks)

Answer parts (a)–(c) with reference to ONE large city of 5 million people or more, outside Australia, that you have studied.

- (a) Outline the character of this city. **3**
- (b) Describe TWO challenges of living in this city. **5**
- (c) Evaluate the effectiveness of TWO strategies to improve people’s quality of life in this city. **12**

Please turn over

Section IV

20 marks

Attempt Question 23

Allow about 35 minutes for this section

Answer the question in the Sections III and IV Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- apply geographical knowledge and understanding relevant to the question
 - communicate ideas and information using geographical terms and concepts appropriately
 - use relevant examples, geographical information and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate to support the response
 - present a sustained, logical and cohesive response
-

Question 23 (20 marks)

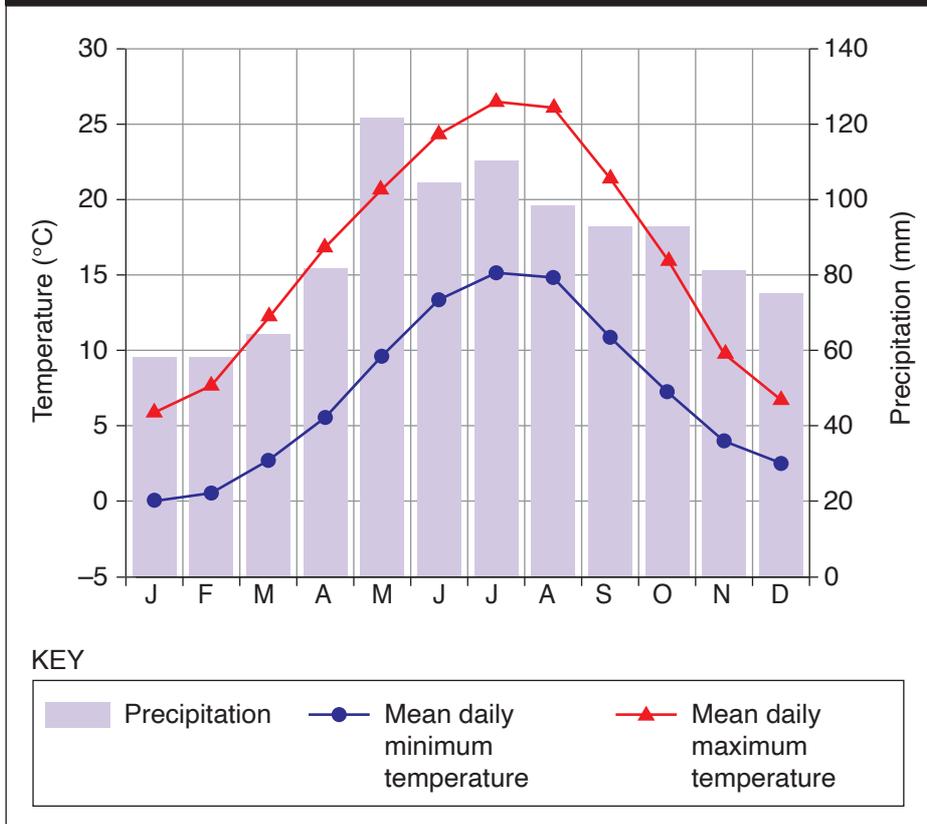
Explain the nature and complexity of ecosystem functioning.

End of paper

Source A – A residential neighbourhood

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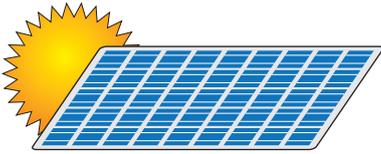
Source B – A climate graph



Courtesy of Climates to Travel

Source C – Sustainable features of a city

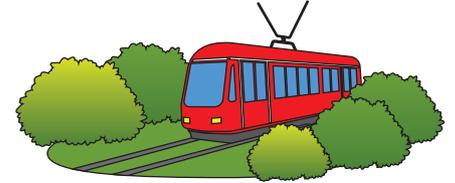
This city is a global leader in sustainable urban development.



50% of energy from renewable sources



66% of city area devoted to green uses eg parks, market gardens
40% of city area is forested



20% of 32 km of tram tracks are grassed



70% of residents live less than 500 m from a tram stop

60% of residents do not own a car



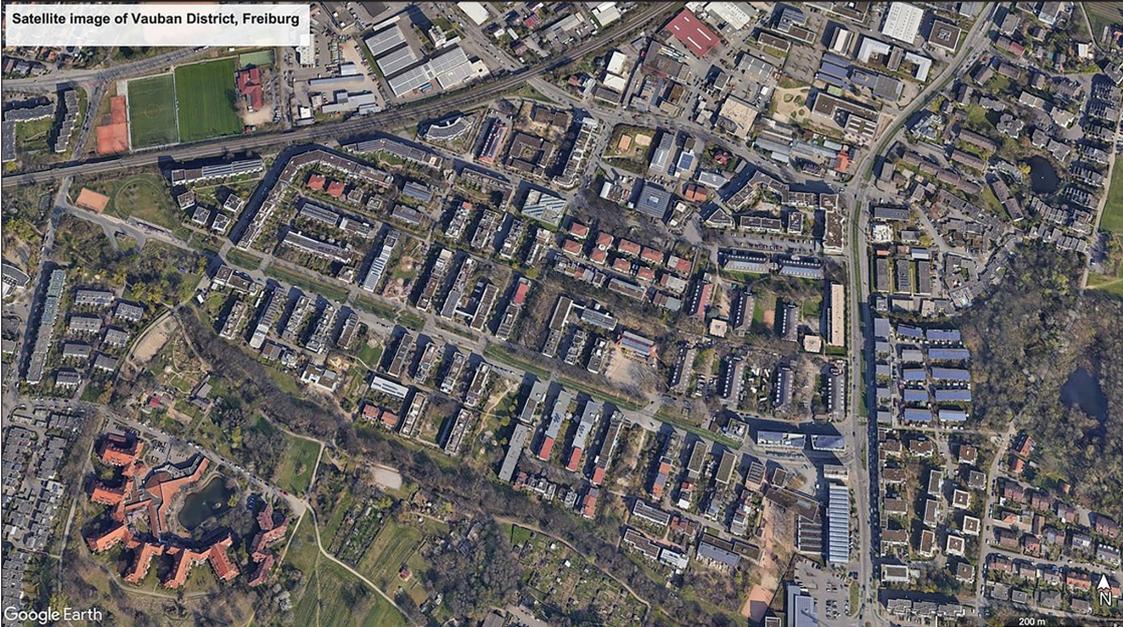
x2 as many bikes as cars
400 km of bike paths



72% of rubbish is recycled

Source D – Vauban, an area of the city of Freiburg

Satellite image of Vauban District, Freiburg

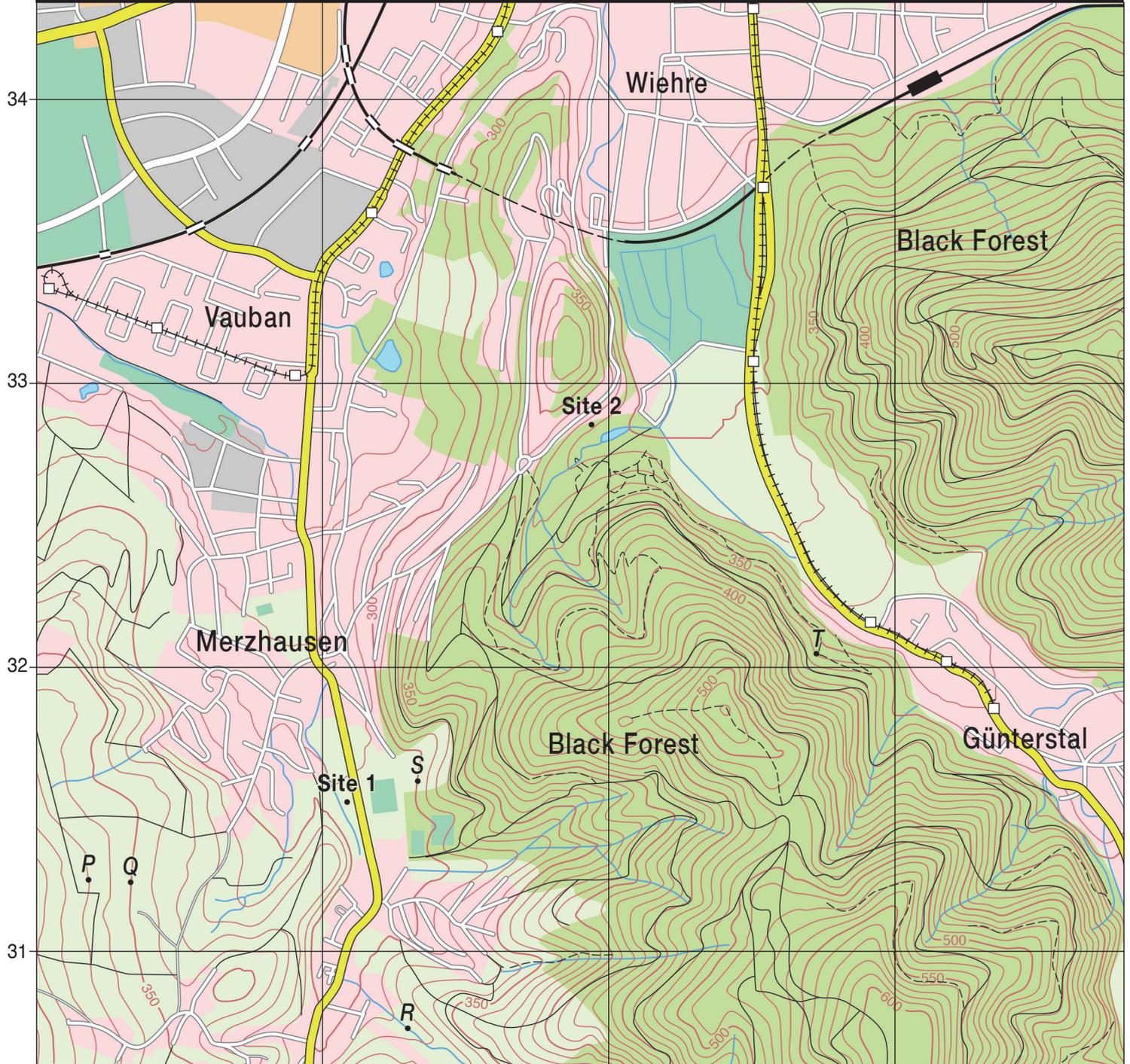


© Google Earth
Satellite image of Vauban district, Freiburg

Source E – Photograph of hikers in the Black Forest (48°N)



Source F – Topographic map extract of Freiburg

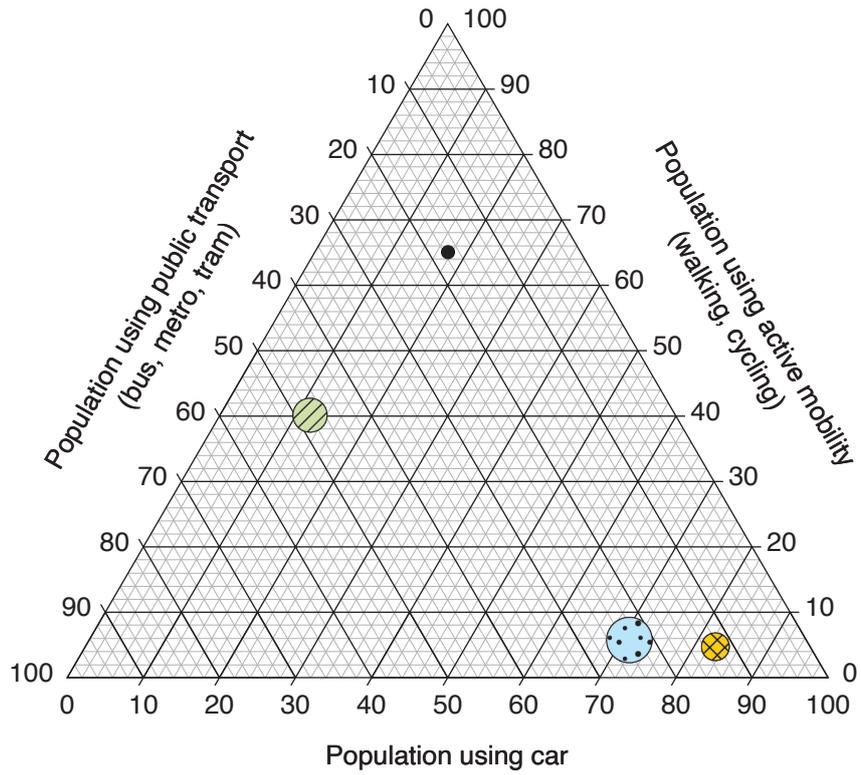


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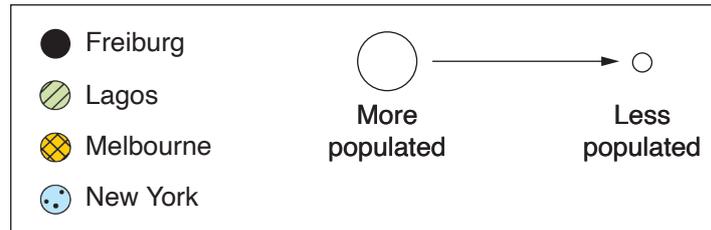
SCALE 0 400 metres

Tram line; tram stop	---□---	Community green space	
Train line; train station	—■—	Commercial	
Train tunnel; train overpass	- - - □ - - -	Industrial	
Major road		Residential	
Minor road		Agriculture	
Walking path		Forest	
Bike path		Body of water	
Contour line		Stream	
Contour interval: 10 m			

Source G – Use of different travel types in some cities



KEY



Adapted from the Environment International: The ABC of mobility
 By Rafael Prieto-Curiel and Juan P. Ospina
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