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READ THE TEXT CAREFULLY, THEN ANSWER THE FOUR QUESTIONS BELOW

HOW TO MAKE ROOM FOR ONE MILLION NEW YORKERS

New York City doesn't have enough homes. The average New Yorker now spends 34 percent of pre-tax income on rent. There are many reasons why homes in the city are so expensive, but at the root of it all is supply and demand: Insufficient housing in our city means more competition — and therefore sky-high prices.

Some New Yorkers say that instead of building more, we can meet our housing needs through more rent control, or by converting all vacant office towers into residential buildings. Such measures would all be insufficient.

This resistance to change has become a significant obstacle. As Binyamin Appelbaum argues: "New York is not a great city because of its buildings, but because it provides people with the opportunity to build better lives." My architecture team took a fresh look at housing. We found a way to add more than 500,000 homes enough to house more than 1.3 million New Yorkers— without changing the character of the city's neighborhoods.

Adding apartment buildings would place more demand on our subways and schools in some neighborhoods. But the construction of over 520,000 homes would stimulate our economy; add people to our streets, making them safer; and make the city more accessible to middle-class families.

Several political, legal and economic impediments stand in the way of addressing New York City's housing crisis. Mayor Eric Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul have proposed ambitious plans to build hundreds of thousands of new housing units, but they have faced hard opposition. Our City Council and State Legislature need to support a significant expansion of housing supply for the city.

There are many reasons why it is so difficult to build new housing in New York City — including dividing into zones, the under-taxation of unfilled and underutilized land, the continuing rise of construction costs, and intense and often wrong anti-development sentiments. These challenges can and should be addressed. But please, don't let people tell you we can't build the homes New Yorkers need because we've run out of room or because it would ruin the city's character. New York is, in fact, a very big apple. (Fragment adapted from *The New York Times*.)

1) ARE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWER BY CITING THE CORRESPONDING WORDS OR SENTENCES OF THE TEXT (2 POINTS; 0.5 POINTS EACH).

1. New York has a sufficient number of homes.
2. Converting vacant office towers alone would solve the housing crisis.
3. Building new apartment complexes would lead to higher usage of subways and schools in specific neighborhoods.
4. Dividing land into zones and under-taxation of unused properties are some of the challenges in building new housing.

2) ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS USING THE INFORMATION FROM THE TEXT. YOUR ANSWERS SHOULD NOT BE A LITERAL COPY OF THE TEXT, ALTHOUGH SOME WORDS THAT APPEAR IN THE TEXT CAN BE USED (2 POINTS; 1 POINT EACH).

1. What do some New Yorkers propose as a solution to the housing needs?
2. What are the potential benefits of constructing over 520,000 homes in New York City?

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3) VOCABULARY (1.5 POINTS).

3.1 Find one word in the text for this definition (0.3 POINTS):

- a) The money a person or business earns, usually from work, investments, or other sources.

3.2 Find a synonym in the text for each of the words below (1.2 POINTS; 0.4 POINTS EACH):

- a) constructing
b) empty
c) barrier

4) MULTIPLE CHOICE OPTION EXERCISE. CHOOSE THE MOST APPROPRIATE ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION (A, B, C, or D) ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT (1.5 POINT; 0.5 POINTS EACH).

- What percentage of pre-tax income does the average New Yorker spend on rent?
A) 20%
B) 34%
C) 50%
D) 25%
- What is the main reason for expensive housing in New York City?
A) High salaries
B) Limited public transportation
C) Supply and demand imbalance
D) Expensive materials
- What is one benefit of constructing over 520,000 homes?
A) Higher rent prices
B) Safer streets
C) Increased car traffic
D) Less need for schools

5) SELECT AND WRITE THE COMPOSITION THAT YOU PREFER FROM THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS. USE BETWEEN 120-150 WORDS (3 POINTS).

Discuss the pros and cons of living in a big city compared to living in the countryside.

How would life be different without smartphones or the Internet? Justify your answer.