AP® Human Geography
2002 Sample Student Responses

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(A) The concentration of households headed by females in Zone X can be explained in part by the proximity of the neighborhood to the school. Many of these females are probably single-mothers who need to get their children to a school nearby without spending too much time in transit, because as heads of the household their space-time prism is limited also by the need to travel to work to provide for the family. Another factor contributing to the concentration of female heads of households in Zone X is the location next to the warehouse and manufacturing district. Studies have shown that single-mothers are more likely to be blue-collar working class people, so they would therefore be more likely to live next to their area of employment.

The concentration of households headed by females in Zone Y can be partially explained by its proximity to the Country Club and Lake because retired persons tend to settle in such communities and in general, there are more single elderly women than men, because women live longer. So these households are probably headed by widows who seek company in the country club and relaxation next to the lake. Another socioeconomic factor is the wealth or affluence of these retired elderly women that would encourage them to settle near sources of entertainment such as the golf
course or museum. These widows probably have a degree of expendable income saved up from their working years and inherited from their husbands, along with free time, that allows them to spend money at the golf course, museum, country club restaurant, or at the relatively nearby zoo with the grandchildren.

(B) The Hoyt sector model is good for analyzing the locations of Zone X and Y because it imagines a sector of high-income housing (such as the retired women of Zone Y) stretching out from the central business district to the suburbs along major transportation corridors. This would fit this scenario well, because one could imagine a sector of high-income residences extending southwest from the CBD, encompassing the museum, lake, country club and golf course, as well as the community of retired persons in Zone Y, including those households headed by wealthy widows.
A) Zone X is likely to be in a zone of lower class families due to its close proximity to an industrial area, railroad tracks, and air force base. Female households in this area may be headed by mothers who had their children at a young age (factor 1) which may have resulted in the mother dropping out of high school and obtaining a minimum wage job. This would make the mother's income (often low, enabling her to only afford a real estate in this area. Another factor could be that the mother could have recently divorced from her husband, who, at the time, provided most of the household income. With no more monetary support from him (perhaps he does not pay child support or not enough of it), the mother has no choice but to live in a low income area. Zone Y is likely to be in an upper class neighborhood due to its location next to a country club and lake. Mothers in this area may be older with fewer kids and a college education enabling her to obtain a high paying job and less children to take care of. With a higher income, she could afford to raise her children in this zone. Another factor could be that this female divorced a wealthy man and received a large sum of money, which allows her to live in an upper class neighborhood.

B) One advantage to this is that in the Hayt sector of an industrial area surrounding lower-class housing, districts are located along major transportation networks such as railroads. Since the warehouse and manufacturing area is located on the north side of the railroad tracks, it is likely that the adjacent residential area to its east (Zone X) would be that of lower class families. It is located directly next to the (Bl) and industrial area because families in this area may not be able to afford to drive to work, so they can walk or take convenient mass transit, if offered.
Women are usually the leaders of households in lower-income areas for many reasons. These women have usually grown up in these areas and not received much more than a high school education. A high percentage of women is common for their lack of education and opportunities. Since the women don't have a high level education, they take jobs in secondary sectors. The cluster near the manufacturing zone because many don't have cars and must use public transport to get to their jobs. If they have them, many of these women are also single parent, perhaps as a result ofustering or divorce, and they can't afford to live middle-class suburbs. Many of the women may live off of welfare or government housing and government housing tends to cluster in low-income areas. Women may cluster in the high-income zone because they have received high level education and hold better paying jobs, so they are able to support themselves. These women may also be divorced and with their ex-husband paying child support and then working are able to buy middle/high income housing. The Hoyt sector model suggests that high-income housing is a corridor that branches out from the central business district and middle-income housing branches out in sectors around it. The low-income sectors are usually located around the manufacturing sector. This proves true in the map that is shown. Though the map does not show sectors, the low-income housing is still found near the area of manufacturing. There is also an airport nearby so noise will mostly affect low-income residents. The high-income housing is found close to the central business district and it is found in an area with site attraction. There is a lake which shows the attraction of high-income residents to areas outside the urbanized area and that is a country club next to it, and only people who can afford to go there cluster around it. Hoyt also states that people cluster based on income and the map thoroughly supports this.