(1) Create a descending sequence of values from 159 to 6, with the step size 3 (i.e. with values 159, 156, 153, 150, ..., 9, 6), and store it into a numeric variable named *xa* [2 points]

**Command:**

xa <- seq(159,6, by = -3)

(2) Create another sequence, of the same length as *xa*, in which the values 5 and 8 will be interleaved (i.e. with values 5, 8, 5, 8, ..., 5, 8), using the *rep* function; store the sequence into a numeric variable named *xb* [2 points]

**Command:**

xb <- rep(c('5','8'), length(xa/2))

(3) Change the variable *xb* into a factor type (its values 5 and 8 will become the names of its levels) [1 point]

**Command:**

xb <- factor(xb, levels = c("5", "8"))

(4) Import through the Clipboard the data from Excel file *vf.xls*. Store them as a data frame object named *vf* [2 points]

**Command:**

vf <- read.delim("clipboard", as.is= FALSE)

(5) Use an R function to determine the smallest and largest value of variable *Altitude* in *vf* data frame: to do so, you must use a function, not just a lookup of printed values [1 point]

**Command:**

Min <- min (vf$Altitude); Max <- max(vf$Altitude)

**Values:**

> Min

[1] 860

> Max

[1] 1330

(6) Calculate the differences between the abundance of blackbird (*TurdMeru*) and ring ouzel (*TurdTorq*) at each site. Then use these difference values to compute their variance [2 points]

**Command:**

vf$diff <- vf$TurdMeru - vf$TurdTorq

vf$var <- var(vf$diff)

**Value:**

0.470897