

Short Answer Questions

Q1. Suggest **two** ways consumer attitudes towards ethical food and drinks have changed based on the opening example (lines 1–3). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Suggested Answers
<p>Spending on ethical food and drink products – including organic, Fairtrade, free range and freedom foods – hit £8.4bn in the UK in 2013, making up 8.5% of all household food sales and by 2020, the amount was £14bn. By taking advantage of environmental credentials, such as local, sustainable and transparent production, a new wave of urban agriculture enterprises is justifying a premium price.</p>	<p>Consumers are more willing to purchase / are more welcoming of ethical food and drinks.</p> <p>They are more concerned about where the food comes from/origins of the food.</p> <p>They are now more aware of the implications of consuming unethical food on the environment.</p> <p>They are more concerned with the health benefits consuming ethical food.</p> <p><i>Note: Any 2 for 2m. Any reasonable change in attitude can be accepted.</i></p>

Q2. In paragraph 1, what are the benefits and trade-offs when setting a “higher price point” (line 5) for ethical food? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Lifted	Suggested Answers
<p>By taking advantage of environmental credentials, such as local, sustainable and transparent production, a new wave of urban agriculture enterprises is justifying a premium price. While a higher price point might better reflect the [A1] true cost of food production and help [A2] build a viable business, it can also [B1] exclude lower income groups, fuelling the perception that [B2] local, sustainably produced food is the preserve of food elitists. Farms are springing up in cities across Europe, but the urban farming movement is [B3] doing little to help shift towards a permanent sustainable food system if there are few supporters.</p>	<p><i>While a higher price point...</i></p> <p>A – benefits A1: conveys the real cost of producing food A2: helps companies make a profit <i>...it also</i></p> <p>B – trade-offs / costs B1: makes food less accessible to lower income groups B2: drives the idea that sustainable food is only for the upper class/food snobs B3: contributes little towards achieving a sustainable food production in the long run/for the future</p> <p><i>1pt – 1m; 2–3pts – 2m; 4–5pts – 3m</i></p>

Q3. Why does the author use inverted commas in line 31? [1]

Lifted	Suggested Answers
<p>Apart from the prices and accessibility, urban farming sees issues in its “fields”.</p> <p>Agriculture practices and urban growth have long been considered unhappy bedfellows, with arable land often sacrificed to build apartments and new roads. Similarly, since urban farming tends to be situated in most urban spaces, the perception that the spaces can be used for more economically productive activities has to be challenged alongside concerns regarding the commercial viability of such enterprises.</p>	<p>The author uses inverted commas to indicate that [A - Function] urban farming does not require actual/literal/real fields. OR The word “fields” is not used in the literal sense.</p> <p>[B – Context] It is carried out in urban spaces.</p> <p><i>Note: Need both parts for 1m.</i></p>

Q4. Explain what the author means by “unhappy bedfellows” (line 32). [2]

Lifted	Suggested Answers
<p>Apart from the prices and accessibility, urban farming sees issues in its “fields”. Agriculture practices and urban growth have long been considered unhappy bedfellows, with arable land often sacrificed to build apartments and new roads. Similarly, since urban farming tends to be situated in most urban spaces, the perception that the spaces can be used for more economically productive activities has to be challenged alongside concerns regarding the commercial viability of such enterprises. This leads to another consideration involving the management of urban spaces and the optimal re-purposing of existing infrastructure to accommodate the growth of such farms. While farming near customers sounds sensible, to farm at scale efficiently means space is needed due to the large equipment needed for such exploits.</p>	<p>[A – Subject/Context] Agricultural practices and urban growth share a close relationship / they are related/linked/ co-exist / both are needed / occupy the same space [1]</p> <p>but...</p> <p>[B – Quality of the relationship] the relationship is troubled / clash / they are forced together / forced / compete against each other/trade off/ do not go hand-in-hand/in tension. [1]</p> <p><i>Note: Explanation of the phrase must be in context to show understanding of the idiomatic expression.</i></p> <p><i>X Unaccepted answer: The two are unhappy / they don't suit each other but are still together i.e., answers that suggest a literal interpretation of the idiomatic expression.</i></p>

Q5. Why does the author use the word “yet” (line 39)? [1]

Lifted	Suggested Answers
Yet, one should not disregard the huge untapped areas in the centres of many cities, often abandoned and forgotten, that we could be using to make the food chain more resilient.	<p>The author uses the word ‘yet’ to emphasise [A] the opportunities offered by urban farming [B] <u>despite</u> its space requirements / practical difficulties. [1] (Phrasing needs to show opportunity/prospects <u>despite</u> limitations. Context is in urban areas [not about rural vs urban spaces])</p> <p>OR</p> <p>‘Yet’ conveys (Function) <u>a sense of optimism</u> regarding (Context) the prospects of urban farming. [1]</p>

Q7. What are the social benefits that investments in urban farming (line 60) can bring? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

Lifted	Suggested Answers
Investment in such projects can bring about possible social benefits: [A] improving neighbourhood aesthetics , [B] reducing crime and even [C] increasing community cohesion . (That said, this can also raise thorny issues around gentrification and displacement in low-income areas as an unintended consequence.) In areas which have the highest youth unemployment rates, there is a [D] real need for job opportunities with companies that are prepared to invest in training young people with a poor history of educational attainment. Thus, urban farming can be a platform to [E] upskill youth as aquaponics technicians for commercial food production or developing their project management skills in planning crops and monitoring quality. Such skills can [F] keep them employed and off the streets .	<p>Investments in urban farming can...</p> <p>A: (Inferred) beautify their communities</p> <p>B: Decrease social vices/offences/unlawful acts/misdemeanours/ OR Improve safety</p> <p>C: enhance neighbourliness / build societal bonding/ties</p> <p>D: create new employment</p> <p>E: Equip young people with skills / give people more technical training</p> <p>F: (Inferred) Keep youth from getting into trouble</p> <p><i>Note: 1–2 pts – 1 m, 3–4 pts – 2m, 5–6 pts – 3m</i></p>

Q8. Why does the author use the word ‘thorny’ (line 62) to describe the issues around gentrification and displacement? [2]

Lifted	Suggested Answers
(That said, this can also raise thorny issues around gentrification and displacement in low-income areas as an unintended consequence.) In areas which have the highest youth unemployment rates, there is a real need for job opportunities with companies that are prepared to invest in training young people with a poor history of educational attainment. Thus, urban farming can be a platform to upskill youth as aquaponics technicians for commercial food production or develop their project management skills in planning crops and monitoring quality. Such skills can keep them employed and off the streets.	They are [A – meaning/use of word] painful / sensitive OR challenging / tricky / controversial issues [1] [B – inferred] that people are unwilling to talk about as this concerns their livelihoods/personal homes OR there is no easy solution to the issue [1]

Q9. What does “throwing the baby out with the bathwater” (line 72) imply about the rejection of urban farming’s benefit to underprivileged neighbourhoods? [2]

Lifted	Suggested Answers
However, to merely reject this possibility as a fad or hobby is throwing the baby out with the bathwater . It must be acknowledged that the challenges around equality in urban agriculture are simply a reflection of the global food system’s wider issues. It is a sad fact that many of those working in the food sector are still paid poorly and as a result, the people who produce our food cannot afford good food themselves.	A: We should not simply reject/disregard the benefits of urban farming to the wider community / We fail to see the true potential in urban farming, B: because it currently only/mainly caters to the rich / because of its high price point / inequalities resulted. Note: 2 or 0m

Q10. Suggest the author’s attitude towards the future of urban farming (lines 81-83). [1]

Lifted	Suggested Answers
What does the future hold for urban farms? Honestly, we cannot say for sure. However, with hundreds of millions of urban dwellers suffering from undernutrition, anything that helps to bring nutritious food closer to the urban table can only be worth pursuing.	A: She is optimistic that urban farming can be the solution to future problems of nutrition/food scarcity B: pragmatic / realistic about the impact/outcome of urban farming in future C: righteous as she feels society is morally obliged to pursue urban farming Note: Any 1 for 1m. Accept any reasonable attitude with context.

Summary

Q6. Using material from paragraphs 4–5 only, summarise the challenges urban farmers face and how these challenges are overcome.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

One challenge urban farmers face is...

	From Passage	Paraphrased	Main Idea
	Paragraph 4		
1	Urban farming sees issues in its “fields” (31)	<i>There are problems in where to carry out urban farming</i>	Space
2	...long been considered unhappy bedfellows(32)	<i>relationship (agriculture & urban growth) is in conflict / do not go hand-in-hand</i>	Troubled relationship /conflict /competition
3	arable land often sacrificed (32)	<i>Fertile expanses frequently forfeited/traded-off/surrendered/</i>	Trade off
4	To build high-rise apartments and new roads (33)	<i>In the construction/creation of</i> *award only if there is (3)	Construction (urban spaces)
5	Since urban farming tends to be situated in most urban spaces (34)	<i>located in the same space</i>	Same space
6	the perception that the spaces can be used for more economically productive activities	<i>The idea that physical areas can be used for further (more) money-making/fiscally-attractive work</i>	Fixed Idea about what can be lucrative (attitude)
7	has to be challenged (34-35)	<i>needs to be tested/defied/confronted / unwillingness to give up</i>	Challenge to the idea
8	alongside concerns regarding the commercial viability of such enterprises (35-36)	<i>Profit-making likelihood of urban farms /can they survive</i>	Profitability
9	...involving the management of urban spaces...(36)	<i>how well these spaces are run by stakeholders/ organisation of urban spaces</i>	Organisation (Future planning of urban spaces)
10	... the optimal re-purposing of existing infrastructure to accommodate the growth of such farms (36-37)	<i>Another concern involves how best to reuse infrastructure</i>	re-purposing (reuse of resources)
11	means space is needed due to the large equipment needed for such exploits (39)	<i>Requires space to accommodate huge machinery</i>	Large equipment required
12	Yet, one should not disregard the huge untapped areas in the centres of many cities (39-40) (Solution)	<i>We must pay attention/take into account....</i> <i>Massive untouched</i> *degree is needed. Need both qualities	Huge/many unused areas

13	often abandoned and forgotten , that we could be using to make the food chain more resilient (40-41) (solution)	<i>Frequently left unused/deserted/forgone/disused and overlooked</i>	Abandoned areas
14	Through its converted space, it aims to produce 45 tonnes of vegetables and 19 tonnes of tilapia annually. (43) (inferred) (solution)	<i>Repurposed/transformed space it produces a large /sufficient amount of food</i>	Sufficient food produced
15	We need to envision the opportunities growing in such unusual urban spaces (solution)	<i>Dream/envisionout of the ordinary/uncommon</i>	Dreaming to grow in unusual spaces
16	and invest in its development to see growth of such farms. (solution)	<i>pump in cash / spend more</i>	Pump in funds
	Paragraph 5		
17	the added cost of production comes from the purchase of indoor hydroponic growing systems, (46) / which do not come cheap (47) (Challenge)	<i>high cost of / expensive production</i>	High cost
18	Thought must be paid to how growing technologies can be democratized (47) (solution)	<i>Accessible to all</i>	Accessibility
19	to produce high quality produce at affordable prices (48) (solution)	<i>Superior value products at cheap prices *Award if both qualities are mentioned.</i>	High quality being affordable
20	The ideal situation should be such that anyone should be able to have their own farm and grow their own food. (48) (solution)	<i>Anyone(all) should be able to urban farm everywhere/ everyone an urban farmer</i>	All can farm at home
21	...there is no reason for it not to become a standard(50) (solution)	<i>commonplace / norm</i>	Commonplace
22	By implementing an indoor hydroponics growing system in store, the growing of herbs and greens can be available at a price comparable to other fresh goods. (51) (solution)	<i>(Store/Shop/Retail) By applying an indoor system....prices can be similar to other fresh goods *Award only if context of store/shop is present. Allow lift for 'store'.</i>	Stores implementing indoor growing systems
23	Eventually, companies can hope to expand globally and target businesses worldwide. (53) (solution)	<i>Hopefully, companies can extend internationally</i>	Overseas expansion

Application Question – Q11

Gina Lovett highlights some benefits of urban farming while raising several concerns. How far do you agree or disagree with her observations, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your society?

POINT 1: Keeping prices affordable for consumers + Commercial viability for producers (farmers) [Concern]

Para 2 & 3 – Expensive prices on such produce will keep consumers away and at the same time, food producers need to make enough profit to sustain their operations

Para 5 – High cost of specialized farming equipment

Lovett highlights that adopting urban farming can lead to better nutritional outcomes as well as positive contributions to urban communities yet keeping prices attractive to consumers as well as paying producers fairly remain a challenge.

Some Questions to Consider:

- Which group(s) in Singapore will be more willing to pay for sustainable produce?
- How popular has the purchase of sustainable produce been? Has there been changes in the demand and why?
- What are some difficulties/challenges/concerns local urban farmers face in keeping prices affordable?
- Has the government done enough to support the local farmers or should more be done?

POINT 2: Space constraints [Concern]

Para 4 - Bulky machinery and farming equipment that needs large spaces & convincing stakeholders (policy makers + citizens) that urban farming is a wiser investment for the longer term than merely using the space for more economically productive activities

A concern Lovett points out is to carry out intensive urban farming there is a need for large spaces within urban settings which can be a challenge to find. Additionally, even if these spaces do exist, convincing the residents and the government to use the space for urban farming rather than for generating income through more traditional means - commercial activities like retail or simply for residential purposes can be a challenge.

Some Questions to Consider:

- How can scarcity of land be overcome?
- How serious / self-limiting is this challenge?
- How successful has Singapore been in overcoming this challenge? Why?

POINT 3: Gaining traction and moving towards a more permanent and long-term change [Concern]

Para 1 + 6 & 7 – How do we keep the momentum of the movement and become a more permanent shift to achieving a more sustainable food system despite the existing huge class divides

Para 7 – Wider inequalities in the global food system

Lovett raises the concern that the shift to sustainable farming may not result in the desired long-lasting impact.

Some Questions to Consider:

- Which groups of Singaporeans do we have to convince for urban farming to be successful?
- What are some of their concerns? Do they face the same challenges as those raised in this paragraph? What will it take to convince them?
- What are the latest trends and observations shaping urban farming in Singapore?
- How effectively can local urban farmers be sustainable by managing both profitability and cost?
- Given Singapore's food vulnerability, do we really have a choice or do we simply just have to make this work?

POINT 4: Rejuvenates forgotten urban spaces in a meaningful and productive manner [Benefits]

Para 4+ 6 – Re-purposing existing infrastructure and dis-used buildings to prevent decay and revitalise the neighbourhood.

Some Questions to Consider:

- Were there events occurring that made this rejuvenation necessary?
- Who would benefit the most from such a rejuvenation?
- Who needs to be involved for such acts to occur?
- How much money/time/effort must be invested in to such a project?

POINT 5: Providing employment to the community for the younger generation [Benefit]

Para 6 – Providing employment, apprenticeships and vocational opportunities for communities to upskill and keep them away from a life of crime

Some Questions to Consider:

- Are young Singaporeans interested in shifting towards a labour intensive job?
- Are there enough opportunities for such an endeavour?
- What is the governmental support in such an undertaking?