

For Tasks 2–5, read the three texts (A, B and C) discussing different aspects of immigrant housing.

Immigration and housing

Text A

About a block away from them there lived another Lithuanian family, consisting of an elderly widow and one grown son; their name was Majauszkis, and our friends struck up an acquaintance with them before long. One evening they came over for a visit, and naturally the first subject upon which the conversation turned was the neighborhood and its history; and then Grandmother Majauszkiene, as the old lady was called, proceeded to **recite** to them a string of horrors that fairly froze their blood. She was a wrinkled-up and wizened personage—she must have been eighty—and as she mumbled the **grim** story through her toothless gums, she seemed a very old witch to them. Grandmother Majauszkiene had lived in the midst of misfortune so long that it had come to be her element, and she talked about starvation, sickness, and death as other people might about weddings and holidays.

The thing came gradually. In the first place as to the house they had bought, it was not new at all, as they had supposed; it was about fifteen years old, and there was nothing new upon it but the paint, which was so bad that it needed to be put on new every year or two. The house was one of a whole row that was built by a company which existed to make money by **swindling** poor people. The family had paid fifteen hundred dollars for it, and it had not cost the builders five hundred, when it was new. Grandmother Majauszkiene knew that because her son belonged to a political organization with a contractor who put up exactly such houses. They used the very **flimsiest** and cheapest material; they built the houses a dozen at a time, and they cared about nothing at all except the outside shine. The family could take her word as to the trouble they would have, for she had been through it all—she and her son had bought their house in exactly the same way. They had fooled the company, however, for her son was a skilled man, who made as high as a hundred dollars a month, and as he had had sense enough not to marry, they had been able to pay for the house.

Grandmother Majauszkiene saw that her friends were **puzzled** at this remark; they did not quite see how paying for the house was “fooling the company.” Evidently they were very inexperienced. Cheap as the houses were, they were sold with the idea that the people who bought them would not be able to pay for them. When they failed—if it were only by a single month—they would lose the house and all that they had paid on it, and then the company would sell it over again. And did they often get a chance to do that? Dieve! (Grandmother Majauszkiene raised her hands.) They did it—how often no one could say, but certainly more than half of the time. They might ask any one who knew anything at all about Packingtown as to that; she had been living here ever since this house was built, and she could tell them all about it. And had it ever been sold before? Susimilkie! Why, since it had been built, no less than four families that their informant could name had tried to buy it and failed. She would tell them a little about it.

(from *The Jungle*, a novel by Upton Sinclair, 1893)

Text B

Canada needs to build more affordable housing for newcomers

3 July, 2022 by Fawziah Rabiah-Mohammed, Abe Oudshoorn, Cindy Brown, and Luc Theriault

The relationship between newcomers and the Canadian economy involves three key pillars: job availability, a **sufficient** population of working age and affordable housing. All three pillars must be supported by the government—if one is missing, the entire system collapses.

While Canada has always relied on newcomers for population growth because of its low birth rate, both housing affordability and job availability tend to **fluctuate** much more drastically.

In the past, Canadian newcomers have struggled to find quality employment because of tight job markets and credential recognition barriers. As such, many newcomers have found themselves underemployed in gig jobs and part-time minimum wage positions.

However, the recent labour shortage, **precipitated** by the retirement of the baby boomers and **compounded** by the pandemic, has resulted in a boon of available jobs for newcomers.

With a low national birth rate and a high labour demand, immigration is more important than ever to sustain and grow the Canadian economy.

To accomplish such a goal, Canada’s department of immigration has set a target to admit between 950,000 and 1,260,000 new permanent residents over the next few years. Canada needs to **ensure** these new residents have safe, secure and affordable places to call home when they arrive.

Housing pillar still unsupported

While Canada now has jobs available for newcomers, and the immigration policies needed to fill those job vacancies, immigrants and migrants are still struggling with finding places to live. Rapidly escalating housing costs and low housing availability are a lethal combination for newcomers.

In spite of more new units being built than ever before, as household size continues to shrink, more units are needed to house the same population size. Ontario needs to build one million homes, and Vancouver 156,000, over the next decade to address the housing gap and accommodate families who are struggling with housing stability.

The combination of modest population growth, housing financialization and increased housing demand is rapidly driving prices up. These factors have led to housing becoming deeply unaffordable for many. Without affordable housing, newcomers will go elsewhere, our labour shortage will continue and Canada will struggle to sustain economic growth.

The myth of the Canadian dream

Over the past five years, we have conducted research on the long-term housing outcomes of Syrian government-assisted refugees who settled in Canada from 2015-16. We have met with these families regularly to assess their housing quality and progress towards achieving housing stability.

Throughout the course of our research, we have witnessed how frustrated many refugees are with being unable to achieve housing stability. Initially under-housed in small apartments, most refugee families aim to gain employment so they can eventually purchase larger homes to suit their families.

But no matter how quickly they improve their economic condition, housing quickly moves out of reach with the rising costs of fuel and on food.

With home prices **surging** and the rental market escalating, newcomer families find themselves locked into their current rental units, unable to buy a home or even rent a larger place. The only option left for them is to remain under-housed and disappointed at having been oversold on what Canada offers.

Better policies needed

Ultimately, ensuring Canada's economic growth will require policies that both increase housing supply and ensure affordability of this supply. If housing affordability stalls population growth, the labour shortage will become even more of a crisis than it already is.

All levels of government must take immediate action to improve housing supply and affordability, including by increasing the supply of affordable housing. Government intervention has to be better co-ordinated and should reduce the amount of administrative red tape faced by community-based organizations trying to lead affordable housing projects.

This includes, but should not be limited to, implementing the recent recommendations proposed by Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force that focuses on increasing housing density, for example.

To make the housing market responsive to newcomers' needs, this should include the development of larger housing units to **accommodate** families. This is especially relevant because the children of newcomers will eventually participate in the Canadian labour market.

Housing, immigration and the economy must work together. Currently, it seems like housing is not working for anyone except investors. Addressing the housing issue by adopting a human rights framework put us on an accelerated path to meet newcomer families' housing needs.

This article was originally published on Theconversation.com, and is available at

<https://theconversation.com/canada-needs-to-build-more-affordable-housing-for-newcomers-184420>

Used with a Creative Commons License (Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-ND 4.0))

Text C

Access to shelter and food are basic life necessities. Immigration has a positive impact on the rent and housing values for their communities, but immigrants themselves face barriers to accessing **adequate** housing. When immigrants enter a new area, rent and housing values in that area increase (Saiz, 2007). In metropolitan areas, immigrant inflow of 1% of the city's population is tied to increases in housing values of 1% (Saiz, 2007). Despite this benefit to the community at large, immigrants face barriers to achieving safe and affordable housing. They are less likely than native-born individuals to own a home and are more likely to live in overcrowded conditions (as measured by the number of people per room; Painter & Yu, 2010). Immigrant homeownership increases and overcrowding decreases the longer the immigrant lives in the United States. However, they still **lag** behind native-born citizens in home ownership and overcrowding even after living in the United States for 20 years (Painter & Yu, 2010).

Housing conditions are influenced by the immigrant's documentation status and English language abilities. Immigrants who spent some time without documentation are less likely than documented immigrants to own a home, even if they now have documentation (McConnell & Akresh, 2008). Documentation likely influences access to high-paying jobs and to home loans. Similarly, English **proficiency** increases the chances of an individual becoming a home-owner, because English proficiency increases the ability to access labor and credit markets (Painter & Yu, 2010).

Additionally, housing access is influenced by discriminatory practices. In the United States 42 cities and counties have passed anti-illegal immigration laws that **prohibit** landlords from allowing undocumented immigrants to use or rent their property (Oliveri, 2009).

Although the Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination on the **basis** of national origin (110. 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601-3619, 3631), it is easier for these landlords to discriminate against **prospective** tenants who appear foreign than to process the immigration status of every prospective **tenant** (Oliveri, 2009). Due to these discriminatory practices, immigrants' housing options becomes even more limited.

Immigrant households are at a **substantially** higher risk of food insecurity, or a lack of adequate food for everyone in the household, than native-born households (Chilton, 2009). Newly arrived immigrants face the greatest risk (Chilton, 2009), perhaps due to a lack of English skills or education. This lack of access to adequate food has significant consequences: household food insecurity significantly increases the risk of children in the household having only fair or poor health (Chilton, 2009). It can be difficult for immigrant families to access food-related resources. Among families that have trouble paying for food, those headed by immigrants are less likely than families headed by native-born individuals to receive food stamps (Reardon-Anderson, Capps, & Fix, 2002). Those who do receive food assistance through food shelves may find that the food offered is unfamiliar.

From: *Immigrant and Refugee Families*, 2nd Ed. [online] Available at <https://open.lib.umn.edu/immigrantfamilies/chapter/4-2-access-to-necessities>

University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing, used under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License

Task 2 (7 points)

Decide which text (A, B and C) each question refers to. Write the corresponding letter (A, B or C) next to the question. You can use each letter more than once.

Which text

1.	highlights concrete legislation designed to improve the situation?	
2.	recounts specific instances of malicious, conscious exploitation?	
3.	is primarily penned as an editorial?	
4.	doesn't frame the issue as one that should be of concern to the non-immigrant population?	
5.	is most vague in terms of the origin of the immigrants described within?	
6.	most clearly intends to influence the actions of policymakers?	
7.	is most likely an account of fictitious events?	

Task 3 (1 point)

Which sentence best summarizes the idea that can be inferred from the three texts? Circle the correct answer.

- A. Discriminatory government policies have led to a housing crisis among immigrants in North America.
- B. Lack of affordable homeownership has been a chronic conundrum for new arrivals in some western nations.
- C. Measures to provide shelter to newcomers in America has resulted in negative unintended consequences.

Task 4 (5 points)

For each of the following statements, decide if they are true (T), false (F) or not mentioned (NM) based on the information in the three texts. Write your choice in the box next to the statement.

A	Challenges in securing housing are linked to difficulties in accessing other essentials.	
B	Lithuanian immigrants have been more likely to face discrimination than other ethnicities.	
C	Canada's current course of action has been evaluated as sufficient by experts.	
D	Under the status quo, conditions have been more favorable for housing providers than for seekers.	
E	Grandmother Majauskiene assures the family that their predicament will resolve itself.	

Task 5 (4 points)

The extract below contains information from texts A, B and C. Complete it with the exact words or phrases (maximum 4 words) from the texts (A, B and C). Write the word or phrase in the gap. (Note: These words or phrases are not necessarily bolded and underlined. They could be any words or phrases from the texts).

For more than a century, recent immigrants to the American continent have encountered persistent roadblocks to achieving adequate housing opportunities. In the early 20th century, Upton Sinclair famously covered the plight of a Lithuanian family who bought a house that, prior to them, had been occupied by at least _____ before falling victim to predatory practices. More than 100 years later, new arrivals in America still face challenges when it comes to accessing accommodation and nourishment, which are considered _____. According to Chilton (2009), compared with _____, ones consisting of immigrants face elevated odds of not being able to put enough meals on the table. Canadian researchers have noted that immigrant families have become irked at how rapidly home ownership often _____ with prices of other essential items rising as well.

Bonus task: Match the words that are **bolded and underlined** in the three texts with the following definitions:\

<u>Word:</u>	
	Adj: the most insubstantial and easily damaged
	Adj: very serious or gloomy OR (especially of a place) unattractive or forbidding
	Adj: satisfactory or acceptable in quality or quantity
	Verb: caused (an event or situation, typically one that is undesirable) to happen suddenly
	Noun: a person who occupies land or property rented from a landlord
	Verb: using deception to deprive (someone) of money or possessions
	Verb: fail to keep up with another or others in movement or development
	Verb: formally forbid someone from doing something
	Verb: make certain that (something) will occur or be the case
	Adj: expected or expecting to be the specified thing in the future
	Verb: repeat aloud or tell from memory before an audience
	Noun: the underlying support or for an idea OR the justification for or reasoning behind something
	Adj: increasing suddenly and powerfully
	Verb: rise and fall irregularly in number or amount
	Noun: a high degree of skill; expertise
	Verb: made (something bad) worse; intensified the negative aspects of
	Verb: provide lodging or sufficient space for OR fit in with the wishes or needs of
	Adj: unable to understand; perplexed
	Adv: to a great or significant extent
	Adj: enough; adequate

Definitions via the Oxford English Dictionary

Answers:

Task 2:

1.	highlights concrete legislation designed to improve the situation?	C
2.	recounts specific instances of malicious, conscious exploitation?	A
3.	is primarily penned as an editorial?	B
4.	doesn't frame the issue as one that should be of concern to society at large?	A
5.	is most vague in terms of the origin of the immigrants described within?	C
6.	most clearly intends to influence the actions of policymakers?	B
7.	is most likely an account of fictitious events?	A

Task 3:

- A. Discriminatory government policies have led to a housing crisis among immigrants in North America.
- B. Lack of affordable homeownership has been a chronic conundrum for new arrivals in some western nations.**
- C. Measures to provide shelter to newcomers in America has resulted in negative unintended consequences.

Task 4:

A	Challenges in securing housing are linked to difficulties in accessing other essentials.	T
B	Lithuanian immigrants have been more likely to face discrimination than other ethnicities.	NM
C	Canada's current course of action has been evaluated as sufficient by experts.	F
D	Under the status quo, conditions have been more favorable for housing providers than for seekers.	T
E	Grandmother Majauszkiene assures the family that their predicament will resolve itself.	F

Task 5:

For more than a century, recent immigrants to the American continent have encountered persistent roadblocks to achieving adequate housing opportunities. In the early 20th century, Upton Sinclair famously covered the plight of a Lithuanian family who bought a house that, prior to them, had been occupied by at least **four families** before falling victim to predatory practices. More than 100 years later, new arrivals in America still face challenges when it comes to accessing accommodation and nourishment, which are considered **basic life necessities**. According to Chilton (2009), compared with **native-born households**, ones consisting of immigrants face elevated odds of not being able to put enough meals on the table. Canadian researchers have noted that immigrant families have become irked at how rapidly home ownership often **moves out of reach** with prices of other essential items rising as well.

Bonus Task:

Word:	
flimsiest	Adj: the most insubstantial and easily damaged
grim	Adj: very serious or gloomy OR (especially of a place) unattractive or forbidding
adequate	Adj: satisfactory or acceptable in quality or quantity
precipitated	Verb: caused (an event or situation, typically one that is undesirable) to happen suddenly
tenant	Noun: a person who occupies land or property rented from a landlord
swindling	Verb: using deception to deprive (someone) of money or possessions
lag	Verb: fail to keep up with another or others in movement or development
prohibit	Verb: formally forbid someone from doing something
ensure	Verb: make certain that (something) will occur or be the case
prospective	Adj: expected or expecting to be the specified thing in the future
recite	Verb: repeat aloud or tell from memory before an audience
basis	Noun: the underlying support or for an idea OR the justification for or reasoning behind something
surging	Adj: increasing suddenly and powerfully
fluctuate	Verb: rise and fall irregularly in number or amount
proficiency	Noun: a high degree of skill; expertise
compounded	Verb: made (something bad) worse; intensified the negative aspects of
accommodate	Verb: provide lodging or sufficient space for OR fit in with the wishes or needs of
puzzled	Adj: unable to understand; perplexed
substantially	Adv: to a great or significant extent
sufficient	Adj: enough; adequate