

1 級	Writing	既存の「意見論述」の出題に加え、「要約」問題を出題
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- **Instructions:** Read the article below and summarize it in your own words as far as possible in English.
- **Suggested length:** 90–110 words
- **Write your summary in the space provided on your answer sheet. Any writing outside the space will not be graded.**

Poyang Lake is China's biggest freshwater lake. Although people have fished it for generations, these days, a new resource is being removed—sand. Up to 10,000 tons of sand are dug up from the lake floor per hour, making this the world's largest sand mine. Much of the sand is shipped to Shanghai—a city whose population has risen by 7 million since 2007—where it is used in the construction of high-rises, roads, and other structures. Massive mining operations exist not only in China but also in other nations, including Australia and the United States. Globally, the largest importer of sand is Singapore, which has used the resource to increase its territorial landmass by 20 square miles.

The consequences of sand mining are a major concern. Removing sand from water bodies increases water sediment, blocking out sunlight; this interferes with underwater plants' production of oxygen, making survival for fish and other organisms difficult. In the case of Poyang Lake, sand removal has made the channels leading out of the lake much deeper and wider, doubling the amount of water flowing outward. Consequently, the lake's water level has dropped dramatically. This threatens the water supply to neighboring wetlands, which are home to numerous bird species and other wildlife.

Many countries are becoming increasingly aware of the damage caused by sand mining. Demand for the resource has taken a toll on Indonesia, Malaysia, and Cambodia, which have banned sand exports in efforts to preserve local ecosystems. However, increasing demand means that when mining stops in one area, other areas take on the burden of supply. China's Yangtze River, for example, was formerly a major sand-mining site, but by the late 1990s so much had been removed that bridges collapsed along with large sections of the riverbank. When sand mining was banned on the Yangtze in 2000, operations shifted to Poyang Lake.