**High Tier**

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Mr. Peinert’s Directions**: Read the selection and then answer the question below.

**PANAMA**

Wedged in between two oceans, Panama offers a variety of beaches, both on the mainland and on islands offshore. Both coasts feature incredibly beautiful beaches with crystal clear waters, white sand, coral reefs and coconut palm trees. From small coves to miles of open beaches, from sensual sandy beaches to rugged coasts, from popular beaches to deserted beaches, there is a beach vacation for anyone in Panama. With so many possibilities, in Panama the challenge is choosing which one to visit!

These days Panama gets lots of write-ups in travel magazines – not only leisure travelers but also retirees are flocking to this Central American country. New resorts are being built around the country and along the coasts to meet the increased demand for tourism in Panama. With the exception of the Chiriqui Highlands, each region in Panama includes a unique and pleasurable beach destination. Only an hour drive from Panama City, you can find 80 kilometers of Pacific Beaches stretching from Punta Chame to Farallon offering resort hotels, sport facilities and restaurants for your enjoyment. Sailing enthusiasts can have their fun too and sail around San Blas, or visit the flower-island of Taboga or the enchanting Pearl islands. Surfing, which is the most popular water sports in Panama, can be practiced in beaches such as Playa San Carlos, El Palmar, Rio Mar, Punta Barco, Playa Venao and Santa Catalina. Playa San Carlos is only 50 miles away from Panama City, and from that point on there is nothing but sand, sun, and waves. Swim, snorkel and dive, we recommend Contadora Island, the Caribbean cost along San Blas or the area of Bocas del Toro. If you don't want to drive too far from Panama City, you can visit Kobbe and a few other beaches on the other side of the canal.

**QUESTION:** You are to read the passage about the country above. You will then be asked to write an ECR encouraging people to visit the country referring to the above passage and based upon what you already know from class. Use the remained of this paper and the back to answer your question. The grade will be based off of the ECR writing rubric.