1. You are interning at a telecommunications company over the summer and they are expanding into a new neighborhood, so they need to lay down a bunch of cable. Every house in the neighborhood has to be connected to the cable, but cable is expensive to lay down, so they want to find the cheapest way to get everyone on the network. You are given a set of locations $V$ and the possible locations for cable to be put. Some paths are more expensive for cable than others, for example there might be a tree on the path from my house to my neighbor’s house so it will cost more to put a cable along that path.

You are assigned the task of making an algorithm that will find the cheapest cable layout for this neighborhood (and others in the future!). Some long forgotten instinct tells you that you should use a greedy algorithm for this problem.

Provide an efficient solution (ie not brute force) in pseudocode and prove that solution will produce the correct answer.

2. You have started a new business and want to get the word out. You see all those advertisements for billboard ad spaces whenever you drive to Des Moines, so that seems like a good idea. There are a set of possible billboards given by the variables $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$, each in the interval $[0, M]$ (specifying their position along the highway measured in miles from its western end). You downloaded revenue data that shows that if you place a billboard at location $x_i$, you will receive a revenue of $r_i > 0$. The Billboard Commission won’t let you place two ads on billboards with less than or equal to 5 miles of each other (because that would just be annoying for everyone). Since you are a brilliant computer scientist, you realize you can use dynamic programming to come up with an optimal billboard ad placement.

Provide an efficient solution in pseudocode using dynamic programming.

3. You are embracing the idea of self-gov and forming a supervising committee of student workers. Your goal is a group of $n$ students that completely cover all student workers. A student covers another student worker if their shifts overlap by any amount, with the goal being that each student’s experience can be observed by at least one person on the
committee. Only students not on the committee need to overlap with a committee student; students on the committee cover themselves. You want to find the smallest possible group for the committee that covers every student worker.

Provide an efficient solution in pseudocode. You do not need to prove it correct.