The Bottle Deposit

How one coastal city could act on a global issue

SS24.CWI.12b "Describe means of implementing a possible solution to a global issue, analyzing its benefits and costs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three actions needed to start or run the program. Circle one benefit and two costs or limits so you can weigh how the plan might work.

Can a Deposit Keep Bottles Out of the Sea?

1 On a crowded waterfront, a discarded drink bottle can wash from a street drain into the sea. Plastic pollution crosses borders as currents carry litter far from where it was dropped. One possible response is a deposit-return program for drink containers. At purchase, a shopper pays a small extra amount, called a deposit. The shopper gets that money back by returning the empty container. To start such a program, a coastal city would need a law naming covered containers, collection points that accept them, and a system to track payments and refunds.

2 The city could require large stores to take returns and place shared collection sites near smaller shops. A regional agency could pick up the containers and send them to sorting centers, where materials are sold for recycling. Store signs in several languages would explain refunds, and inspectors would check whether refunds are paid. Returning a container becomes more attractive when it has cash value, so fewer bottles may end up in waterways. Sorting also produces cleaner material than collecting bottles mixed with food waste. Yet the program would not stop pollution from wrappers or fishing gear.

3 Running the program has costs. Shops need space and staff time to handle returns, and the city must pay for collection, inspections, and tracking. If those costs raise drink prices, households with little money may feel the burden most. A city could use unclaimed deposits to help small shops buy equipment, though those funds could change from year to year. Public collection sites could give people who shop far from home a way to reclaim deposits. To judge the program, officials could compare container litter counts before and after it starts, while also checking costs and refund access.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Describe two steps needed to put the deposit-return program into action. How does one of them help people return containers?

2. How could the deposit change what shoppers do, and what environmental benefit might follow?

3. What benefit comes from sorting returned containers, and what cost do shops face when they accept returns?

4. How could public collection sites improve the program? What city expense would still need to be paid?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a global issue other than plastic pollution. In one paragraph, propose a solution, describe two specific steps to carry it out, explain one benefit and two costs or obstacles, and describe how you would reduce one cost or obstacle.

ANSWER KEY

The Bottle Deposit

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.12b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three actions needed to start or run the program. Circle one benefit and two costs or limits so you can weigh how the plan might work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe two steps needed to put the deposit-return program into action. How does one of them help people return containers?	**The city could name covered containers in a law and set up collection points. Collection points give shoppers places to return empties for refunds.**
2	How could the deposit change what shoppers do, and what environmental benefit might follow?	**The refund gives shoppers a reason to return containers, so fewer bottles may end up in waterways.**
3	What benefit comes from sorting returned containers, and what cost do shops face when they accept returns?	**Sorting produces cleaner material for recycling. Shops need space and staff time to handle returns.**
4	How could public collection sites improve the program? What city expense would still need to be paid?	**The sites could help people who shop far from home reclaim deposits. The city would still need to pay for collection.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Unsafe drinking water affects communities around the world. One possible solution is shared water treatment stations in villages without reliable safe water. Local health workers would first test water to select equipment suited to the contaminants. A village committee would then hire and train operators to treat water and check its safety regularly. Reliable treatment could reduce illness caused by contaminated water. Equipment and replacement supplies cost money, and residents may have to travel to a station. Grants could cover supplies for low-income villages, while placing several stations near homes could reduce travel.

Accept other passage-supported actions and costs in the short answers. For Part 3, look for a distinct global issue, a workable solution, two implementation steps, one plausible benefit, two costs or obstacles, and a response to one of them.