Beyond the Harvest

Trace how investments can raise output and improve daily life

SS24.E.10b "Explain how investments in education, equipment, factories, healthcare, new technology, and training promote economic growth and enhance living standards."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each investment in the passage, then number the steps that show how one investment could lead to higher output or better living standards.

What Happens to the Mangoes?

1. In a mango-growing district, farmers often sell fruit immediately after harvest because ripe mangoes spoil quickly. Buyers know this and may offer low prices. A cooperative could invest in refrigerated trucks and a packing factory. The trucks would keep fruit fresh on longer trips, while factory workers could cut and dry mangoes that would otherwise go to waste. More of each harvest could reach paying customers, raising the value produced per worker. The factory might hire local residents, and steadier earnings could help households afford better housing and food. Neither investment guarantees higher incomes if buyers cannot be found.

2. Equipment alone cannot make the plan work. Schools that strengthen reading, math, and science can prepare students to track costs, maintain machinery, and test food safety. Short training courses can teach current workers to operate dryers and follow sanitation rules. A new digital ordering system could connect the cooperative with distant stores and show which products customers want. Together, these investments can reduce breakdowns, waste, and missed sales. When workers produce more useful goods in the same amount of time, the district's output can grow, and businesses may be able to pay higher wages.

3. Healthcare is another productive investment, not just a benefit purchased after growth. A clinic that provides vaccinations and treats injuries can help workers miss fewer days, while healthier children are better able to attend school. Public health protections can also limit illness linked to unsafe food handling. Still, growth and living standards are not identical. If the factory's profits go only to outside owners, local families may see little improvement. Affordable care, fair access to training, and safe working conditions can help more residents share in rising income and gain better health alongside it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could refrigerated trucks and a packing factory raise the value produced per worker and improve local households' lives?

2. Why would the cooperative benefit from investing in both schooling and training, rather than equipment alone?

3. Trace how a digital ordering system could contribute to economic growth and higher wages.

4. How could healthcare increase output and improve living standards, and what might keep local families from sharing in the gains?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A city has unreliable buses and long commutes. In four or five sentences, propose one investment in people and one in equipment or technology; explain how each could raise economic output and improve living standards, and name one condition needed for broad benefits.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Harvest

GRADE 12 · SS24.E.10b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each investment in the passage, then number the steps that show how one investment could lead to higher output or better living standards. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could refrigerated trucks and a packing factory raise the value produced per worker and improve local households' lives?	**The trucks keep mangoes fresh, and the factory turns fruit that might spoil into products for sale. Selling more of the harvest raises value produced per worker; factory jobs and steadier earnings could help households afford better housing and food.**
2	Why would the cooperative benefit from investing in both schooling and training, rather than equipment alone?	**Schooling prepares people to track costs, maintain machinery, and test food safety. Training teaches current workers to operate dryers and follow sanitation rules, helping the equipment produce more goods with less waste.**
3	Trace how a digital ordering system could contribute to economic growth and higher wages.	**It could connect the cooperative with distant stores and reveal what customers want, reducing missed sales. Greater output could allow businesses to pay higher wages.**
4	How could healthcare increase output and improve living standards, and what might keep local families from sharing in the gains?	**Vaccinations and injury treatment can reduce missed workdays, while healthier children can attend school more regularly. Care also improves health directly. Families may see little benefit if profits go only to outside owners.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city could train mechanics to diagnose bus faults, reducing cancellations and helping workers arrive on time. Reliable arrivals would let businesses operate more consistently and protect workers' wages. It could also buy buses that need fewer repairs, increasing dependable trips and making travel less stressful. Better transport could help firms fill vacancies by putting more jobs within residents' reach. Affordable fares would allow lower-income riders to share in these gains.

Accept other passage-supported causal chains that connect an investment to output and living standards. For Part 3, accept plausible investments in people and in equipment or technology, with a clear growth mechanism, a daily-life benefit, and a condition for broad access.