# Who Gets the Catch?

Compare economic decisions after a coastal storm

**SS24.E.3b** "Research and share information illustrating how different economic systems answer the basic economic questions of what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each detail about what is produced, circle each detail about how it is produced, and number each detail about who receives it. Use your marks to compare the economic responses.

### Three Ways to Feed a Storm-Struck Town

1. After a storm damages a coastal town's docks, residents need food, but boats, fuel, and labor are scarce. Imagine the town using a mostly market-based system. Buyers' demand and expected sales lead independent boat owners to decide whether to catch fish or use their boats to haul supplies. Owners choose crews, gear, and fuel with an eye on costs and safety. Fishmongers sell the catch to customers willing and able to pay the posted price. If fish are scarce, prices may rise, encouraging more fishing but making meals harder to afford for low-income households. These are possible outcomes, not fixed rules for every market.

2. Now imagine a centrally planned response to the same shortage. A public agency estimates how many fish meals the town needs, then directs available boats to catch fish instead of hauling supplies. It assigns fuel and crews, and orders refrigerated trucks to carry the catch to distribution sites. The agency gives meals first to households displaced by the storm, regardless of their ability to pay. This approach can target urgent needs, but planners may misjudge demand or overlook local knowledge about which boats can sail safely. The questions remain the same: which goods, which methods, and which people receive them?

3. In a community relying mainly on customary practices, fishing families might follow established rules for sharing boats and deciding when to fish. Experienced crews use familiar gear and distribute part of the catch to households according to longstanding obligations, including support for elders. Such arrangements depend on the community's particular customs; no single sharing rule applies everywhere. Most actual economies combine approaches. In a mixed response to the storm, officials could buy fish for free meals, while independent owners choose crews and sell the rest at market prices. This divides decisions about production and distribution between public agencies and private participants.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In the market-based response, what influences owners' choice between catching fish and hauling supplies? Who receives the fish they sell?

2. In the centrally planned response, what does the agency direct boats to produce, how does it arrange production and delivery, and who receives meals first?

3. How do customary practices shape what fishing families do, how they fish, and who receives part of the catch?

4. In the mixed response, how do officials and independent owners each help decide how fish are produced and who receives them?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Using the passage as your source, write an 80 to 110 word briefing comparing how a market-based response and a centrally planned response could provide portable water filters after a flood. Explain what, how, and for whom in each response, and make clear that your filter details are predictions.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Who Gets the Catch?

**GRADE 12 · SS24.E.3b**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each detail about what is produced, circle each detail about how it is produced, and number each detail about who receives it. Use your marks to compare the economic responses. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | In the market-based response, what influences owners' choice between catching fish and hauling supplies? Who receives the fish they sell? | **Buyers' demand and expected sales influence owners' choice. Customers willing and able to pay the posted price receive the fish.** |
| 2 | In the centrally planned response, what does the agency direct boats to produce, how does it arrange production and delivery, and who receives meals first? | **The agency directs boats to catch fish for meals. It assigns fuel and crews and orders refrigerated trucks to distribution sites. Displaced households receive meals first.** |
| 3 | How do customary practices shape what fishing families do, how they fish, and who receives part of the catch? | **Established rules guide decisions about when to fish and how to share boats. Experienced crews use familiar gear, and longstanding obligations guide sharing with households, including elders.** |
| 4 | In the mixed response, how do officials and independent owners each help decide how fish are produced and who receives them? | **Officials buy fish for free meals. Independent owners choose crews and sell the remaining catch to customers at market prices.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

These are predictions based on the passage, not reported events. In a market-based response, sellers might stock portable water filters if they expect enough buyers. Firms could choose suppliers and shipping methods based on costs, then sell filters to customers able to pay; some flooded households might be priced out. In a centrally planned response, an agency could set a target number of filters, assign trucks and workers to deliver them, and give them first to households without safe drinking water. That priority could reach people with little money, although the agency might misjudge where filters are needed most.

Accept other passage-supported descriptions of each system's decisions. For Part 3, look for plausible predictions that address what, how, and for whom in both responses without presenting the filter scenario as a passage fact.