Market Matchup

Sort markets by what their many sellers offer.

SS24.E.5b "Distinguish among the levels of competition that exist in market and mixed economic systems, including pure competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PURE COMPETITION

Many sellers offer identical products. Because buyers see no difference between them, one seller has little power to charge a higher price.

Hundreds of producers trade indistinguishable bushels of rye.

MONOPOLISTIC COMPETITION

Many sellers offer products or services that differ in some way. Those differences give each seller some power to set its own price.

Dozens of bakeries sell cupcakes made with their own recipes and flavors.

1 SORT

8 items

For each market, circle IDENTICAL or VARIED, then choose one item from each category and write one sentence explaining how you knew.

1.	120 vendors sell identical, unbranded bags of white rice.	IDENTICAL VARIED
2.	90 dealers sell certified silver bars of identical weight and purity.	IDENTICAL VARIED
3.	45 hair salons compete with distinct cuts and service packages.	IDENTICAL VARIED
4.	30 burger stands compete with different menus, recipes, and themes.	IDENTICAL VARIED
5.	60 suppliers sell interchangeable loads of same-grade gravel with identical delivery terms.	IDENTICAL VARIED
6.	75 sneaker makers compete with distinct designs and brands.	IDENTICAL VARIED
7.	200 fishers sell frozen cod of the same grade, with no brand differences.	IDENTICAL VARIED
8.	110 wholesalers sell identical bolts of plain cotton cloth with the same shipping terms.	IDENTICAL VARIED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new market example for IDENTICAL and one for VARIED, with many sellers in each.

IDENTICAL _____

VARIED _____

CHALLENGE

In two sentences, explain why a market with only three large sellers offering different products fits neither category on this sheet, and name the competition type it best matches.

Market Matchup

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	120 vendors sell identical, unbranded bags of white rice.	**IDENTICAL**	Many sellers offer the same unbranded product.
2	90 dealers sell certified silver bars of identical weight and purity.	**IDENTICAL**	Many sellers offer bars specified as identical.
3	45 hair salons compete with distinct cuts and service packages.	**VARIED**	Many sellers offer different services.
4	30 burger stands compete with different menus, recipes, and themes.	**VARIED**	Many sellers differentiate their meals and dining experiences.
5	60 suppliers sell interchangeable loads of same-grade gravel with identical delivery terms.	**IDENTICAL**	Many sellers offer the same product and delivery terms.
6	75 sneaker makers compete with distinct designs and brands.	**VARIED**	Many sellers differentiate their products by design and brand.
7	200 fishers sell frozen cod of the same grade, with no brand differences.	**IDENTICAL**	Many sellers offer the same grade of unbranded product.
8	110 wholesalers sell identical bolts of plain cotton cloth with the same shipping terms.	**IDENTICAL**	Many sellers offer identical cloth and shipping terms.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **IDENTICAL**: Many sellers offer identical containers of distilled water with no brands or service differences.
- **VARIED**: Many pet groomers compete by offering different grooming styles and services.

Challenge: Three sellers are too few for either category on this sheet because both require many sellers. This market best matches an oligopoly, even though the products differ.

For Part 2, look for one explanation citing identical products and another citing differences in products or services. The challenge distinguishes oligopoly by its few sellers, not by whether its products differ.