Three Job Searches

Compare why workers are unemployed and what could change.

SS24.E.8b "Compare and contrast structural, cyclical, and frictional unemployment."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the cause of each worker's unemployment and circle clues about what could help that worker find a job. Number the three workers so you can compare their situations.

At the Employment Office

1. At the Harborview employment office, Maya explains that her furniture plant closed after buyers switched to cheaper imported cabinets. Some local manufacturers are hiring, but they use computer-controlled cutting machines that Maya has never operated. Her experience no longer matches the skills those employers want. Maya has structural unemployment, which results from a mismatch between workers and available jobs. A training program could help her qualify for an opening, but completing it would take time. Even if people began spending more, the manufacturers would still need workers who could use their equipment.

2. Across town, Leo loses his hotel job when a nationwide recession cuts business travel and household spending. The hotel has fewer guests, so it reduces staff even though Leo's skills still fit the work. Other hotels also report that vacancies are disappearing. Leo has cyclical unemployment, which occurs when a broad economic downturn reduces demand and employers need fewer workers. If spending recovers, the hotel may hire again, although no one knows when that will happen. Policies that increase overall spending could help businesses bring back workers, but Leo cannot create hotel guests simply by applying for more jobs.

3. Nina arrives at the office after leaving a bookkeeping job to move closer to her father. Firms in her new city are advertising bookkeeping positions, and her qualifications meet their requirements. She spends several weeks comparing openings and arranging interviews before accepting an offer. Nina has frictional unemployment, which occurs while people move between jobs or search for a suitable first job. It can exist even when the economy is growing and employers have openings. Her search may be brief, but no exact deadline is guaranteed. Available jobs do not mean that every qualified worker meets the right employer instantly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare why Maya and Leo cannot find work right now. Which worker would be helped more directly by a rise in overall spending, and why?

2. Leo and Nina both have skills that employers could use. How do their reasons for being unemployed differ?

3. Compare what stands between Maya and an available job with what stands between Nina and an available job.

4. Compare what would need to change for each of the three workers to find work. Why might none of them know exactly when that will happen?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent three workers in one town, with one example of each type of unemployment. In one paragraph, explain why each worker is unemployed, identify each type, and compare what would help them find work.

ANSWER KEY

Three Job Searches

GRADE 12 · SS24.E.8b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the cause of each worker's unemployment and circle clues about what could help that worker find a job. Number the three workers so you can compare their situations. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare why Maya and Leo cannot find work right now. Which worker would be helped more directly by a rise in overall spending, and why?	**Maya's skills do not match available jobs, while Leo's hotel needs fewer workers during a recession. Leo would be helped more directly because increased spending could bring back hotel guests and jobs.**
2	Leo and Nina both have skills that employers could use. How do their reasons for being unemployed differ?	**Leo's employer cut jobs because demand fell during a recession. Nina left a job and is taking time to find a suitable opening in a new city.**
3	Compare what stands between Maya and an available job with what stands between Nina and an available job.	**Maya needs skills for the equipment used in available jobs. Nina already has the required qualifications but needs time to connect with an employer.**
4	Compare what would need to change for each of the three workers to find work. Why might none of them know exactly when that will happen?	**Maya needs to gain skills that match an opening, Leo needs employers to hire as demand recovers, and Nina needs to find a suitable employer. Training, economic recovery, and a job search each take an uncertain amount of time.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In my town, Priya's print shop replaces its old presses with digital equipment. She has structural unemployment because she needs new technical skills to qualify for the available jobs. During a recession, fewer customers order home repairs, and a roofing company lays off Tomas. His unemployment is cyclical; more spending on repairs could bring back his job. Elena, a qualified nurse, leaves one clinic and interviews at several others. Her unemployment is frictional because she is between jobs. Training would help Priya, stronger demand would help Tomas, and time to find a suitable opening would help Elena.

Accept other comparisons that distinguish a skills mismatch, reduced demand during a broad downturn, and time spent searching between jobs. Part 3 examples should identify each type and connect it to a fitting route back to work.