Borders and Belonging

Weigh immigration's effects and trace changes in federal policy

SS24.US2.19b "Assess the economic and political effects of immigration on the United States and explain how immigration policies have evolved in the post-Cold War era."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two economic effects and circle two political effects in the passage. Number the policy changes dated 1990, 1996, and 2012 from earliest to latest so you can compare their purposes.

Immigration Changes a City

1 Imagine a city where a hospital recruits nurses from abroad while a nearby restaurant is opened by a newly arrived family. Since the Cold War ended, federal rules have shaped which newcomers can enter and remain in the United States. The Immigration Act of 1990 expanded employment-based visas and created the diversity visa program, opening additional legal paths. A 1996 immigration law increased border enforcement and made removal easier for some noncitizens. These changes did not simply increase or decrease immigration. They changed the mix of opportunities and risks facing migrants, employers, and communities.

2 When employers hire immigrants, they may fill hard-to-staff positions, expand production, and serve more patients or customers. Immigrants also start businesses, buy goods, and pay taxes. Some workers, especially those competing for similar jobs, may face greater wage pressure, although the size of any effect depends on local conditions. Growing populations may increase demand for schools, housing, and public services before tax revenue catches up. These costs and benefits differ by place and over time, so a claim that immigration always helps or always hurts the economy misses important trade-offs.

3 Immigration also changes political decisions. New residents can organize, speak at public meetings, and shape debates. Naturalized citizens can vote in federal elections, but noncitizens cannot. Population counts that include noncitizens affect the number of House seats states receive, even though they do not give noncitizens a federal vote. After the September 11 attacks, federal policy placed greater emphasis on screening and security. In 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, offered temporary protection from deportation and work authorization to eligible people brought to the country as children. It did not grant permanent legal status.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A resident says immigration always helps the local economy. Use one benefit and one possible cost from the passage to assess that claim.

2. How can noncitizens affect politics even though they cannot vote in federal elections? Give two ways from the passage.

3. How did the 1990 and 1996 laws take different approaches to immigration?

4. Compared with the 1996 law's approach, what different action did DACA take in 2012, and what was its limit?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A city council is considering job training and interpretation at public meetings as more immigrants settle locally. Write five sentences recommending one or both measures. Include an economic trade-off, a political effect, one dated federal policy change, and why a city program cannot replace federal rules.

ANSWER KEY

Borders and Belonging

GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.19b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two economic effects and circle two political effects in the passage. Number the policy changes dated 1990, 1996, and 2012 from earliest to latest so you can compare their purposes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A resident says immigration always helps the local economy. Use one benefit and one possible cost from the passage to assess that claim.	**Immigrants may fill hard-to-staff jobs, but growing populations may increase demand for public services before tax revenue catches up. The effects vary by place and time.**
2	How can noncitizens affect politics even though they cannot vote in federal elections? Give two ways from the passage.	**They can speak at public meetings and shape debates. They are also included in population counts that affect states' House seats.**
3	How did the 1990 and 1996 laws take different approaches to immigration?	**The 1990 law expanded employment-based visas and created diversity visas, adding legal paths. The 1996 law increased border enforcement and made removal easier for some noncitizens.**
4	Compared with the 1996 law's approach, what different action did DACA take in 2012, and what was its limit?	**While the 1996 law made removal easier for some noncitizens, DACA offered eligible people temporary protection from deportation and work authorization. It did not grant permanent legal status.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The council should fund job training and interpretation at public meetings. Training could help employers fill vacancies while helping workers who face wage pressure compete for jobs. Interpretation would help noncitizens share their views at meetings even though they cannot vote in federal elections. The 1996 law increased federal border enforcement and made removal easier for some noncitizens. Neither city program can change federal removal rules, but both can address local effects.

Accept other passage-supported economic and political effects. For the open task, look for a feasible local recommendation that distinguishes local action from federal authority.