

Reading and Living

Evaluate how literacy can shape everyday living conditions.

SS6E9.a "Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how literacy can improve living conditions, and circle two details that show why literacy alone does not determine a person's standard of living.

Literacy and Daily Life

- ① Literacy means being able to read and write. In Europe, people use literacy every day to understand medicine labels, compare prices, read work schedules, and follow news. A person with strong reading skills can read a job application and learn what an employer needs. Writing skills can help that person send messages, fill out forms, and keep records. These abilities do not guarantee a well-paid job, but they can make it easier to seek work and manage daily choices.
- ② Higher literacy rates can support a higher standard of living, which includes health, income, housing, safety, and access to needed services. When more adults can read instructions, they may use public transportation, banking information, and health advice more independently. Businesses can also train workers more easily when workers can read manuals and learn new skills. As workers gain skills, they may apply for jobs or access opportunities that offer steadier income. Families may then have more choices about food, housing, and education.
- ③ However, literacy is only one influence on living conditions. Many European countries have high literacy rates, yet families can still face unemployment, high housing costs, illness, or unequal access to services. A region with strong schools may improve literacy, but it also needs available jobs, fair pay, and reliable health care for people to live well. Therefore, a high literacy rate is useful evidence of possible advantages, not proof that every person has a high standard of living. To evaluate a place, compare literacy with several other conditions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can strong reading skills help a person seek work, according to the passage?

2 Name two daily tasks that literacy can help a person do. How can these skills support daily living?

3 Explain how literacy can lead to steadier income for some workers. Use the chain of ideas from paragraph 2.

4 A student says, "A high literacy rate proves that everyone in a place has a high standard of living." Is this claim supported by the passage? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about a European town that improves adult literacy classes. Explain one possible benefit for residents, then name one other condition the town needs for a higher standard of living and explain why literacy alone is not proof.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how literacy can improve living conditions, and circle two details that show why literacy alone does not determine a person's standard of living. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can strong reading skills help a person seek work, according to the passage?	A person can read a job application and learn what an employer needs.
2	Name two daily tasks that literacy can help a person do. How can these skills support daily living?	Answers may include reading medicine labels, comparing prices, reading work schedules, following news, using banking information, or reading health advice. These skills can help a person manage daily choices more independently.
3	Explain how literacy can lead to steadier income for some workers. Use the chain of ideas from paragraph 2.	Workers who can read manuals may learn new skills. As they gain skills, they may apply for jobs or access opportunities that offer steadier income.
4	A student says, "A high literacy rate proves that everyone in a place has a high standard of living." Is this claim supported by the passage? Explain.	No. High literacy is evidence of possible advantages, but unemployment, high housing costs, illness, unequal services, jobs, pay, and health care also affect living conditions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If a European town improves adult literacy classes, more residents may be able to read health advice and job information. This could help some families seek work and manage daily choices. However, the town also needs available jobs and affordable housing, so literacy alone would not prove a higher standard of living.

Accept answers that connect literacy to practical opportunities or daily independence while recognizing that literacy does not guarantee a high standard of living. For Part 3, accept reasonable benefits and another relevant condition, such as jobs, pay, housing, health care, or access to services.