Skills Build Output

Trace how education and training can affect GDP per capita.

SS7E3.b "Explain the relationship between investment in human capital (education and training) and gross domestic product (GDP per capita)."

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each investment in education or training, circle each effect on production or GDP per capita, and number one complete cause-and-effect chain from 1 to 3.

Human Capital and Economic Output

1 Human capital is the knowledge, skills, health, and habits that help people work productively. Education and job training are major investments in human capital. In African countries, students may learn literacy, mathematics, computer skills, farming methods, or trades such as electrical repair. Workers who gain useful skills can often complete tasks more accurately, use equipment safely, or create new services. These improvements can raise the value of goods and services produced in a country during a year.

2 Gross domestic product, or GDP, measures the market value of final goods and services produced within a country's borders. GDP per capita divides that total by the number of people, so it is a useful average for comparing economies of different sizes. When training helps many workers produce more valuable output, GDP can grow. If output grows faster than population, GDP per capita can rise. For example, training technicians to maintain irrigation pumps can reduce breakdowns and help farms produce more crops to sell.

3 However, education and training do not automatically raise GDP per capita. Graduates need jobs, tools, transportation, electricity, credit, and customers to use their skills. A country may also face drought, conflict, illness, or a fast-growing population, which can limit output per person. Investment in schools, apprenticeships, and worker training is still important because it builds workers' capacity over time. The relationship is strongest when skilled people can find productive work and businesses can turn their skills into goods and services.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can education or training help workers increase the value of a country's output? Give two ways from the passage.

2. What must happen for GDP per capita to rise when GDP grows?

3. Explain the cause-and-effect chain between training irrigation-pump technicians and GDP.

4. Why might education and training fail to raise GDP per capita right away? Name two conditions or challenges from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a training investment for a community in an African country. In 3 sentences, explain what workers learn, how their work could increase output, and one condition needed for GDP per capita to rise.

Skills Build Output

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each investment in education or training, circle each effect on production or GDP per capita, and number one complete cause-and-effect chain from 1 to 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can education or training help workers increase the value of a country's output? Give two ways from the passage.	**Workers may complete tasks more accurately, use equipment safely, create new services, or produce more valuable output.**
2	What must happen for GDP per capita to rise when GDP grows?	**Output, or GDP, must grow faster than the population.**
3	Explain the cause-and-effect chain between training irrigation-pump technicians and GDP.	**Training can help technicians maintain pumps, reduce breakdowns, and help farms produce more crops to sell. The added output can increase GDP.**
4	Why might education and training fail to raise GDP per capita right away? Name two conditions or challenges from the passage.	**Skilled graduates may lack jobs, tools, transportation, electricity, credit, or customers. Drought, conflict, illness, or fast population growth can also limit output per person.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A community in Senegal funds training for solar-panel technicians. Technicians learn to install and repair panels, helping shops keep lights on and sell more goods, which can increase total output. GDP per capita could rise if businesses have customers and output grows faster than Senegal's population.

Accept any accurate chain that connects education or training to more productive or valuable output and then to possible growth in GDP per capita. For the open response, require a specific skill, a realistic output effect, and a condition such as jobs, tools, customers, or output growing faster than population.