

Reading Opens Doors

Evaluate how literacy can shape living conditions in Southwest Asia.

SS7E6.a "Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three ways literacy can affect a person's standard of living. Circle two other conditions that the passage says also affect standard of living.

Literacy and Daily Life

- ① In Southwest Asia, literacy means being able to read and write well enough to use information in daily life. Literacy rates show the share of people in a place who have these skills. When more people can read, they can understand job notices, follow written directions, and compare prices. These abilities can help families make choices about work and money. Literacy alone does not guarantee a high standard of living, because wages, safety, health care, and the cost of housing also matter.
- ② In places where schools are hard to reach or interrupted by conflict, lower literacy can limit options. A worker who cannot read a training application may miss a chance to qualify for a skilled job. A shopper who cannot read a medicine label may have trouble using it safely. Parents with limited reading skills may find it harder to communicate with a school through written messages. These barriers can reduce income, health, or education, which are parts of standard of living.
- ③ However, literacy brings larger gains when communities also have useful jobs, dependable schools, libraries, health services, and fair access for girls and boys. A person who reads well still needs a nearby employer or a way to start a business. Governments and community groups can improve living conditions by supporting schooling and adult reading classes while also expanding safe transportation and employment. Therefore, a rising literacy rate is evidence of opportunity, but it should be evaluated alongside other measures of living conditions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What are two ways reading can help a person make choices about work or money?

2 Why does a high literacy rate not guarantee a high standard of living?

3 According to the passage, what problem could occur if a shopper cannot read a medicine label?

4 Name two supports that can help literacy lead to larger gains in living conditions.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine a Southwest Asian town begins offering evening reading classes for adults. Write exactly three sentences explaining one likely benefit, one other condition the town needs, and why literacy is not the only measure of standard of living.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three ways literacy can affect a person's standard of living. Circle two other conditions that the passage says also affect standard of living. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two ways reading can help a person make choices about work or money?	Reading can help a person understand job notices and compare prices. It can also help a person follow written directions.
2	Why does a high literacy rate not guarantee a high standard of living?	Other conditions also affect standard of living, including wages, safety, health care, housing costs, and access to jobs.
3	According to the passage, what problem could occur if a shopper cannot read a medicine label?	The shopper may have trouble using the medicine safely.
4	Name two supports that can help literacy lead to larger gains in living conditions.	Answers include useful jobs, dependable schools, libraries, health services, fair access for girls and boys, safe transportation, and employment.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Evening reading classes could help residents apply for training and use written information at work. The town also needs safe transportation and available jobs so people can attend class and use their skills. Literacy would improve opportunities, but health services and housing costs would still affect the town's standard of living.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that use evidence from the passage. The open response should contain exactly three sentences, identify a literacy-related benefit, name another needed condition, and explain that other factors affect standard of living.