Beyond Income

Compare quality of life through everyday experiences.

6-9.WG.3.3 "Compare the standard of living of various regions today using quality of life indicators and discuss their impact on everyday life locally, nationally, and globally."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline quality of life indicators in the passage, then number the three settings and circle one everyday effect described for each. Use your marks to compare how living conditions differ.

A Closer Look at Living Conditions

1. Standard of living cannot be judged by income alone. Imagine comparing a village in the Sahel, a region south of the Sahara, with a city in northern Europe and a coastal town in Southeast Asia. These settings do not represent every community around them. Useful quality of life indicators include access to safe drinking water, reliable electricity, health care, and school. These indicators help explain what people can do each day, not just how much money they earn.

2. In some rural Sahel communities, families may travel far to collect safe water, and a clinic may be hours away. That travel can take time from school or paid work. In many northern European cities, piped safe water, reliable electricity, and nearby clinics are common. This can leave more time for study, work, and rest. Yet city residents may face high housing costs, so access to services does not mean everyone lives comfortably. Looking at several indicators prevents a single measure from hiding these differences.

3. In some coastal towns in Southeast Asia, electricity and schools are available, but flooding can interrupt power or block roads to a clinic. Locally, a closed road changes how families reach care. Nationally, governments deciding where to improve roads or water systems need to compare communities, not just regions. Globally, buyers and aid groups may use these indicators when choosing where to invest or send supplies. A higher income in one place does not cancel the effects of unsafe water or a distant clinic in another.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare access to safe water and clinics in the Sahel communities and northern European cities described. How could those differences affect a person's day?

2. How does access to electricity differ between the northern European cities and coastal Southeast Asian towns described? Explain one possible everyday effect.

3. Why might a national government compare the Sahel communities with other communities before deciding where to improve water systems?

4. How might a global aid group use the different needs described in the Sahel communities and coastal Southeast Asian towns when sending supplies?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a recommendation to a national planning team. Choose one setting from the passage, propose one specific improvement, compare two quality of life indicators with a second setting, and explain one local and one national effect your plan could have.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond Income

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.3.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline quality of life indicators in the passage, then number the three settings and circle one everyday effect described for each. Use your marks to compare how living conditions differ. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare access to safe water and clinics in the Sahel communities and northern European cities described. How could those differences affect a person's day?	**Some rural Sahel families may travel far for safe water and health care, taking time from school or work. In many northern European cities, piped safe water and nearby clinics can leave more time for other activities.**
2	How does access to electricity differ between the northern European cities and coastal Southeast Asian towns described? Explain one possible everyday effect.	**Reliable electricity is common in the northern European cities described. Coastal Southeast Asian towns may have electricity, but flooding can interrupt it and disrupt daily activities.**
3	Why might a national government compare the Sahel communities with other communities before deciding where to improve water systems?	**Some rural Sahel families travel far for safe water. Comparing communities could help a government identify where a water system would reduce that travel.**
4	How might a global aid group use the different needs described in the Sahel communities and coastal Southeast Asian towns when sending supplies?	**It could consider supplies that improve safe-water access in Sahel communities and supplies that help coastal towns respond to flood-related interruptions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend improving roads to clinics in coastal Southeast Asian towns that flood. Unlike the northern European cities described, these towns may have roads to clinics blocked by flooding. Both settings have access to electricity, but flooding can also interrupt power in the coastal towns. Locally, a more reliable road could help families reach care. Nationally, the project could help the government reduce gaps in access to health care.

Accept comparisons that preserve the passage's qualifiers, such as 'some' and 'many.' For the open task, look for a specific plan, comparisons of two indicators, and distinct local and national effects.