Values at Work

How shared ideals shape a local decision

9-12.GOV.11 "Understand the shared values and aspirations of Americans including liberty, egalitarianism, individualism, and laissez-faire government."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a detail that shows each value in action, then write its number beside the detail: 1 liberty, 2 egalitarianism, 3 individualism, 4 laissez-faire government. Use the details you mark to explain how the values shape different views of the market.

Who Gets a Market Stall?

1. On Saturday mornings, a vacant lot in Riverton becomes a market for food, flowers, and repaired bicycles. Maya, a student who fixes bikes, wants to rent a stall and set her own prices. She argues that choosing her work and speaking at a council meeting about the permit rules are forms of liberty, the freedom to act and express ideas within the law. Her plan also reflects individualism: she trusts her own initiative to build a business rather than waiting for someone to assign her a job. The market gives those ideas a place to meet real rules.

2. At the meeting, residents ask who gets a chance to sell. The town currently gives first choice of stalls to businesses that have rented space for years. A new vendor says that rule shuts out people without established connections. She calls for applications judged by the same published standards, regardless of a seller's family name or income. Her argument reflects egalitarianism, the belief that people deserve equal standing and opportunity, not a promise that every seller will earn the same amount. Maya supports the change because she wants a fair chance to compete, even if another seller attracts more customers.

3. Another resident objects to a proposed fee for each sale. He says sellers should keep more of what they earn and decide how to spend it without extra government direction. His position echoes laissez-faire government, which favors limited government interference in economic activity. Yet several shoppers want the town to require safe food handling and clear prices. Council members must weigh these requests against the wish for fewer rules. They could remove the sales fee while keeping basic safety requirements. That choice would not settle every disagreement, but it would show how shared American aspirations can point toward different policies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Maya's plans show both liberty and individualism? Explain what is different about the two values.

2. Which market rule does the new vendor challenge, and how would her proposed change reflect egalitarianism?

3. Why does the resident oppose the fee for each sale? Connect his reason to laissez-faire government.

4. How could the council's possible decision address both the wish for fewer business rules and shoppers' concerns?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is deciding whether home-based tutors must buy a license before offering lessons. Write four sentences proposing a policy, explaining how two values from the passage relate to it, and identifying a tension between those values.

ANSWER KEY

Values at Work

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.GOV.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a detail that shows each value in action, then write its number beside the detail: 1 liberty, 2 egalitarianism, 3 individualism, 4 laissez-faire government. Use the details you mark to explain how the values shape different views of the market. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Maya's plans show both liberty and individualism? Explain what is different about the two values.	**Choosing her work and speaking about the rules show liberty, or freedom to act and express ideas. Building a business through her own initiative shows individualism.**
2	Which market rule does the new vendor challenge, and how would her proposed change reflect egalitarianism?	**She challenges giving longtime renters first choice of stalls. Judging all applications by the same published standards would give newcomers a fair chance.**
3	Why does the resident oppose the fee for each sale? Connect his reason to laissez-faire government.	**He wants sellers to keep more of their earnings and decide how to spend them without extra government direction, consistent with limited government interference in business.**
4	How could the council's possible decision address both the wish for fewer business rules and shoppers' concerns?	**The council could remove the sales fee to reduce interference while keeping basic food safety requirements to address shoppers' concerns.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would let home-based tutors offer lessons without a license but require them to share their rates in writing. Avoiding a license reflects laissez-faire government because it limits government control over a small business. Requiring written rates supports egalitarianism by giving every family the same basic information before choosing a tutor. These values can conflict because even a rule meant to give families equal information places a requirement on tutors.

Accept other passage-supported distinctions among the values. For Part 3, accept any workable policy that accurately connects two named values to the proposal and explains a tension between them.