The Moved Stop

Four social sciences, one neighborhood change

S.1.3 "Illustrate the relationship of sociology to the other social science disciplines, including history, economics, psychology, and political science."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle history, economics, psychology, and political science in the passage. For each one, underline a detail that could help a sociologist explain which groups can get to school on time.

When a Bus Stop Moves

1. Last fall, a city moved a bus stop from an apartment complex to a shopping street. Some students began arriving late, while others had a shorter ride. A sociologist would not stop at counting late students. Sociology asks how shared rules, institutions, and unequal access to resources shape patterns across groups. In this case, the sociologist might compare arrival times for students from different neighborhoods. History adds another layer: decades ago, city planners placed the apartment complex far from major roads. Records of that decision help explain why its residents have few nearby transit options today.

2. Economics examines choices about limited resources, including money and time. A transit economist might calculate how much the new stop saves the bus agency and how much extra travel costs families. A sociologist could use those findings to ask whether the savings for the agency shift burdens onto households in one neighborhood. Psychology examines thoughts, feelings, and behavior at the individual level. A psychologist might study how a longer walk affects a student's stress or decision to ride. A sociologist could then ask whether shared safety concerns lead many families to change their morning routines.

3. Political science investigates government decisions, public power, and the rules that officials make. Records of a city council hearing could show which residents spoke before the stop moved and whether officials discussed their requests. A sociologist could compare participation across neighborhoods to investigate whose voices carried weight. Each discipline brings a different kind of evidence, but their questions connect. The bus agency's budget, a student's stress, an older road plan, and a council vote can all influence the same pattern: which groups can get to school on time without extra strain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could a finding from history help a sociologist explain why students from the apartment complex may arrive late?

2. How would a sociologist use the economist's findings to study the effects of moving the stop?

3. A psychologist studies one student's stress after the stop moves. What related pattern could a sociologist investigate?

4. How could city council hearing records help a sociologist study inequality in the stop decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town plans to turn an empty lot into a public garden. In 4 to 5 sentences, pose a question a sociologist could ask about groups using the garden, then explain how evidence from two other disciplines in the passage could help answer it. Name both disciplines and give a specific kind of evidence from each.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle history, economics, psychology, and political science in the passage. For each one, underline a detail that could help a sociologist explain which groups can get to school on time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could a finding from history help a sociologist explain why students from the apartment complex may arrive late?	**Records show that planners placed the complex far from major roads. That past decision helps explain why its residents have few transit options now.**
2	How would a sociologist use the economist's findings to study the effects of moving the stop?	**The sociologist could examine whether the agency's savings come with extra travel costs for families in one neighborhood.**
3	A psychologist studies one student's stress after the stop moves. What related pattern could a sociologist investigate?	**The sociologist could investigate whether shared safety concerns lead many families to change their morning routines.**
4	How could city council hearing records help a sociologist study inequality in the stop decision?	**The sociologist could compare participation across neighborhoods and investigate whose requests influenced the decision.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A sociologist could ask which neighborhood groups use the garden and which groups feel excluded. Economics could provide information about the cost of tools and whether families can afford them. Political science could provide city council records showing who helped set the garden's rules. Together, that evidence could help explain differences in access among groups.

Accept other passage-supported links between each discipline's evidence and a sociological question about groups. For Part 3, the two named disciplines must each contribute a specific kind of evidence, not just a topic.