More Than Repairs

How one group serves its members and its community

S.6.4 "Explain the functions of groups both for individual group members and for society."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways the cafe helps a member, circle two ways it helps the town, and write 1 beside a group routine that supports both.

The Library Repair Cafe

1. On the first Saturday of each month, volunteers open a repair cafe in a public library meeting room. Neighbors bring torn jackets, loose chair legs, and lamps that no longer work. A volunteer pairs each visitor with someone who knows a useful skill. They talk through the problem instead of simply handing over a fixed item. For Maya, a new volunteer, the group offers a place to belong after moving to town. By watching an experienced sewer patch a sleeve, she gains confidence with tools and learns how to ask for help when a repair is unfamiliar.

2. For the town, the group does more than fix individual belongings. A repaired coat can stay in use rather than becoming trash, and a household may avoid paying for a replacement. Because the cafe meets in a library and charges nothing, residents can share tools and knowledge they might not have at home. The volunteers also post instructions for simple repairs, so neighbors who cannot attend can try them later. These benefits spread beyond the volunteers: fewer usable items may be thrown away, and practical help becomes available to people with different incomes.

3. The volunteers set a rule: they attempt only repairs they can do safely, and they explain when an item needs a professional. Each month, a coordinator schedules people with different skills and asks members to record which supplies ran out. These routines give volunteers clear roles and help new members learn from others. They also make the service more dependable for the neighborhood. Still, the group has limits. It cannot replace paid specialists, and Saturday hours may leave out people who work then. The volunteers discuss an evening session so more residents can take part.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does belonging to the repair cafe help Maya in two different ways?

2. Explain two ways the cafe benefits the town beyond the people who volunteer there.

3. How do the coordinator's routines help both volunteers and the neighborhood?

4. If the cafe adds an evening session, how might that change what the group offers its members and the wider town?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a group not described in the passage. In four or five sentences, explain one benefit for a member and one benefit for society, show how a group activity creates each benefit, and name one limit of the group.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways the cafe helps a member, circle two ways it helps the town, and write 1 beside a group routine that supports both. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does belonging to the repair cafe help Maya in two different ways?	**It gives Maya a place to belong after her move. She also gains confidence with tools and learns to ask for help by working with an experienced volunteer.**
2	Explain two ways the cafe benefits the town beyond the people who volunteer there.	**Repairs may keep usable items out of the trash. Free access to shared tools, knowledge, and posted instructions also makes repair help available to more residents.**
3	How do the coordinator's routines help both volunteers and the neighborhood?	**Scheduling people with different skills and tracking supplies give volunteers clear roles and chances to learn. Those routines also make the neighborhood service more dependable.**
4	If the cafe adds an evening session, how might that change what the group offers its members and the wider town?	**People who work on Saturdays might be able to volunteer, giving more members a chance to learn and contribute. More residents could also use the repair service.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school debate club can help a member become more confident speaking in public. Weekly practice gives members a place to test ideas and receive feedback. The club can also benefit the wider community by hosting forums about local issues. At these forums, residents can hear different arguments before making decisions. However, students who cannot stay after school may be unable to join.

Accept other passage-supported benefits and reasonable inferences about the evening session. For Part 3, look for a clear activity-to-benefit link at both the individual and societal levels, plus a plausible limit.