Care and Change

How social, economic, and political issues shaped the U.S. response to HIV

USH.7.1 "Explain the significance of social, economic, and political issues during the period 1980 to the present and how these issues affected individuals and organizations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one social, one economic, and one political issue in the passage. Circle an effect each issue had on a person or organization, then give each issue and its effect the same number.

The Fight for HIV Care

1 In 1981, U.S. health officials reported rare illnesses among people whose immune systems had been badly weakened. Scientists later identified HIV as the virus that can cause AIDS. As fear spread, some people with HIV lost jobs or housing, while others avoided testing because they expected rejection. When a person delayed testing, they also missed a chance to receive care and to protect others. Community groups responded with support hotlines and public education. Their work challenged the idea that people living with HIV should face the crisis alone, but volunteers could not end discrimination by themselves.

2 By the mid-1990s, combinations of medicines could keep many people with HIV healthier for much longer. Yet the price of treatment and the need for regular medical visits put care out of reach for some people, especially those without health insurance. Missing work for illness or appointments could also cut a family's income. Clinics and nonprofit groups faced growing demand for affordable care and help with transportation. For a patient, the medical breakthrough did not automatically mean access to treatment. For an organization, finding money for staff, medicine, and services became part of the fight against the epidemic.

3 Political choices helped shape who received help. In 1987, activists founded ACT UP and pressed officials to speed the approval of AIDS drugs and expand access to treatment. In 1990, Congress passed the Ryan White CARE Act, which sent federal funds to communities for HIV care and support. Those funds helped local organizations serve people who could not afford needed services. Today, effective treatment can allow many people with HIV to live long lives, but access to care still matters. The history shows that public pressure and government funding can change what help is available, even when medicine alone cannot solve a problem.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did fear of rejection affect some people with HIV, and how did community groups respond?

2. Why did improved medicines not guarantee treatment for everyone, and what problem did clinics face as a result?

3. How did a political decision in 1990 affect both local organizations and people seeking HIV care?

4. How could fear of rejection and the cost of care work together to keep a person from receiving treatment?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you lead a local HIV support group in 1997. In four or five sentences, propose a new service that addresses both fear of rejection and the cost of care. Explain how it could affect a person with HIV and your organization, using two details from the passage.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one social, one economic, and one political issue in the passage. Circle an effect each issue had on a person or organization, then give each issue and its effect the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did fear of rejection affect some people with HIV, and how did community groups respond?	**Some people avoided testing and missed a chance for care. Community groups offered support hotlines and public education.**
2	Why did improved medicines not guarantee treatment for everyone, and what problem did clinics face as a result?	**Treatment and regular visits cost money, especially for people without insurance. Clinics faced greater demand for affordable care and transportation help.**
3	How did a political decision in 1990 affect both local organizations and people seeking HIV care?	**The Ryan White CARE Act sent federal funds to communities, helping local organizations provide care and support to people who could not afford needed services.**
4	How could fear of rejection and the cost of care work together to keep a person from receiving treatment?	**Fear of rejection could lead a person to delay testing. Even after testing, the cost of medicine and visits could keep treatment out of reach.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1997, our group would offer confidential testing referrals and help patients find low-cost treatment. Privacy could encourage people who fear rejection to seek care instead of delaying testing. Because medicine and regular visits can be expensive, we would also arrange rides to clinics and help patients find financial support. Our organization would need volunteers and funding, but more patients could reach treatment that helps many people stay healthier.

Accept other plausible services if the response addresses both stigma and cost, uses two accurate passage details, and explains effects on a person and an organization. For the short answers, look for a clear link between each issue and its effects rather than exact wording.