

Choices Beyond Pay

Compare opportunities, resources, preferences, and ethics before deciding.

12.E1a "In making economic decisions in any role, individuals should consider the set of opportunities that they have, their resources (e.g., income and wealth), their preferences, and their ethics."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline opportunities. Circle resources and costs. Star preferences and ethical concerns.

Amira's Next-Year Choice

- ① In this fictional case, Amira considers a paid solar-installer apprenticeship, a full-time retail job, and a community-college energy certificate. She meets the entry requirements, but must check how to fund each choice. The apprenticeship pays less per hour than retail but provides training and contacts. The certificate could prepare her for preferred work, with tuition and travel costs. Comparing available opportunities means checking practical access, not simply choosing an attractive option on paper.
- ② Amira has \$1,200 in savings and no debt. She expects to contribute \$250 monthly for household groceries and pay \$90 for bus travel. The certificate costs \$1,800 after a grant, so savings alone cannot cover tuition, let alone regular expenses. Retail offers the highest weekly income; the apprenticeship combines income with instruction. Income is money received over time, while savings are accumulated resources. Borrowing could help fund study but would add repayment obligations. Amira must compare costs and resources beyond hourly pay.
- ③ Amira values clean-energy work, time to care for her brother, and manageable debt. In the scenario, the retailer has been cited for requiring employees to use equipment despite documented safety hazards; its manager promises improvements. She should investigate the evidence and response rather than assume the promise resolves the concern. She could ask the installer about hours, seek more grant aid, or delay study while saving. Her choice weighs opportunities, resources, preferences, and ethics; reasonable people may rank the tradeoffs differently.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

What are Amira's three real opportunities for the next year?

2

What two monthly expenses does Amira expect, and why cannot her savings alone pay for the certificate and regular expenses?

3

Identify one preference and one ethical concern that Amira should include in her decision.

4

Name two actions Amira could take to improve her information or expand her options before deciding.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

For a fictional student’s transport decision, compare three options in the table. Include costs, access limits, and a preference or ethical factor; mark a choice supported by the comparison.

OPTION I COULD ACCESS	RESOURCES OR COSTS	PREFERENCE OR ETHICAL FACTOR	MY DECISION

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline opportunities. Circle resources and costs. Star preferences and ethical concerns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are Amira's three real opportunities for the next year?	A paid solar-installer apprenticeship, a full-time retail job, and a community-college certificate in energy technology.
2	What two monthly expenses does Amira expect, and why cannot her savings alone pay for the certificate and regular expenses?	She expects to pay \$250 for household groceries and \$90 for bus travel each month. Her \$1,200 savings are less than the \$1,800 certificate cost, and she also has regular expenses.
3	Identify one preference and one ethical concern that Amira should include in her decision.	A preference is clean-energy work or time for family care. An ethical concern is requiring employees to use equipment with documented safety hazards.
4	Name two actions Amira could take to improve her information or expand her options before deciding.	She could ask the solar installer about hours, seek more grant aid, or delay the certificate while saving.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

OPTION I COULD ACCESS	RESOURCES OR COSTS	PREFERENCE OR ETHICAL FACTOR	MY DECISION
Bus pass	\$60 monthly within a \$100 budget	Lower emissions; 45-minute trip	Choose
Bicycle	Low cost; needs rain gear	Exercise, but unsafe dark roads	Reject
Ride-share	\$180 monthly exceeds budget	Faster, but unaffordable here	Reject

Accept varied hypothetical choices supported by resources, access, preferences, and ethical reasoning. A considered option may be rejected as infeasible. No disclosure of students' personal finances is needed.