Choices at Work

Read how choices shape a market economy.

4.C.4.1.A "Define a market economic system, explaining how the United States of America's market system encourages free enterprise, economic development, private property rights, and individual prosperity."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that defines a market economic system. Then write 1 beside an example of free enterprise, 2 beside an example of private property rights, 3 beside an example of economic development, and 4 beside an example of individual prosperity.

Nia's Bakery

1. In a market economic system, people and businesses make many choices about what to buy, sell, and make. Imagine that Nia opens a bakery in an American town. She chooses to sell bread because neighbors want it, and customers decide whether to buy from her or another baker. This freedom to start and run a business is called free enterprise. Prices and sales help Nia learn what customers want.

2. Nia owns her ovens and the bakery building. These are her private property, which she can use for her business or sell. Her right to own them is protected by law. When bread sells well, Nia buys a larger oven and hires a worker. The new equipment and job help the town make and sell more goods. This kind of growth is called economic development.

3. Nia earns money when her sales bring in more than the costs of flour, pay, and other needs. She can use that money to support her family or save for the future. Her worker also earns pay. Earning enough to meet needs and improve one's life is individual prosperity. A market system gives people chances to prosper, but a business can lose money, so success is not promised.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What makes Nia's town an example of a market economic system? Give two choices from the passage.

2. How does Nia's bakery show free enterprise?

3. How do Nia's private property rights help lead to economic development?

4. How might Nia and her worker gain individual prosperity? Why is it not certain?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you start a bicycle repair shop. Write four sentences showing how free enterprise, private property rights, economic development, and individual prosperity could work in your shop, including one choice customers make.

ANSWER KEY

Choices at Work

GRADE 4 · 4.C.4.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that defines a market economic system. Then write 1 beside an example of free enterprise, 2 beside an example of private property rights, 3 beside an example of economic development, and 4 beside an example of individual prosperity. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What makes Nia's town an example of a market economic system? Give two choices from the passage.	**Nia chooses to sell bread, and customers choose whether to buy from her or another baker.**
2	How does Nia's bakery show free enterprise?	**Nia is free to start and run a bakery, choosing what to sell.**
3	How do Nia's private property rights help lead to economic development?	**Nia owns and uses her bakery property. She buys a larger oven and hires a worker, helping the town make and sell more goods.**
4	How might Nia and her worker gain individual prosperity? Why is it not certain?	**Nia may earn money beyond her costs, and her worker earns pay. Nia could also lose money, so prosperity is not guaranteed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I choose to open a bicycle repair shop, and customers choose whether to bring me their bikes or use another shop. I own my repair tools and can use them in my shop. If many customers come, I can buy more tools and hire a worker, helping the town offer more services and jobs. If I earn more than I spend, I can save money for my family, though success is not guaranteed.

Accept other passage-supported examples for the markings and short answers. In Your Turn, look for four sentences that connect each idea to the new shop and include a customer choice.