Who Decides?

Read how three communities make economic choices.

6.C.6.2.A "Define the characteristics of traditional, market, and command economic systems."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline who makes the main economic choices in each paragraph, and circle a clue about what guides those choices.

Three Ways to Make Choices

1. At a coastal village, families have woven fishing nets for generations. Children learn knots from older relatives, and each family makes the kinds of nets its neighbors have long used. After a catch, fishers share some fish with households that helped repair boats. These choices follow customs passed down over time. An economy guided mainly by such customs is called a traditional economic system. Elders and families often guide what people make, how they work, and how goods are shared. Customs can change, but familiar ways matter most.

2. Across the bay, several people open small bakeries. Each owner decides which breads to bake and how many to sell. Shoppers choose where to spend their money. When many shoppers want rye bread, a baker may bake more of it or change its price. Other bakers may offer rye bread too. In a market economic system, buyers and sellers make many choices through buying and selling. Prices and competition help guide what is produced. Governments can still set rules, such as food safety rules, even when markets guide most choices.

3. Far inland, a government runs factories that make school notebooks. Officials decide how many notebooks each factory must produce and send supplies to each one. They also set a price and tell stores how many notebooks to offer. In a command economic system, a central authority, usually the government, makes the main decisions about production and distribution. Workers and shoppers may have fewer choices about what is made or sold. Officials might plan supplies for a whole region, but their plans may not match what people want in every town.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What makes the coastal village's economic system traditional? Name who guides decisions and what those decisions follow.

2. In the bakery example, who decides what to produce? What helps guide those decisions?

3. Who decides how many notebooks factories make and stores offer? Why is this a command system?

4. How do traditional and command systems differ in what guides their main economic decisions?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one useful item not named in the passage. In 3 to 5 sentences, describe how decisions about making and getting that item would differ in traditional, market, and command economic systems in an imaginary town.

ANSWER KEY

Who Decides?

GRADE 6 · 6.C.6.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline who makes the main economic choices in each paragraph, and circle a clue about what guides those choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What makes the coastal village's economic system traditional? Name who guides decisions and what those decisions follow.	**Elders and families guide decisions by following customs passed down over generations.**
2	In the bakery example, who decides what to produce? What helps guide those decisions?	**Bakery owners decide what to produce. Shoppers' choices, prices, and competition help guide them.**
3	Who decides how many notebooks factories make and stores offer? Why is this a command system?	**Government officials decide both amounts. It is a command system because a central authority makes the main production and distribution decisions.**
4	How do traditional and command systems differ in what guides their main economic decisions?	**In a traditional system, customs guide decisions. In a command system, a central authority makes the main decisions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My town needs umbrellas. In a traditional system, families make umbrellas using methods passed down by older relatives and share them according to local customs. In a market system, sellers decide how many umbrellas to offer based on what buyers want and the prices they will pay. In a command system, officials decide how many umbrellas factories make and where the umbrellas go.

Accept different examples if the student correctly shows customs guiding a traditional system, buyers and sellers making choices in a market system, and a central authority making the main decisions in a command system.