Bread and Choices

Compare how economic choices affect a town

6.C.6.2.C "Compare the outcomes of different economic systems for human prosperity, equality, and freedom."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one detail about prosperity, circle one detail about equality, and box one detail about economic freedom so you can compare the three approaches.

Three Ways to Fill the Bread Shelves

1. Imagine Harbor Town needs fresh bread each morning. In a market economy, people can open bakeries, set prices, and decide what to sell. Customers choose where to shop, so bakers may try new recipes or lower prices to win business. Successful shops can create jobs and raise incomes, a sign of prosperity. Yet families with little money may still struggle to afford bread, and workers at different shops may earn very different wages. Owners have economic freedom, but that freedom does not guarantee equal results.

2. Now imagine Harbor Town uses a command economy for bread. Government planners decide how much each bakery makes, what ingredients it receives, and what bread costs. They could direct loaves to every neighborhood, including places private shops might overlook. That plan might make access more equal. However, if planners misjudge how much bread people want, stores may run out or waste supplies. Bakers have less freedom to change recipes or open their own shops. Steady access is possible, but shortages can hurt prosperity.

3. A mixed economy gives bakers room to run businesses while the government also takes action. In Harbor Town, shops set most prices, but a public program buys bread for families who cannot afford it. Taxes pay for the program, so residents give up some income to support wider access. Bakers can still compete, though rules and taxes may limit some choices or raise costs. The program may reduce hardship without ending price competition. Its results depend on funding, fair rules, and how well shops meet demand.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could the market approach increase prosperity, and how could the command approach hurt it?

2. How might access to bread be more equal under the command approach than under the market approach?

3. Compare a baker's economic freedom under the market and command approaches. Give one example from each.

4. How does the mixed approach try to improve equality compared with the market approach while keeping more economic freedom than the command approach?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town needs bicycle repairs. In four sentences, compare how a market economy and a mixed economy could provide repairs, including possible effects on prosperity, equality, and economic freedom and one trade-off.

ANSWER KEY

Bread and Choices

GRADE 6 · 6.C.6.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one detail about prosperity, circle one detail about equality, and box one detail about economic freedom so you can compare the three approaches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could the market approach increase prosperity, and how could the command approach hurt it?	**Successful market bakeries could create jobs and raise incomes. In a command economy, mistakes in planning could cause shortages or waste.**
2	How might access to bread be more equal under the command approach than under the market approach?	**Planners could send bread to every neighborhood, including places private shops might overlook. In a market economy, families with little money might struggle to afford bread.**
3	Compare a baker's economic freedom under the market and command approaches. Give one example from each.	**In a market economy, bakers can open shops and choose what to sell. In a command economy, planners make those decisions, so bakers have less freedom.**
4	How does the mixed approach try to improve equality compared with the market approach while keeping more economic freedom than the command approach?	**A public program buys bread for families who cannot afford it, improving access. Bakers still run shops and set most prices, unlike bakers under the command approach.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a market economy, neighbors could start repair shops and choose prices, giving owners freedom and perhaps creating jobs. But families with little money might not afford a repair. In a mixed economy, private shops could stay open while a tax-funded program pays for repairs for families with low incomes, improving access. The program would cost taxpayers money, even as shops continued to compete.

Accept other supported comparisons that treat the outcomes as possibilities, not guarantees. For Part 3, look for four sentences that compare both approaches, address all three outcomes, and identify a trade-off.