Bikes Across Borders

Compare economic choices, trade, and change

8.P.2.4 "Identify the principles of economic systems and develop an understanding of the benefits of a market system in local, national, and global settings. Analyze, interpret, and compare economic data from multiple charts and graphs..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline who makes economic decisions in the market and command systems, then circle the table values that show changes in bike output and price.

A Bicycle Town Makes Choices

1. In the fictional town of Harborview, bicycle makers decide what to build after listening to customers. Shops set prices and compete for buyers. This is a market system: buyers and sellers, rather than a central office, guide many choices. Competition can encourage better bikes and lower prices, but a shop may close if it cannot attract customers.

2. Suppose Harborview's workshops begin buying gears from another country and using computer-guided cutters. The table shows possible results, not proof that either change caused them. Workers can make more bikes, while imported gears connect local shops to foreign suppliers. If shipping stops, production may slow. Customers may benefit from lower prices, but some workers need new skills.

HARBORVIEW: HYPOTHETICAL WORKSHOP DATA

Year	Bikes made per week	Workshop jobs	Price per bike
2024	100	10	$240
2025	160	12	$210

3. A command system works differently: a government directs production and prices. It can focus resources on a shared goal, yet planners may miss what shoppers want. Most countries have mixed systems, with markets plus government rules and services. Safety rules can protect riders, though following them costs shops money. Trade can raise choices while making places depend on one another.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do a market system and a command system differ in who directs production? Give one possible drawback of each.

2. Compare the two years in the table. How much did weekly bike output and the price per bike change?

3. Use the passage and table to explain one way technology or trade might help Harborview's customers. Why can't the table prove what caused the change?

4. Why is a system with both competing bike shops and government safety rules a mixed system? State one benefit and one cost of the rules.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a neighborhood bakery starts buying flour from another country and adds a faster oven. In four or five sentences, explain one possible benefit for customers, one risk for workers or supplies, and one government rule that could help; use a change in Harborview's table as an analogy, not a prediction.

ANSWER KEY

Bikes Across Borders

GRADE 8 · 8.P.2.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline who makes economic decisions in the market and command systems, then circle the table values that show changes in bike output and price. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do a market system and a command system differ in who directs production? Give one possible drawback of each.	**Buyers and sellers guide production in a market system, where a shop may close if it loses customers. A government directs production in a command system, where planners may miss what shoppers want.**
2	Compare the two years in the table. How much did weekly bike output and the price per bike change?	**Weekly output rose by 60 bikes, from 100 to 160. The price per bike fell by $30, from $240 to $210.**
3	Use the passage and table to explain one way technology or trade might help Harborview's customers. Why can't the table prove what caused the change?	**Computer-guided cutters might help shops make more bikes, which could help customers find bikes at lower prices. The table shows changes but does not isolate the effects of the cutters or imported gears.**
4	Why is a system with both competing bike shops and government safety rules a mixed system? State one benefit and one cost of the rules.	**It combines market choices with government rules. Safety rules can protect riders, but following them costs shops money.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A faster oven might let the bakery make more bread, much as Harborview's table shows more bikes made per week. Imported flour could give customers more choices, but a shipping delay might leave the bakery short of ingredients. Workers might need training to use the oven safely. A food safety rule could protect customers, although meeting it could cost the bakery money.

Accept other passage-supported benefits and drawbacks. For the open task, the table change must be used as an analogy, not as proof that the bakery will have the same result.