Who Owns the Strip?

Property rights and a new business

E.C.3.5 "Evaluate the role of the government within the economy as it relates to defining, establishing, and enforcing property rights."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that limit Maya's use of the lot, circle two details that establish or document ownership, and number two details that show how a court could enforce property rights.

A Lot for a Bicycle Shop

1. An empty corner lot near a train station looks like a good place for Maya's bicycle repair shop. She wants to buy it, build a small workshop, and hire two mechanics. But an old fence crosses the lot, and the neighboring bakery uses a paved strip behind it for deliveries. Before Maya pays for the land, she needs to know what she would own and what others may legally use. A deed identifies the parcel, while a property survey shows where its boundaries lie. Local law also says which kinds of structures owners may build there.

2. Maya checks the county's public land records. They show that the bakery has an easement, a legal right to cross the paved strip for deliveries even though someone else owns it. Maya and the seller sign a purchase agreement, then complete a deed transferring ownership. The government records the deed so future buyers and lenders can check who owns the lot and see the easement. Without reliable records, Maya might pay for land she cannot use as planned, and a bank might hesitate to lend her money to build the shop.

3. After Maya opens, the bakery's driver begins parking on the strip, blocking her repair entrance. The recorded easement permits crossing for deliveries, not parking. Maya first asks the bakery to stop. If they cannot settle the dispute, she can ask a court to interpret the easement and order the bakery to follow it. A court order can be enforced through legal procedures, rather than Maya trying to block the strip herself. These rules protect Maya's investment while preserving the bakery's limited access. They also place limits on what Maya can do with land she owns.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the deed, survey, and building rules affect Maya's decision to buy the lot? Explain one possible cost of unclear rights.

2. Why does recording the deed matter to Maya and a lender, even after Maya and the seller agree on a price?

3. Does owning the lot give Maya the right to keep the bakery off the paved strip? Use the land record to justify your answer.

4. Why might a court order serve both businesses better than Maya blocking the strip herself?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A designer plans to sell posters of original artwork. Another shop copies the artwork and sells cheaper posters without permission. In four sentences, evaluate how government rules defining ownership, a written license, and legal enforcement could affect both businesses and buyers.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · E.C.3.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that limit Maya's use of the lot, circle two details that establish or document ownership, and number two details that show how a court could enforce property rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the deed, survey, and building rules affect Maya's decision to buy the lot? Explain one possible cost of unclear rights.	**The deed and survey help Maya identify what land she would own, while local rules limit what she could build. Without clear rights, she might buy land she cannot use for her planned shop.**
2	Why does recording the deed matter to Maya and a lender, even after Maya and the seller agree on a price?	**The public record lets Maya and the lender check ownership and the bakery's easement. A lender may hesitate to finance the shop if those rights are unclear.**
3	Does owning the lot give Maya the right to keep the bakery off the paved strip? Use the land record to justify your answer.	**No. The recorded easement lets the bakery cross the strip for deliveries, though it does not permit parking there.**
4	Why might a court order serve both businesses better than Maya blocking the strip herself?	**A court can enforce the limit on parking while preserving the bakery's right to cross for deliveries. Blocking the strip would interfere with that right.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Copyright law gives the designer rights over copies of the original artwork, so the other shop cannot sell copied posters without permission. A written license could let the shop print posters under agreed terms, including payment to the designer. If the shop refuses to get permission, the designer could take legal action to stop unauthorized sales. Enforcement may protect the designer's income, although buyers might lose access to the cheaper copies.

Accept answers that distinguish ownership from permitted use and connect clear, enforceable rights to decisions about buying or investing. For the open task, accept other reasonable effects on buyers if the response accurately explains copyright, licensing, and enforcement.