Threats and Trade-Offs

Why threats grow and how responses affect society

MWH.C.7.7.B "Identify conditions that have given rise to international terrorism and the rising threat of weapons of mass destruction, evaluating responses by governments and societies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number two conditions that helped international terrorism grow, underline one reason weapons of mass destruction cause concern, and circle a response and a possible cost of that response.

Security Across Borders

1. In 2001, al-Qaeda hijackers attacked the United States, killing nearly 3,000 people. The group had trained in Afghanistan, where the Taliban government had given it shelter. Weak state control and cross-border networks let members plan across countries. Political grievances, including anger over U.S. military presence in the Middle East, helped al-Qaeda recruit, but they did not justify attacks on civilians. International travel and communication helped its members coordinate and made the danger harder for any one country to contain.

2. After the Cold War, governments also worried that terrorists might obtain weapons of mass destruction. Poorly guarded radioactive materials could be stolen, although building a nuclear bomb requires rare material and major technical skill. Chemical agents and dangerous biological agents could also cause widespread harm if released. Most terrorist attacks have used conventional weapons, not weapons of mass destruction. Still, the possible scale of an attack led countries to tighten controls on dangerous materials and share information about suspected trafficking.

3. Responses brought difficult trade-offs. After 2001, governments increased airport screening and exchanged intelligence to disrupt plots across borders. In 2004, the United Nations Security Council required countries to adopt laws that keep weapons of mass destruction and related materials from nonstate groups. Such measures can make acquisition harder, but broad surveillance can invade privacy, and profiling can unfairly target communities. Community groups can challenge extremist messages and build trust, yet trust suffers when security policies treat whole groups as suspects.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Identify two conditions that helped al-Qaeda operate internationally. How did each help?

2. Why did governments tighten controls on dangerous materials even though most terrorist attacks used conventional weapons?

3. How do airport screening and laws controlling dangerous materials address different risks?

4. Evaluate one benefit and one possible cost of expanded security measures described in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A port finds that shipments of dangerous chemicals are poorly tracked, while residents worry that new searches will single out their community. In three or four sentences, propose a response, explain how it reduces the risk, and weigh a possible cost to rights or trust.

ANSWER KEY

Threats and Trade-Offs

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.7.7.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number two conditions that helped international terrorism grow, underline one reason weapons of mass destruction cause concern, and circle a response and a possible cost of that response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two conditions that helped al-Qaeda operate internationally. How did each help?	**Taliban shelter provided a place to train. Cross-border networks helped members plan across countries.**
2	Why did governments tighten controls on dangerous materials even though most terrorist attacks used conventional weapons?	**Terrorists might obtain dangerous materials, and an attack using them could cause widespread harm.**
3	How do airport screening and laws controlling dangerous materials address different risks?	**Airport screening seeks to disrupt attacks involving travel; material-control laws make it harder for nonstate groups to obtain weapons of mass destruction.**
4	Evaluate one benefit and one possible cost of expanded security measures described in the passage.	**Intelligence sharing can help disrupt cross-border plots, but broad surveillance can invade privacy.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The port should require shipment records and inspect containers selected by consistent, published rules. Better records could reveal missing chemicals before they reach a violent group. Searches could still delay shipments and leave residents feeling watched. Independent review and public reports on inspection practices could help protect trust.

Accept other passage-supported conditions and trade-offs in Part 2. For Part 3, look for a specific response, a clear link to the risk, and a plausible cost to rights or trust.