Beyond the Casino

How Tribal enterprises affect Nations and Oklahoma

OKH.C.8.2.F "Examine the growth of Tribal enterprises, their effects on the state's economy and on the financial stability of American Indian Nations, including examples of state and Tribal cooperation (e.g., gaming compacts…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline effects on Oklahoma's economy, circle factors that affect a Nation's financial stability, and number the two kinds of government agreements. Use your marks to trace who benefits and what risks remain.

Business Across Boundaries

1 On a Friday night in Oklahoma, a tribally operated casino may employ cooks, security staff, and maintenance crews as well as dealers. Tribal enterprises also include hotels, farms, and construction firms. These businesses can buy supplies from nearby companies and pay wages that workers spend in surrounding towns. For a Nation, enterprise income can support government services such as housing assistance and language programs. But sales are not the same as profit: wages, supplies, and building costs must be paid first. A slow season or expensive expansion can shrink the money available for services.

2 Gaming shows how state and Tribal governments can cooperate while serving different interests. In Oklahoma, a gaming compact is an agreement between the state and a Tribal Nation that sets terms for certain casino games. Under Oklahoma's model compacts, Nations make payments to the state for the exclusive right to offer specified games; these are often called exclusivity fees. The state directs much of this money to public education. The Nation can operate its gaming enterprise under the compact and use net earnings for its own priorities. State revenue and Tribal financial stability are linked, but neither is guaranteed.

3 Another agreement addresses a different problem: safety where roads, businesses, and jurisdictions meet. Through cross-deputization agreements, Tribal and state or local law enforcement agencies can authorize qualified officers to exercise specified powers across jurisdictional lines. The agreement does not erase Tribal sovereignty or make every officer's authority unlimited. Clear rules can help officers respond to calls near a busy casino and reduce confusion over who may act. Safer, more predictable conditions may help workers, customers, and neighboring businesses. Yet an agreement alone cannot make a casino profitable; customer demand and costs still shape its finances.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can one Tribal enterprise benefit both a Nation and nearby Oklahoma communities? Trace a different path for each.

2. Why might a casino have strong sales but provide little money for a Nation's services?

3. How does a gaming compact create a potential financial benefit for both the state and a Tribal Nation?

4. How could a cross-deputization agreement support business activity near a casino without guaranteeing a profit?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a Tribal Nation is considering a casino expansion and a nearby hotel. In five or six sentences, recommend whether it should proceed, explain one likely effect on Oklahoma's economy, one possible gain and one financial risk for the Nation, and how a gaming compact or cross-deputization agreement could support the plan.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.8.2.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline effects on Oklahoma's economy, circle factors that affect a Nation's financial stability, and number the two kinds of government agreements. Use your marks to trace who benefits and what risks remain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can one Tribal enterprise benefit both a Nation and nearby Oklahoma communities? Trace a different path for each.	**A Nation can use net earnings to fund services. Nearby communities can benefit when the enterprise hires workers, buys local supplies, and workers spend their wages.**
2	Why might a casino have strong sales but provide little money for a Nation's services?	**The casino must pay wages, supplies, and building costs before sales become earnings available for services.**
3	How does a gaming compact create a potential financial benefit for both the state and a Tribal Nation?	**The state receives exclusivity fees, much of which it directs to public education. The Nation can offer specified games and use net earnings for its priorities.**
4	How could a cross-deputization agreement support business activity near a casino without guaranteeing a profit?	**It can clarify officers' powers across jurisdictions, helping them respond to calls and making conditions more predictable. Customer demand and costs still determine whether the casino earns a profit.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend a small expansion first, with a hotel only if expected earnings can cover its costs. Construction and hotel jobs could bring wages to workers who spend money in nearby Oklahoma towns. If the businesses earn a profit, the Nation could put more money toward housing assistance. If too few guests come, building and staffing costs could instead reduce the money available for services. A gaming compact would set the terms for the expanded casino's games and its payments to the state, giving both governments clear financial expectations.

Accept other defensible recommendations that distinguish sales from earnings and explain an agreement's relevant role. A gaming compact governs specified casino games, not the hotel.