Funding a Cool City

Trace how a public need becomes a funded policy

USG.C.7.1 "Explain how domestic policy is developed and implemented. Identify and explain powers that the Constitution of the United States of America grants to the President and Congress to develop and carry out domestic policy..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action Congress can take and one action the President can take to develop policy, circle two tax sources, and number the three steps in paragraph 2 that can turn a budget proposal into funding.

Who Pays to Keep the Library Open?

1. On a scorching July afternoon, a city library stays open late as a cooling center. City leaders pay for staff and electricity, but they ask Washington to help communities prepare for dangerous heat. The President can propose a national plan and recommend funding in a budget request. Congress can write laws, set spending through appropriations, and oversee how agencies use the money. The President can sign or veto a bill; if it becomes law, executive agencies carry out its programs. A federal grant might help the city expand library hours, while local officials decide how to run the center.

2. Money for that grant must pass through a budget process. Each year, the President sends Congress a budget proposal. Congress debates spending priorities and must pass appropriations bills, which the President signs or vetoes. If funding expires before new appropriations or a temporary funding law takes effect, some federal operations shut down; affected workers may be furloughed, and grant processing may slow. Keeping cooling centers open may compete with road repairs or school funding. Borrowing can cover a gap between federal spending and revenue, but rising national debt can raise interest costs, leaving less room in future budgets for other needs.

3. Governments collect different taxes to pay for services. Federal individual income taxes help fund national programs, and federal payroll taxes fund Social Security and Medicare. States often use sales and income taxes for services such as schools and highways. Cities and counties often use property taxes for libraries, schools, and fire protection. Changing federal taxes or spending is fiscal policy: for example, Congress might increase grant spending during a recession to support jobs, though it must weigh costs. Monetary policy is different. The Federal Reserve, not the President, sets a target range for a key interest rate to influence borrowing, inflation, and economic growth.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can Congress and the President each help create and carry out a federal grant program?

2. Trace grant funding from the President's budget proposal to a signed funding law. What could happen to grant processing if funding expires first?

3. What spending trade-off might a cooling center create, and how could rising national debt make future trade-offs harder?

4. Name one tax source for each level of government. Then explain how the passage's fiscal-policy example differs from its monetary-policy example.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town needs to repair flood-damaged roads. Write six sentences recommending a response that identifies one role each for Congress, the President, and a local or state government; traces funding and a possible shutdown delay; describes a tax source and a trade-off or debt risk; and contrasts a fiscal-policy choice with a Federal Reserve monetary-policy choice.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USG.C.7.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action Congress can take and one action the President can take to develop policy, circle two tax sources, and number the three steps in paragraph 2 that can turn a budget proposal into funding. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can Congress and the President each help create and carry out a federal grant program?	**Congress can write the law, appropriate funds, and oversee agencies. The President can propose funding and sign or veto the bill; executive agencies carry out an enacted program.**
2	Trace grant funding from the President's budget proposal to a signed funding law. What could happen to grant processing if funding expires first?	**The President sends a proposal, Congress passes appropriations, and the President signs the funding bill. If funding expires first, a partial shutdown could slow grant processing.**
3	What spending trade-off might a cooling center create, and how could rising national debt make future trade-offs harder?	**Funding cooling centers may leave less for roads or schools. Rising debt can raise interest costs, leaving less room for other needs in future budgets.**
4	Name one tax source for each level of government. Then explain how the passage's fiscal-policy example differs from its monetary-policy example.	**Federal: individual income tax; state: sales tax; local: property tax. Congress increasing grant spending is fiscal policy. The Federal Reserve changing its interest-rate target to influence the economy is monetary policy.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Congress could authorize flood-repair grants and appropriate money, while the President could propose funding, sign the bill, and direct agencies to administer the grants. The President's budget request would go to Congress for appropriations before the President could sign a funding bill. If appropriations lapse, a partial shutdown could delay grant processing. The town could use local property-tax revenue for repairs, but doing so might postpone library maintenance. Extra federal borrowing could increase future interest costs if taxes do not cover the spending. Grant spending is fiscal policy, while the independent Federal Reserve could adjust its interest-rate target to influence borrowing and inflation, not pay for roads.

Accept other accurately identified taxes and public services. In Part 3, look for distinct government roles, a workable funding sequence, a genuine trade-off, and a clear distinction between fiscal and monetary policy.