Decisions and Effects

Trace how Biden administration policies affected the United States and the wider world.

USH.C.9.4 "Examine the significant events during the Joseph R. Biden administration. Analyze the Biden administration's policies and the effects they had on the United States of America and the rest of the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two Biden administration actions, circle one effect in the United States, and write a 1 beside one effect beyond the United States to trace how decisions led to different outcomes.

Policies in a Time of Crisis

1. In 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed the American Rescue Plan as COVID-19 disrupted jobs and schools. It sent payments to many households, funded vaccine distribution, and temporarily expanded the child tax credit. Under a poverty measure that counts tax credits, child poverty fell in 2021. But the credit expansion expired, and child poverty rose in 2022. Meanwhile, prices climbed sharply as demand recovered and supply chains struggled. Economists disagree on how much the relief package added to inflation. The policy brought immediate help, but its temporary design and possible price effects made its longer-term impact harder to judge.

2. Biden also tried to reshape the economy beyond the pandemic. The 2021 infrastructure law funded repairs to roads and bridges and expansion of broadband internet. The 2022 CHIPS and Science Act offered incentives to build semiconductor factories in the United States, aiming to reduce reliance on overseas chip production. The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act offered tax credits for clean energy and electric vehicles, aiming to cut greenhouse gas emissions. These laws promised jobs and stronger supply chains, but projects take years to finish. Some U.S. electric vehicle tax credits also required North American assembly, drawing complaints from trading partners concerned about unfair competition.

3. Foreign crises tested Biden's decisions. In August 2021, U.S. forces completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan, ending a twenty-year war. As the Taliban took control, crowds rushed Kabul's airport, and an attack there killed 13 U.S. service members and many Afghans. The withdrawal ended U.S. combat there, but the Taliban later sharply restricted the rights of Afghan women and girls. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Biden worked with allies to impose sanctions on Russia and send military aid to Ukraine. That aid supported Ukraine's defense, but the war continued and disrupted energy and grain markets worldwide.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the American Rescue Plan help families, and what limited one of its effects?

2. How could an electric vehicle tax credit meant to support a U.S. goal also cause tension with trading partners?

3. What did the withdrawal from Afghanistan change for the United States, and what happened in Afghanistan afterward?

4. How did Biden respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and what problem continued despite that response?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two policies from the passage. In one paragraph, recommend which one to expand or revise, using two specific details from the passage to explain one likely effect in the United States and one possible effect abroad.

ANSWER KEY

Decisions and Effects

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.9.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two Biden administration actions, circle one effect in the United States, and write a 1 beside one effect beyond the United States to trace how decisions led to different outcomes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the American Rescue Plan help families, and what limited one of its effects?	**It provided payments and expanded the child tax credit, helping reduce child poverty in 2021. The credit expansion expired, and child poverty rose in 2022.**
2	How could an electric vehicle tax credit meant to support a U.S. goal also cause tension with trading partners?	**The credits encouraged electric vehicles and cleaner energy, but a North American assembly requirement drew complaints from trading partners concerned about unfair competition.**
3	What did the withdrawal from Afghanistan change for the United States, and what happened in Afghanistan afterward?	**It ended the twenty-year U.S. war there. The Taliban took control and later sharply restricted the rights of Afghan women and girls.**
4	How did Biden respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and what problem continued despite that response?	**He worked with allies to sanction Russia and send military aid to Ukraine. The war continued and disrupted energy and grain markets worldwide.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would revise the Inflation Reduction Act's electric vehicle credits rather than expand CHIPS Act factory incentives. The passage says the credits encourage cleaner vehicles, but the North American assembly rule upset trading partners. I would let qualifying vehicles assembled in allied countries receive a partial credit. More buyers in the United States might be able to use the credit, while factories here would still have an advantage with a full credit. Allied countries could face fewer barriers to selling cars here, although U.S. factory growth might be slower.

Accept other supported policy choices and plausible predicted effects. Students should distinguish an intended goal from an observed result or a possible future effect.