

Words Open Doors

Evaluate how literacy can shape daily life and standard of living.

SS7E9.a "Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show how reading and writing can affect health, work, money, or services. Circle the sentence that explains why literacy alone cannot guarantee a high standard of living.

Literacy and Daily Choices

- ① In many parts of Southern and Eastern Asia, literacy, the ability to read and write, shapes daily choices. A person who can read a medicine label, a bus schedule, or a work notice can use information more independently. Literacy also helps families understand school messages and compare prices. These skills do not automatically make someone wealthy. However, they can give people more ways to protect health, manage money, and take part in community decisions, all parts of standard of living.
- ② Consider two fictional communities in the region. In Riverbend, most adults can read, and a training center posts job openings and farming advice in print. Residents can apply for training, follow safety directions, and learn about market prices. In Hillview, many adults had little chance to attend school and struggle to read the same notices. Some residents must depend on others to explain information. This can limit job choices and make it harder to use services, even when those services are available.
- ③ Literacy rates describe the share of people in a group who can read and write. When a larger share of adults is literate, a community may have a stronger workforce and more people able to continue learning. Businesses may find workers who can keep records or use written instructions. Yet literacy is only one influence on standard of living. Safe water, health care, fair wages, transportation, and peaceful conditions also matter. A high literacy rate cannot by itself guarantee that every family has a high standard of living.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 According to the first paragraph, how can reading a medicine label or a work notice affect a person's standard of living?

- 2 Compare Riverbend and Hillview. How does literacy change the job choices of residents in the two communities?

- 3 Why might Hillview residents have trouble using services even when the services are available?

- 4 A community has a high literacy rate. Does the passage say that this fact alone guarantees a high standard of living? Explain using one other factor from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Fictional India case: adult reading classes help residents read job notices and safety instructions, but bus service is unreliable. In exactly three sentences, describe the literacy situation, explain two possible effects on living standards, and identify another condition the community needs.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show how reading and writing can affect health, work, money, or services. Circle the sentence that explains why literacy alone cannot guarantee a high standard of living. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	According to the first paragraph, how can reading a medicine label or a work notice affect a person's standard of living?	Reading a medicine label can help a person use medicine safely. Reading a work notice can help a person learn about work or training opportunities.
2	Compare Riverbend and Hillview. How does literacy change the job choices of residents in the two communities?	Riverbend residents can read job openings and apply for training, so they may have more job choices. Hillview residents struggle to read notices, which can limit their job choices.
3	Why might Hillview residents have trouble using services even when the services are available?	Many residents cannot easily read the information about the services and must depend on others to explain it.
4	A community has a high literacy rate. Does the passage say that this fact alone guarantees a high standard of living? Explain using one other factor from the passage.	No. Literacy is only one influence on standard of living. The community also needs factors such as safe water, health care, fair wages, transportation, or peaceful conditions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In this fictional Indian community, more adults learn to read job notices and safety instructions. They could apply for work more independently and follow instructions that help prevent injuries. Reliable transportation is also needed to reach jobs, so literacy alone does not guarantee better living standards.

Accept reasonable cause-and-effect explanations tied to health, work, money, education, or access to services. Students should recognize that literacy can improve standard of living but is not the only factor. Require the supplied fictional Indian case, two plausible effects and the transport condition; avoid claiming guaranteed benefits or treating the case as national data.