

Choices at Work

Read how free enterprise can benefit people and communities.

5.10.C "give examples of the benefits of the free enterprise system in the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three sentences that explain benefits of the free enterprise system, then number the benefits 1, 2, and 3.

A System of Choices

- ① In the United States, people can usually choose where to work, what to buy, and what businesses to start. This freedom is part of a free enterprise system. A family may open a bicycle repair shop if it sees a need in the neighborhood. The family decides its services and prices, while customers decide whether the shop earns their business.
- ② Because customers can compare choices, businesses often try to improve. Suppose two bakeries sell similar bread. To attract buyers, one bakery might offer fresher loaves, friendlier service, or a lower price. This competition can give customers better choices. It can also push owners to listen to what people want instead of assuming that every customer will buy the same product.
- ③ Free enterprise can also encourage new ideas. A game designer who creates a useful learning game may earn money if many people choose to buy it. The chance to earn a profit can motivate people to take risks, invent products, and improve services. When a business grows, it may hire workers or buy supplies from other businesses. These actions can create more opportunities in a community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the bicycle repair shop show a benefit of free enterprise?

2 What benefit can competition give customers? Use one detail from the bakery example.

3 According to the passage, what can the chance to earn a profit motivate people to do?

4 How can a growing business create opportunities in a community?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about a business not named in the passage. Explain how free enterprise could benefit customers or the community through choices, competition, new ideas, or jobs.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three sentences that explain benefits of the free enterprise system, then number the benefits 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the bicycle repair shop show a benefit of free enterprise?	It shows that people can start a business to meet a neighborhood need, and customers can choose whether to use it.
2	What benefit can competition give customers? Use one detail from the bakery example.	Competition can give customers better choices, such as fresher bread, friendlier service, or lower prices.
3	According to the passage, what can the chance to earn a profit motivate people to do?	It can motivate people to take risks, invent products, and improve services.
4	How can a growing business create opportunities in a community?	A growing business may hire workers or buy supplies from other businesses.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan starts a pet-sitting business because neighbors need help with their pets. Families can choose Jordan or another sitter, so Jordan works to offer reliable service. If the business earns a profit, Jordan may buy supplies and hire a helper.

Accept answers that accurately connect free enterprise to choices, competition, innovation, business ownership, or jobs. For the open response, accept any realistic business example that explains at least one benefit.