

Skills Power Progress

How choices, training, and technology can increase productivity

CE.11.b “explaining the importance of innovation and productivity, including the freedom to choose occupations, the role of technology, and the development of human capital; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase or sentence about each idea: innovation and productivity, technology, human capital, and freedom to choose occupations. Number your underlined evidence 1 through 4.

A Smarter Repair Shop

- ① Productivity means producing more goods or services with the same amount of resources, or producing the same amount with fewer resources. Innovation is a new idea, method, or product that can raise productivity. At Harbor Bike Repair, workers once wrote each repair on paper and searched shelves for parts. The owner introduced a digital system that tracks appointments and parts. Workers spend less time looking for information, so they can repair more bicycles during a shift without rushing customers.
- ② Technology can support innovation, but it does not automatically make a workplace productive. Harbor's new system works because employees learn to enter accurate information, use the schedule, and solve problems when a part is missing. This learning builds human capital, the knowledge and skills people gain through education, training, and experience. A mechanic who takes a course on electric-bike batteries can safely handle newer repairs. The worker's added skill helps the shop offer useful services and use time and materials well.
- ③ Freedom to choose occupations also matters. People can consider their interests, talents, pay, working conditions, and the training each job requires. At Harbor, one employee chooses to become a bicycle mechanic after enjoying a school engineering class. Another chooses customer service because she communicates clearly and likes organizing schedules. Their choices can lead them to training that strengthens different skills. When people are able to prepare for occupations that fit them, businesses can find workers with needed abilities, and communities can gain more goods and services.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem did the digital system solve at Harbor Bike Repair, and how did it increase productivity?

2 Why does technology not automatically make a workplace more productive?

3 What example of human capital appears in the passage? How does it help the repair shop?

4 Name two factors people can consider when choosing an occupation.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a three-sentence example about a worker in a different workplace. Include an occupation choice, an innovation or technology, and training or experience that helps the workplace become more productive.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase or sentence about each idea: innovation and productivity, technology, human capital, and freedom to choose occupations. Number your underlined evidence 1 through 4. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem did the digital system solve at Harbor Bike Repair, and how did it increase productivity?	It tracked appointments and parts, so workers spent less time searching for information and could repair more bicycles during a shift.
2	Why does technology not automatically make a workplace more productive?	Employees must learn to use the technology accurately and solve problems, such as dealing with a missing part.
3	What example of human capital appears in the passage? How does it help the repair shop?	A mechanic takes a course on electric-bike batteries. The added skill lets the mechanic safely handle newer repairs and helps the shop offer useful services.
4	Name two factors people can consider when choosing an occupation.	Accept any two: interests, talents, pay, working conditions, or required training.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school cafeteria worker chooses to train as a kitchen manager because she likes planning meals. She introduces tablet ordering, which helps the staff prepare the right number of lunches and waste less food. Training on the ordering program builds her human capital and helps the cafeteria serve students more efficiently.

Accept varied examples that clearly connect occupational choice, innovation or technology, human capital, and greater productivity. Productivity may be shown through more output, less time, less waste, or better use of resources.