Unit 5 Name:

Date:

5-1 What Are My Local Government Goods and Services and How Can I Make a Difference?

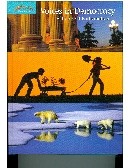


**Inquiry**

**Focus on this question:**

**1** What are my local government goods and services and how can I make a difference?

**Resources for Inquiry**

**Textbook**

Pages 102 to 105

You can also use the resources mentioned in the online course.

**Instructions**

Consider each of the local government services listed in the chart.

Think about why each is important.

Then next to each service, note the reason(s) why it is important to your community.

|  |
| --- |
| **My Local Government Services Chart** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Service** | **Why Is It Important In My Community?** |
| Fire and Ambulance |  |
| Public Transportation |  |
| Library |  |
| Streets and Roads |  |
| Garbage Collection |  |
| Seniors' Services |  |
| Parks and Recreation |  |
| Animal Control |  |
| **Goods** | **Why Is It Important In My Community?** |
| Water Treatment |  |
| Sewage Treatment |  |

Total: /10 marks

Section 2: What is a Budget?

Below is a sample budget for a fictional town of Anytown, Alberta.

|  |
| --- |
| Develop next year’s budget. You have $500,000 less than last year. Your budgets must be balanced. You cannot raise taxes to create more revenue for the city. |

Each of these special interest groups is lobbying (phoning, talking to you, writing letters to the local paper, commenting on social media) about the need for more money contributed to its issue(s).

* **Parents with School Age Children:** The arena is old they would like a new one in which their children can play hockey. (This is a capital cost).
* **Senior Citizens:** This group of citizens is usually very active in politics and has a high voter turnout. They are concerned about potholes on the roads, safety, low cost utilities, and beautiful communities. (These are operating costs).
* **City Employee such as Police Union:** They want to protect wages, and benefits of city employees. Budget cuts may result in the loss of jobs. (These are operating costs).
* **Shop Owners:** They want the government to invest in tourism and bring new business to the area so they can make more money. (These are operating costs).

Expenditures (means what the government spent)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | $12, 500,000 | 100% | $12,000,000 | 100% |
| Category | Current Budget | % of Budget  (Divide the number below by the number above 1,000,000/12,500,000 to get the percentage) | Next Year’s Budget | % of Budget |
| Protective Services (Police, Fire, EMS, Prisons) | 1, 500,000 | 12% |  |  |
| Justice System: (Courts) | 1,000,000 | 8% |  |  |
| Social Services | 1,500,000 | 12% |  |  |
| Public Services, Street Repair, Storm Sewer | 1, 500,000 | 12% |  |  |
| Other Services (Parks, Libraries, Cemetary, Arena, Pool) | 2,000,000 | 16% |  |  |
| Water, Sewage, Garbage, Recycle | 3,000,000 | 24% |  |  |
| Tourism, Economic Development | 1,000,000 | 8% |  |  |
| Administration, Building Costs | 1,000,000 | 8% |  |  |

(/9 marks)

When building next year’s budget, where did you cut spending? Why? Which group’s concerns did you consider most valid or address in your budget? Why? (/4 marks)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Describe a situation in which a government might approve a budget deficit. (/1 mark)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

What might a government do with a budget surplus? (/1 mark)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Total: /15 marks

Section 3: How Can I Make a Difference?

**Instructions**

Complete the chart below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Problem | What can citizens do? | What can citizens and local government do together? |
| You and your friends want jobs for the summer. |  |  |
| Your neighbour has a messy and noisy yard. |  |  |
| You are concerned about potholes on your street that affect bike riding. |  |  |
| Parks and recreation such as arenas, swimming pools, or playgrounds in your neighborhood are lacking and you would like to see more of them. |  |  |
| There have been more crimes such as graffiti committed in your neighborhood recently. |  |  |

Total: /10 marks

Overall Total: /35 marks

**Submit your worksheet to your teacher.**

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**Save Your File**

Name your file in this format: jsmithss6\_5-1-services and save your file to your Documents folder.