



Adult

Societal and Governmental Priorities

Part 1

A. Think about your community. Check (✓) the types of people that live there and the type of area it is. Then compare with a partner.



Types of people

- young professional couples without children
- retired people
- college students
- families with children

Type of area

- rural
- suburban
- urban

A: I live in a suburban community. There are mostly families with children, but there are also some retired people here.

B: I live in an urban area. There are a lot of young professional couples and some college students.

B. Read the advertisements for accommodations in four different communities. What do you think the priorities are for the people who live in each community? In pairs, complete the sentences.

Knight Mill Apartments

Knight Mill apartments are close to all the facilities you would like in the capital city. The luxury apartments feature balconies, underfloor heating, and super-fast wi-fi. The apartments are perfect for young professional people.

1. We think the priorities for people who live there are to be close to work and facilities such as restaurants and gyms.

Oak Gates Retirement Community

Oak Gates is just a few kilometers from the downtown area. It welcomes senior couples and singles over the age of 65. Accommodation includes one and two-bedroom apartments with balconies.

2. We think the priorities for people who live there are _____

Bramhall Village

Bramhall Village is a growing area of green spaces and new two- and three-bedroom homes. It's just 25 minutes by train from downtown and is suitable for young families.

3. We think the priorities for people who live there are _____

Seal Cove Community

Seal Cove Community is just minutes from Seal Cove Beach. During the summer season, about 200,000 visitors come to Seal Cove to stay in the hotels, beach apartments, and campsites. Seal Cove is a great place to go swimming, go boating, or walk your dog.

4. We think the priorities for people who live there are _____



Part 2

A. Read the text about how governments and communities prioritize different needs. Write the underlined words or phrases to the definitions.

Prioritizing Community Needs

When issues develop over time within a community, governments should be able to decide which ones to prioritize. This is vital, especially when the issue may affect different groups within a community. A problem with a particular health service, for example, could impact children's education or worker's employment rights.

The best way to identify an issue and provide suitable solutions should include experts on the subject, the people the issue affects, and the people in the community.

The first step in prioritizing is to decide who the problem affects the most. They are often people who don't have much power or support. They may include:

- people with low incomes
• students or young people
• people with health problems
• people living in poor accommodations

Once governments identify the groups of people that the issue affects, they can question whether to prioritize it. Depending on the issue, these questions may be:

- Does the issue cause a lot of harm?
• How many people does it affect?
• How much will it cost to solve?
• What resources do we need to solve the issue?
• Will solving the issue be a benefit to the community? If so, how?
• How important does the community think the issue is?

Deciding what issues to prioritize at the beginning—and getting the support of the local community—is essential. In this way, governments can be sure they are doing the best to make positive changes.

- 1. people who know a lot about a subject
2. recognize; understand
3. affect; make better or worse
4. problems
5. an advantage; a good point
6. very important; necessary
7. the things people use to do something

B. Imagine that you work in the local government. Read what some residents say about problems in their community. Rank them in order of priority from 1 (most important) to 8 (least important).

- "The school lunches in elementary schools are poor quality."
"There are no bus services to my village on the weekend."
"There are no stoplights at the crosswalk outside the retirement home."
"There aren't enough low-cost accommodations for young families."
"There's too much litter in the local park."
"The tennis courts need new nets."
"The local public library has very old computers."
"There should be more streetlights downtown."

Complex block containing flags and descriptions for 'elementary school on the weekend crosswalk downtown' and 'primary school at the weekend pedestrian crossing in the city centre'.

C. In pairs, compare your answers from Activity B.



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Part 3

A. In pairs, discuss the issues that affect your community, city, or town. Write them in the chart.

	Issue
housing	
health	
education	
schools	
safety	
jobs	
transportation	
other	

B. In pairs, choose three issues from the chart that you would prioritize. Give and discuss reasons for your choices.

C. Share your ideas as a class.



Extension

A. In pairs, choose one issue from Part 3. Brainstorm and list any solutions to the issue that you can think of.

Issue: _____

Solutions:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

B. Present the issue and solutions to the class.