

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living.**

Literacy is the ability to read and write. It means you can use language to read, write, listen, and follow directions. The literacy rate is the percentage of a population's adults that can read and write. Australia has a very high literacy rate. About 99 percent of adult Australians are considered literate, according to census surveys.

Having a high literacy rate is important to the success of the people in a country. When parents are illiterate (not able to read or write), their children are likely to be unable to read or write. When adults cannot read or write, they often must take lower-paying jobs. That means they earn less money.

Countries with high literacy rates are generally wealthier. These countries compete better in the world economy. People who read often get better jobs, earn more, and can afford to buy more and better things. They can afford better housing and food for their families. They can afford better clothing and health care.

The standard of living measures how well of people in a country are. When thinking about the standard of living, think about what it costs a family to live. Housing, food, health care, educational opportunities, and income can all be a part of the standard of living.

In Australia, the literacy rate and the standard of living are both high. In fact, Australians enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. There is poverty, however. The worst conditions are among the Aborigines. The life expectancy of Aborigines is much lower than for other Australians. Life expectancy is the average number of years a person in a country may be expected to live. Aborigines also tend to earn less income. They often do not have good health care.

**\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which is an effect of a low literacy rate?**

- A. The population is generally wealthier.
- B. The population can expect to live longer.
- C. The population has a lower standard of living.
- D. The population competes better in the world economy.

**\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which is TRUE of the literacy rate in Australian?**

- A. About one-third of Australians are literate.
- B. Nearly two-thirds of Australians are illiterate.
- C. Nearly all adult Australians can read and write.
- D. Only about half of the population can read and write.

**\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which is TRUE about Australia's standard of living?**

- A. There is no poverty in Australia.
- B. It is not very high compared to other countries.
- C. Australia has one of the highest standards of living in the world.
- D. Few Australians can afford good food, shelter, education, and health care.