

G.7

Answer Key

The Mayor of Mercer

Chris Portman always had jobs in high school: newspaper rounds, washing cars, and giving private lessons. But last year, the Pennsylvania teenager decided to try something a bit different. He competed with his hometown friends for the position of **mayor** and won.

Nineteen-year-old Chris is in his first year at college and has to work as hard as any other student, but when the homework is finished he also has the challenges of being a mayor. This includes council meetings, money-raising activities, and personal appearances in public. Chris, who is one of the youngest mayors in the country, enjoys **being in the spotlight**. Chris' father also has two important jobs in Mercer. He is the **clerk** and the treasurer. When Chris **announced** his plans to run for mayor, his friends thought he was joking. He began studying politics, taking speech classes and getting to know local leaders. Inhabitants of his hometown, Mercer, a quiet community with a population of about 2,000, began to show support.

Chris gets \$1,850 for being mayor and his responsibilities include organizing the local police force and making decisions on how to improve the town. He also wants to re-start the Mercer Foundation to raise money to help the community.

After finishing school Chris wants to be a political analyst. After that he would love to become president of the United States. He believes America's communities need to come together and new ideas from younger generations can help build a new team spirit of cooperation.

I. Give the meaning of the words and expression in bold in the text.(4pts)

- 1- mayor: The head of a town
- 2- “To be in the spotlight”: to be famous or the center of attention
- 3- clerk: a personal who controls the town’s records
- 4- announced: said

II. Match the definitions below with a word from the text. (4pts)

1. To try to be more successful than somebody else: to compete with
2. A person who controls the town’s finances: treasurer
3. People who live in a particular place: inhabitants
4. To make better: to improve

III. Are the following sentences true or false? Justify your answers. (4pts)

1. Chris never worked when he was at high school.
False: “Chris Portman always had jobs in high school: newspaper rounds, washing cars, and giving private lessons.”
2. Chris’ friends didn’t think he was serious when he announced his plans to be mayor.
True: “When Chris announced his plans to run for mayor, his friends thought he was joking.”
3. The TV and newspapers are interested in Chris.
True: “Chris, who is one of the youngest mayors in the country, enjoys being in the spotlight.”
4. Chris thinks young people aren’t very important for politics.

True: “He believes America's communities need to come together and new ideas from younger generations can help build a new team spirit of cooperation.”

IV. Answer the following questions in a complete sentence. (11 pts)

1. What does the job of a mayor include? (2.5pts)

The job of a mayor includes council meetings, money-raising activities, and personal appearances in public.

2. Explain the following expression in your own words: “The mayor has to do personal appearances in public.” (2.5pts)

The following expression means that the mayor has to go in public and talk about his different plans.

3. How did the inhabitants of Mercer react towards Chris’ plan to run for mayor?(2pts)

The inhabitants of Mercer were very supportive: “A quiet community with a population of about 2,000, began to show support.”

4. “After finishing school Chris wants to be a political analyst.” In your own words, write about what you want to be when you finish school. (4pts)

V. Complete the sentences with some of the words from the box. (4pts)

cottage	field	gate	cox	spectator
incredible	pedestrian crossing	stream	footpath	referee

1. Helen always uses the pedestrian crossing when she walks her children to school. She believes that this way is safer.
2. Last summer, we spent our vacation in a cottage, at a lake.
3. In the first half of the match, the referee was a bit tough on the players.
4. My friend has an incredible musical talent.
5. The farmer closed the gate behind him so that the cows will not follow him out to the field.
6. The front boat stopped and the cox of the second boat did not notice until they were very close.
7. Jack entertained the spectators while Mrs. Gregory pointed out how well balanced he was for his age.

V. Fill in the blanks with the adequate irregular verbs. (3pts)

	Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle	Definition / Synonym/ Opposite
1	To begin	began	begun	: to start
2	To cost	cost	cost	: to have a price
3	To do	did	done	: to make
4	To hide	hid	hidden	≠ to show