

# UNIT 9: THE NATURAL WORLD

## AGRICULTURE

Cue Card: Describe why agriculture is important in your country.

You should say:

- What role it plays in people's lives
- How it contributes to the economy
- What challenges it faces
- And explain why it is important for the future

 Band 9 Sample (around 2 minutes)

|              |              |                  |                     |                  |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| access to    | crop yields  | economic growth  | form the basis      | indispensable    |
| in search of | most crucial | rely entirely on | substantial revenue | weather patterns |

I would say agriculture is one of the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ sectors in my country because it directly affects people's lives in many ways. **First and foremost**, it guarantees food security. **Thanks to** farming and livestock production, people have (2) \_\_\_\_\_ staple foods like rice, vegetables, and meat, which (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of our daily diet. **Without agriculture**, we would have to depend heavily on imported goods, which might not be affordable or sustainable in the long run.

**In terms of the economy**, agriculture provides employment for millions of people, particularly in rural areas. Many families (4) \_\_\_\_\_ farming for their income, and agricultural exports such as coffee, rice, or seafood **generate** (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for the nation. This makes the sector a backbone of the economy, even though industrialization has been expanding rapidly.

**However, agriculture is facing some challenges.** Climate change, for example, causes unpredictable (6) \_\_\_\_\_, floods, and droughts, which seriously **affect** (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Additionally, younger generations often move to cities (8) \_\_\_\_\_ better opportunities, leaving behind an ageing rural workforce.

**Despite these issues**, I think agriculture will always remain important for our future. Not only does it provide food and jobs, but if we adopt more sustainable farming practices, it can also help protect the environment and ensure long-term (9) \_\_\_\_\_. That's why I believe agriculture is truly (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for the development of our country.

1. Do you think agriculture is important for our country?

|          |                   |               |                      |                      |
|----------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| backbone | farming practices | food security | indispensable sector | paramount importance |
|----------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|

Yes, I believe **agriculture is of** (1) \_\_\_\_\_ **to our country**. It **not only** guarantees (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for the entire population **but also** serves as a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the national economy by **generating employment** and **contributing to exports**. **Furthermore**, sustainable (4) \_\_\_\_\_ can promote rural development and protect the environment, which makes agriculture an (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**protect****substantial contribution****support****trade relations****vital role**

Yes, I firmly believe **agriculture plays a (1)**\_\_\_\_\_ **in our country**. It ensures **food security**, provides **employment opportunities**, **and makes a (2)**\_\_\_\_\_ **to** the national economy. **In addition**, agricultural exports **strengthen (3)**\_\_\_\_\_, **while** sustainable farming practices can **also** help **(4)**\_\_\_\_\_ the environment and **(5)**\_\_\_\_\_ rural communities.

**at the heart****depend heavily****guarantees****industrialised****in the long run**

Absolutely. Agriculture is still **(1)**\_\_\_\_\_ **of the economy** in many developing countries because it **(2)**\_\_\_\_\_ **food security** and **provides employment** for millions. Even in more **(3)**\_\_\_\_\_ **nations**, farming remains a **backbone of the economy**, since without local production, countries would have to **(4)**\_\_\_\_\_ **on imports**, which is neither affordable nor **sustainable (5)**\_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. What challenges does agriculture face today?

**biggest challenge****crop yields****make ends meet****weather patterns****weather the storm**

I'd say the **(1)**\_\_\_\_\_ is climate change, which leads to **unpredictable (2)**\_\_\_\_\_ and declining **(3)**\_\_\_\_\_. Another issue is the **ageing rural workforce**, since young people are moving to cities. Farmers also struggle to **(4)**\_\_\_\_\_, as market prices don't always reflect the hard work they put in. In short, the sector has to constantly **(5)**\_\_\_\_\_ of both natural and economic pressures.

**economic pressures****migrate to cities****most pressing****production costs****rural workforce**

At present, agriculture faces several serious challenges. Climate change is probably the **(1)**\_\_\_\_\_ issue, as it causes **unpredictable weather patterns** and reduces **crop yields**. In addition, there is an **ageing (2)**\_\_\_\_\_, since many young people **(3)**\_\_\_\_\_ for better opportunities. Farmers also struggle to **make ends meet**, given unstable market prices and increasing **(4)**\_\_\_\_\_. Taken together, these difficulties mean the agricultural sector must constantly **weather the storm** of both natural and **(5)**\_\_\_\_\_.