

1 Read the article. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list below. Write the heading number next to the correct section.

- 1 Roads, roads, roads
- 2 Any port in a storm
- 3 In the beginning
- 4 Camel trading
- 5 What's next?
- 6 Sea trade only
- 7 Developing trade



Transport and Trade in the UAE

A _____ Before the 1970s, there was little to no transport infrastructure within the United Arab Emirates. Although the UAE has a proud history of sea trading, as it is on the trade route between East and West, internal transport and trading was not as well-developed.

B _____ The UAE has a long history as an international trading centre. By the 1870s, Dubai had already been identified as the principal port in the Gulf area, but in the early 1900s it was declared a free port; that's when Dubai really started to develop as an international port. Deep-sea merchant ships then began to anchor offshore, transferring their goods onto dhows to transport them to Dubai and Khan Creek. Of course, at that time, there were many problems associated with moving goods from one area to another. For example, before purpose-built containers were introduced, the port provided basic warehouse facilities, but most goods were simply stored on the sand awaiting collection. Before 1959, moving goods from dhows to the port was slow and had caused some problems, until a crane was brought from Scotland to improve the process. Before the government decided to expand the UAE's ports in 1976 and 1979, the level of trading was limited. Then in 1976, the government started building the port at Jebel Ali, which was completed in 1979. Jebel Ali Port is the biggest man-made harbour in the world and has improved the UAE's trade immensely.

C _____ As mentioned previously, the internal transport infrastructure was not as well-developed and this created a lot of barriers to trading. Before the 1970s, there were only sand tracks along the beach between Abu Dhabi and Dubai. However, the UAE Government soon realised the importance of opening up communication highways across the Emirates and they built single-lane roads, later replacing them with two-lane highways. Today, the UAE has an amazing network of communication highways, not only connecting the different emirates, but also connecting the UAE with other regions.

D _____ The next step for transport in the UAE is the creation of Emirates Rail. The railway will provide more infrastructure for trade and the transportation of cargo and goods, which will have a huge impact on business not only in the UAE, but in the greater Gulf region.