

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_.