Lessons 3–4 **A nation's entrepreneurial vision**

Reading

1 Read the following text and answer the questions that follow.

UAE's national agenda. Entrepreneurs will be supported by practical programmes that will help develop businesses.

What is an entrepreneur?

An entrepreneur is someone who is willing to take the risk of setting up their own business. An entrepreneur sees an opportunity, or a better way of doing something, and tries to make a profit from it. They have to be willing to work hard, inspire others and learn from their mistakes.



Why is entrepreneurship important to the UAE?

Vision 2021, the UAE's national agenda, puts in place plans and strategies for the success of the country. One *particularly* key element that is focused on is entrepreneurship; this shows the commitment of the leaders to supporting entrepreneurship amongst its citizens. For any economy, having a variety of businesses encourages competition and productivity and generates wealth, which in turn contributes to the overall efficiency and health of the economy.

What are the challenges for developing entrepreneurs?

There are a number of challenges to encouraging entrepreneurship here. Many Emiratis prefer to work in the public sector. Government jobs are perceived as being more secure, and they offer a good salary and benefits. Public sector jobs are a good fit with the family and the wider community and the working environment is culturally familiar. Other challenges include the lack of funds to set up the business and an unwillingness to take a risk – after all, the business might not be a success.

What does entrepreneurship offer?

The benefits of entrepreneurship are that it encourages the person to 'follow a dream' or work in an area that they are *utterly* passionate about. Developing entrepreneurship will help diversify the economy as more and more small business are established and people begin to work in the private sector. Entrepreneurship will also attract those who do not have a job or who did not go to university, as it gives them an opportunity to set up a business and contribute to the economy of the country.

Language tip

Adverb intensifiers are used to add emphasis to a verb, adjective or adverb.

Read the following statements about entrepreneurship. Are the statements true (T), false (F) or is there no information (NI)?

1. Being a risk-taker is a characteristic of an entrepreneur. _____
2. Making mistakes is not expected when starting a business. _____
3. According to the definition of entrepreneurs, they need a good work ethic. _____
4. The UAE's National Agenda must be adopted by all businesses. _____
5. The leadership of the UAE is keen to encourage entrepreneurs. _____
6. Women are more unlikely to be entrepreneurs. _____
7. Emiratis prefer to work in the public sector because the environment is more familiar. _____
8. People start businesses because they did not go to university. _____
9. The economy of the country is dependent on small businesses. _____
10. Vision 2021 will give people money to start a business. _____

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