

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)**_____.