

6

ECONOMIC REFORMS



READING

Before You Read

Work in groups. Look at the following pictures. Discuss and note down the changes in business and construction in Viet Nam before and after economic reforms.

Before

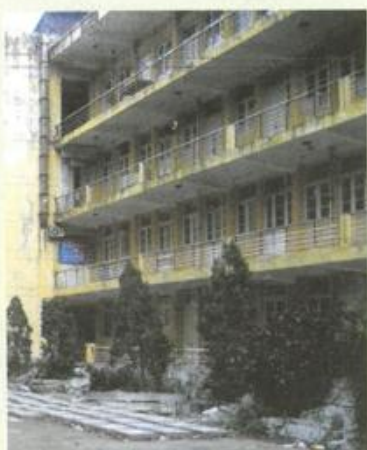


Market

After



Shopping mall



Building



Big and tall building

Reading Text

a) Work with a partner and guess the jobs of the people in the pictures.



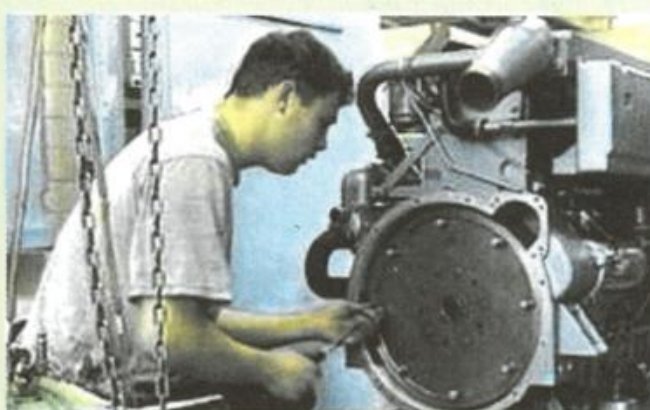
A. _____



B. _____



C. _____



D. _____

b) Scan the following text quickly to identify the people in the pictures.

I'm Christine and I'm teaching English in Ho Chi Minh City. I'm too young to have seen the Viet Nam War on television or to have read about it in time of war. My impressions of Viet Nam have been formed from my own experiences since 2000 when I arrived here as a tourist. I love this land, and that's why I returned soon later and looked for work. It's a great time to be in Viet Nam to witness a country in profound change. Doi Moi, an economic policy established in 1986, has encouraged private enterprises. Since then Viet Nam step by step has overcome many difficulties and achieved enormous results – people's living standards have greatly improved. I learned all about this from my students – when they told me stories about themselves and their families.

Hai, a highly-skilled worker, was a state employee earning only US\$ 50 a month until he was offered a job in a foreign company in Nhon Trach Industrial Zone. He now earns an equivalent of US\$ 250, which is considered a fortune by local standards. Hai's case is typical of the "brain drain" from state to private foreign companies in Viet Nam now.

Nhan, another bright student of mine, is the son of a farmer in Can Tho. He told me the effects of Doi Moi have been felt more drastically in rural Viet Nam. A farmer can now choose what to plant – this decision is based on the price and demand of the market. Before Doi Moi, despite having worked in the field day after day for years, Nhan's parents could hardly earn enough to feed the whole family. Now his family can buy equipment such as mechanized plows and threshing machines that produce higher yields.

One more student is Linh, a typical Vietnamese businesswoman. Gone were the days when college graduates like Linh did not have to worry about a job, thanks to the centralized planning system. A government job promises security, but it is not easy to compete with many others for one now. To avoid unemployment, Linh decided to set up a small business to trade in leather shoes. Now she has branches in three other provinces around Ho Chi Minh City.

My students are still facing a lot of difficulties as competition is becoming tougher, when Viet Nam's goods have to compete with those imported under AFTA, ASEAN Free Trade Area. But they all say they are not frightened. Isn't it wonderful?

c) *Which of the following is the best title of the above text?*

1. Christine's Life Story
2. Employment in Viet Nam after Doi Moi
3. Doi Moi Witnessed by a Foreign Observer

d) *Answer the following questions.*

1. What is Doi Moi?
2. Why is Hai's case considered a case of "brain drain"? Do you think Linh's case is also an example of "brain drain"?
3. In what way has Doi Moi affected Nhan's family?

4. Before Doi Moi, could college graduates get a job easily? Why or why not?
5. What problems is Viet Nam's economy facing?

e) *Work in groups. Answer this question.*

What changes have taken place in your province or neighborhood during the past years?

You can talk about people's lives, road system, transportation system, or construction.



LISTENING

a) *The following words are in the dialogue. Before you listen, complete the sentences with suitable words.*

apartment	national roads	shopping mall
slum	changes	crowded

1. Thanks to economic reforms, our city has had a lot of _____.
2. Ba's family is living in a(n) _____. It was built for people on low income.
3. _____ are being widened to accommodate heavy traffic.
4. There are too many people in Ho Chi Minh City. It is a(n) _____ city.
5. This area used to be a(n) _____. People lived in badly built houses.
6. There is no bargaining in a(n) _____.

b) *Bob, Mai's friend, is on his second visit to Viet Nam. This is part of the dialogue between Mai and Bob. Listen to the dialogue and write short answers to the following questions.*

1. Has Bob been to many places on his second visit to Viet Nam?

2. What did he say about national roads?

3. What did he see instead of slums?

4. Where did he go shopping?

5. What exported goods did Mai mention in the conversation?

c) Work in groups to make a short list of goods exported by Viet Nam.



SPEAKING

Giving Comments

a) Work in pairs. Make a list of what has been developed or improved thanks to economic reforms.

- Employment
- Education
- Farming
-
-
-

b) Based on the useful expressions and the example below, make exchanges to give comments on things in the list in a).

Some Useful Expressions

Well, if you ask me ...
 I (don't) think that ...
 The (good / bad) point is ...
 As I see it ...
 I'd like to point out that ...



Example

A: What has been changed in employment?

B: I think that more and better jobs are provided for local people.

c) Work in groups. Give comments (good or bad points) on the following issues.

- Entrance exam to universities
- Sex education
- Hi-tech cell phone

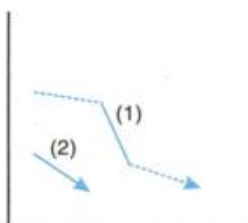
d) Report to the class on the results of your group discussion.



WRITING

Writing Information from a Graph

a) Work in pairs. Look at the graphs and match the phrases used in statistical writing to the corresponding information in the graph. The first one has been done for you.



a. a sudden fall or drop

b. to reach a peak

c. an upward trend

d. to remain constant

e. to rise steadily or to increase gradually

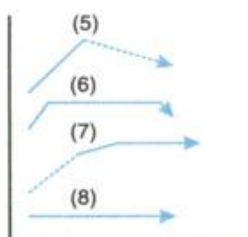
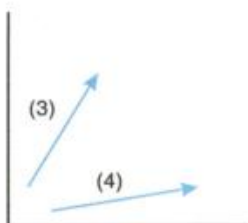
f. a downward trend

g. a dramatic increase

h. a drop / fall / decrease / decline

i. to level off

j. to reach a plateau



1. a

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

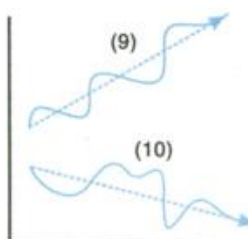
6. _____

7. _____

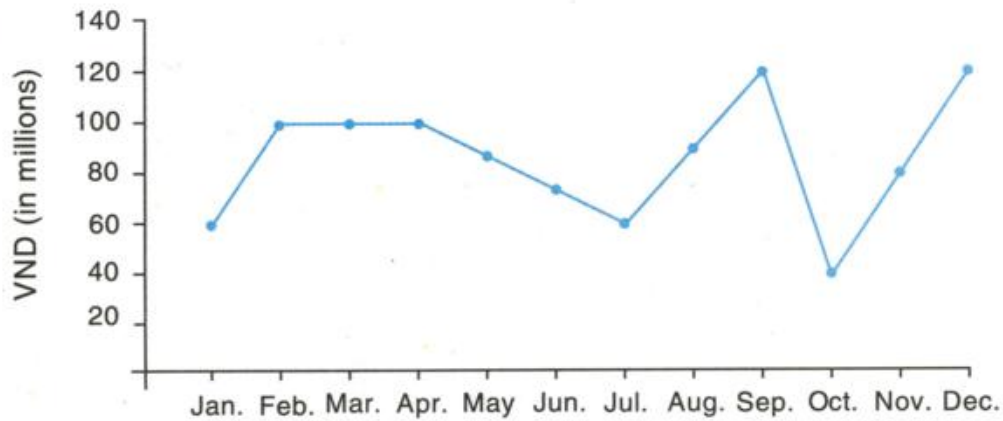
8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

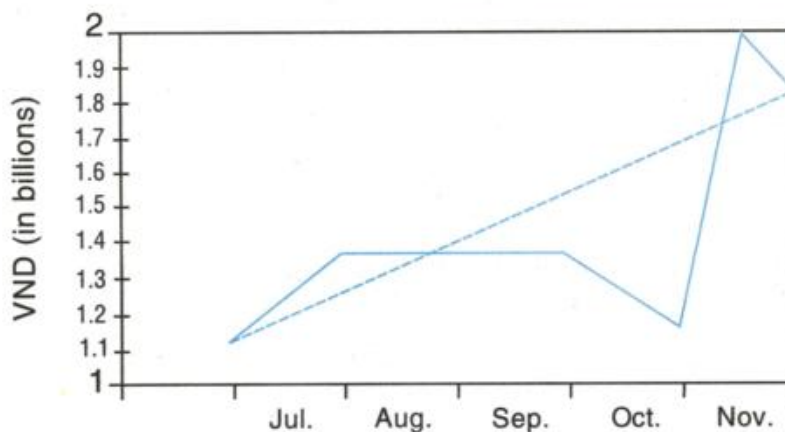


- b) Look at this graph showing sales of Viet Export Corp. and fill in the missing information.



1. In February, sales (1) _____ to 100 million.
2. In the following two months, they (2) _____ at 100 million.
3. In the next three months, they (3) _____ 60 million.
4. The next two months saw (4) _____ to 120 million.
5. This was followed by (5) _____ to 40 million in October.
6. Sales (6) _____ in December to finish the year at 120 million.

- c) Write a short paragraph related to the statistics of incomes of Viet Discovery Travel shown by the graph below, using the language in statistical writing.



As the graph shows, there was an upward trend in sales. In July, sales ...



LANGUAGE FOCUS

Word Study

Suffixes

a) Match the suffixes in column A with their corresponding words in column B.

A	B
-ment	a. establish
-ion	b. decide
-er	c. import
	d. improve
	e. centralize
	f. deal
	g. employ
	h. trade

b) Complete the following sentences with the new words you have found in task a).

1. The _____ of this university helps offer more opportunities for adult students.
2. Managers should make good _____ if they want to deal with problems successfully.
3. _____ are those who buy goods from other countries and sell them in their own country.
4. Minh is a car _____. He buys and sells expensive and antique cars.
5. Managers of small businesses prefer _____ in doing their management work.
6. Many farmers believe that higher yields rely on _____ of farming machines and techniques.
7. Economic reforms help provide more and better _____ for local people.
8. To the surprise of many international _____, oil price is rising dramatically in the last three months of 2007.

Grammar

Prepositions After Verbs



Example

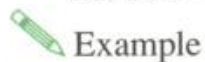
When my sister *graduated from* her university twenty years ago, she didn't have to *worry about* a job.

a) Match each verb or verb + object with the preposition that often follows it.

Verb	Preposition
worry	about on to
object	
complain	
rely	
concentrate	
insist	

Verb	Object	Preposition
prevent accuse congratulate blame stop discourage	O	of from for on

b) Put a combination of verb + (O) + preposition in each blank. The first one has been done for you.



Example

Don't *worry about* being unemployed. There are a lot of job opportunities in this city.

1. A: Why is Mr. Tam so upset?

B: He was _____ causing a lot of losses in the company.

2. A: We'd like to _____ you _____ your winning the prize in the eloquence contest last week.

B: Thank you.

3. A: Did your parents _____ your taking a familiarization trip to Africa?

B: No. Instead, they encouraged me to do so.

4. Everyone has _____ the manager _____ his lack of responsibility.

5. Many companies have _____ not being able to get a location in the new industrial zone.

6. Following the Doi Moi period, many cities in Viet Nam have _____ replanning their districts.

Prepositions of Time and Place

Examples

- My impressions of Viet Nam have been formed from my own experiences *since* 2000 when I arrived here as a tourist. (time)
- Doi Moi, an economic policy established *in* 1986, has encouraged private enterprises. (time)
- It's a great time to be *in* Viet Nam to witness a country in profound change. (place)
- Hai's case is typical of the "brain drain" *from* state *to* private foreign companies in Viet Nam now. (place)

Complete the following sentences with appropriate prepositions of time or place.

1. Morning Star is a comfortable, 3-star hotel situated _____ a garden of palm trees.
2. Those business travelers will stay _____ your hotel _____ three days.
3. The training center will be based _____ Can Tho.
4. Airlines work through scheduled flights, which take off and land _____ regular published times.
5. Gateshead Millennium Bridge is situated _____ the banks of the River Tyne.
6. Personal selling is about going _____ house _____ house knocking on doors.
7. This International Tourism Promotional Campaign is held _____ ABC hotel _____ December 26, 20__.
8. We can see tourism marketing _____ us – adverts _____ TV, brochures in travel agencies, etc.