Factories Across Borders

Trade, jobs, and national choices

SS24.CWI.9 "Evaluate the impact of economic globalization on worldwide trends and on individual nations and regions. 9a Identify recurring historical patterns in economic development around the world..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one benefit and one cost of trade for each country, circle each government's response, and number the shared development pattern 1 and the shared trade risk 2.

Two Paths Through Global Trade

(1) A cotton shirt can cross several borders before it reaches a store. Cotton grown in India can be spun into cloth, then shipped to Bangladesh, where workers sew shirts for buyers abroad. Garment exports have created millions of jobs in Bangladesh, including paid work for many women. Export earnings help the country buy goods it cannot produce cheaply. Yet low wages and unsafe buildings have exposed workers to serious risks. After the 2013 Rana Plaza building collapse, the government and industry partners expanded factory inspections. Inspections can improve safety, but they cannot erase every risk or guarantee a living wage.

(2) In Vietnam, factories assemble phones and other electronics from parts made in several countries. Foreign companies have invested in these factories, bringing jobs and export income. Vietnam's government has invested in roads, ports, and worker training to attract production and help its economy grow. A factory wage can help a family pay for school, but many jobs depend on orders from customers overseas. When global demand falls, factories may cut hours or jobs. Making electronics also uses electricity and can create waste, so growth brings environmental costs alongside higher incomes.

(3) The two countries show a recurring pattern: as farming becomes a smaller share of employment, export factories offer another path to income. Both countries gain from trade, yet both become vulnerable to decisions made beyond their borders. Their responses reflect different needs. Bangladesh has focused on inspections in a garment industry marked by deadly accidents; Vietnam has built transport links and expanded training for a growing electronics industry. Neither approach solves everything. Safety rules require enforcement, while roads and training do not prevent falling foreign demand. The question is not whether to trade, but how to share its gains and limit its harms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What development pattern do Bangladesh and Vietnam share? Give one detail from each country that shows it.

2. Compare one benefit and one cost of trade for workers in each country.

3. How do the two governments' responses address different problems?

4. Why can neither country's response fully protect its economy from changes abroad?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A coastal country relies on fish exports and is considering foreign-owned appliance assembly plants. Write four to five sentences explaining one likely benefit, one likely cost, and two policies that address different needs; use a development pattern from the passage to justify your choices.

Factories Across Borders

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one benefit and one cost of trade for each country, circle each government's response, and number the shared development pattern 1 and the shared trade risk 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What development pattern do Bangladesh and Vietnam share? Give one detail from each country that shows it.	**Both use export factories as a path to income as farming becomes a smaller share of employment. Bangladesh exports garments, while Vietnam exports assembled electronics.**
2	Compare one benefit and one cost of trade for workers in each country.	**In Bangladesh, garment exports provide paid work, but workers face low wages or unsafe buildings. In Vietnam, electronics factories provide wages, but workers may lose hours or jobs when overseas demand falls.**
3	How do the two governments' responses address different problems?	**Bangladesh expanded inspections to address factory safety. Vietnam invested in transport and training to attract production and prepare workers for electronics jobs.**
4	Why can neither country's response fully protect its economy from changes abroad?	**Both rely on foreign buyers. Inspections, roads, and training cannot stop a drop in overseas demand from reducing factory orders.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The new factories could bring wages to families that now depend on fishing. They could also leave workers vulnerable if overseas buyers reduce orders. The country could offer technical training so local workers qualify for assembly jobs. It could require regular safety inspections to reduce the risk of workplace injuries. Like Bangladesh and Vietnam, this country could add export manufacturing as a path to income, but these policies would not remove the risk of weak foreign demand.

Accept other passage-supported benefits, costs, and comparisons. For the open task, accept plausible policies if each addresses a distinct need and the response explains the connection to export-led development.