Industries: from manufacturing to service

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each industry word.

Word | Sector | Process | Outcome | Concept

1 outsourcing [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 service sector [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 productivity [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 automation [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 supply chain [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 manufacturing sector [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 workforce [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 economies of scale [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 They started outsourcing of production. _____
2 The service of sector employs many people. _____
3 Productivity increase every year. _____
4 Automation replace some workers. _____
5 The supply of chain was disrupted. _____
6 The manufacturing of sector shrank. _____
7 They rely on skilled of workforce. _____
8 They benefit from economies of of scale. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For hiring another company to do work previously done in-house: outsourcing / in-house production.
2 For the part of the economy providing services rather than goods: service sector / manufacturing sector.
3 For the amount produced per worker or hour: productivity / total output alone.
4 For using machines to do work previously done by people: automation / manual labour.
5 For the network of companies involved in producing and delivering a product: supply chain / single supplier.
6 For cost savings gained from large-scale production: economies of scale / higher unit costs.

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

automation | economies of scale | manufacturing sector | outsourcing | productivity | service sector | supply chain | workforce

Report A: The 1 _____ has grown significantly, now employing far more people than the traditional 2 _____.
Report B: The company improved 3 _____ through greater 4 _____, allowing machines to handle repetitive tasks.
Report C: A disrupted 5 _____ delayed deliveries for months.
Report D: The company benefited from 6 _____ after expanding, and began 7 _____ some tasks to reduce costs, while retaining a highly skilled 8 _____ for core operations.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The shift from manufacturing to services

Economists studying industrial change note that many advanced economies have undergone a significant structural shift, with the service sector now employing a far larger share of the workforce than traditional manufacturing. This transition reflects several converging forces, including automation reducing the number of workers needed in factories, and rising demand for services such as healthcare, finance and education as incomes grow. Critics of this shift note that many service sector jobs pay less and offer less job security than the manufacturing jobs they replaced, complicating any simple narrative that economic progress automatically benefits workers displaced by these changes.

1 What structural shift do economists note in many advanced economies? _____

2 What does this transition reflect, according to the text? _____

3 Name one force driving this shift. _____

4 What do critics of this shift note? _____

5 What does this complicate? _____

6 What might not automatically follow from economic progress, according to critics? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 They hired another company to do the work. OUTSOURCING _____

2 Machines took over tasks previously done by people. AUTOMATION _____

3 The network of suppliers was disrupted. SUPPLY CHAIN _____

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4 The company benefited from producing at a larger scale. ECONOMIES OF SCALE _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how automation and outsourcing have changed a particular industry. Include specific effects.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Process 2 Sector 3 Outcome 4 Process 5 Concept 6 Sector 7 Concept 8 Concept

2 Corrections

1 outsourcing production 2 service sector 3 Productivity increases
4 Automation replaces some workers 5 supply chain was disrupted 6 manufacturing sector shrank
7 a skilled workforce 8 economies of scale

3 Suitable descriptions

1 outsourcing 2 service sector 3 productivity 4 automation 5 supply chain 6 economies of scale

4 Reports

1 service sector 2 manufacturing sector 3 productivity 4 automation 5 supply chain
6 economies of scale 7 outsourcing 8 workforce

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 The service sector now employs a far larger share of the workforce than traditional manufacturing.
2 Several converging forces.
3 Automation reducing the number of workers needed in factories (or rising demand for services).
4 That many service sector jobs pay less and offer less job security than the manufacturing jobs they replaced.
5 Any simple narrative that economic progress automatically benefits displaced workers.
6 Benefits for workers displaced by these changes.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 They used outsourcing. 2 They introduced automation.
3 The supply chain was disrupted. 4 They benefited from economies of scale.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.