



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

ENGLISH READING PASSAGE

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: XII/XI Sec: ____

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Few countries which have a common border can boast of so many ties and commonalities as can India and Nepal. There is a shared proud legacy of tradition, culture, value systems and way of life going back to thousands of years. We have been privileged to be intimately associated with Nepal's development process. Add to that experience of close trade and economic linkages, an open border, a commitment to economic liberalisation which cuts across the political party divide in both countries and tremendous scope for mutual cooperation based on complementarities, plus a consensus among all responsible political figures and intellectuals in India and Nepal on the need to strengthen bilateral relations: surely there is every reason to be optimistic about the future of India-Nepal ties!

Need for the Right Environment

It would, of course, be naive to understate the effort which needs to be undertaken in both countries to create the right environment so that there can be a significant forward movement in the bilateral relationship. It has to be the right political environment and the right people-to-people environment. So it is not simply the governments of the day in the two countries who have the responsibility of creating the right conditions. We must take a major effort on both sides to change our mindsets, free ourselves from the intellectual prison of misconceptions or misunderstandings of the past, cease to take each other for granted, resist the temptation to politicise issues which will make an enormous contribution to diplomacy, and concentrate on the few sectors of cooperation which will make enormous contributions to addressing our common pre-occupations: alleviating poverty, improving the quality of life of people on both sides of the border, reducing the trade deficit, cooperating intensively in utilisation of Nepal's rich potential in tourism and water resources to our mutual benefit.

Trade and Investment prospects

In regard to the policy environment, it is clear that a great deal must be done by both countries to provide the investment framework, discipline and incentive so that trade and investment can be picked up. But the good news is that the two countries are now irreversibly set on the road of economic liberalisation and reform: it is more a question of when than whether, their businessmen will be able to take advantage of the opportunities waiting to be exploited. One of the good things that has happened in the last few months is that the Confederation of Indian Industry in India and Federation of National chamber of Commerce in Nepal, are actually involved in that kind of dialogue, and the two governments have blessed this dialogue and they are participating fully in it. Instead of simply exchanging trade missions once in a way or complaining about the work continuously, which will involve the two governments so that wherever there are impediments, they will be removed and we can consciously move towards a situation where bilateral trade investments and in particular, Nepalese exports to India all go up.

There are no easy solutions for the problem of trade deficit, India's own experience in resolving this problem with countries like US, UK and Germany is that the only way to increase exports is to expand



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the basket of exportable commodities and improve the environment for foreign investment and technology collaboration-and encourage joint ventures which can produce and export quality products-even if for a time this means more, or less, imports. It is important first to fully activate Nepal's trade access routes through Calcutta, Bombay and Kandla. This will involve among other things the up gradation of facilities at Raxaul and the early completion broad-gauge link to Birgunj. One key sector crying out for cooperation is water resources and hydroelectric power. That is where the key to prosperity lies for both the countries. We should try and move on the basis of a consensus in both countries. We cannot take the kind of long term decisions on investments in the Hydel sector, requiring huge investments which bear fruit after several years, without confidence in terms of continuity.

Equity and Mutual Interests: Basis of Cooperation

As far as India is concerned, the basis of our cooperation is equity and mutual interests: the spirit is that India is seen as ensuring that Nepal's needs get priority. There are several other important sectors: agriculture and agro based industries, tourism, consumer goods and services and ancillary industries which are also vitally important, and where significant progress can be made immediately. We should concentrate on these sectors and also areas which have been largely ignored all these year like Human Resources Development with SAPTA operationalised, the door is open for South Asia to join the global economic community as a regional trade, grouping with immense contribution as well as gains to make. If any two countries are to show the way as SAPTA moves towards a free trade area and eventually a cohesive regional economic player, they are simply India and Nepal.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of above passage, answer the following questions as briefly as possible.

1. State two factors that strengthen Indo- Nepal bilateral relations.
2. What are the special issues that can contribute towards the development of India and Nepal relations?
3. A healthy dialogue on economic liberalisation is going on between two organisations. Name these organisations.
4. How can we remove procedural problems in trade mission?
5. How can a nation able to control her trade deficit?

1.2 Write one word for each sentence:

1. The process of having open mindedness and freedom from all prejudices.
2. An act of common agreement of opinions.
3. The management of a country's affairs by its agents abroad.

1.3 Find the words in the passage which mean the opposite of the following:

- (a) Small (para 1) (b) export (para 4) (c) unawarilly (para 3)