

Exercise A. Read carefully the following text, extracted from an “Economist” article of April 16th 2016, entitled “**Not making it**”, before replacing (writing in) the 18 words from the list below in the gaps most appropriate in terms of context.

across after deal down few figure long low make move power rail raw reliable stop strike tough weak

Successful manufacturing requires many things that Africa lacks

Manufacturing in Africa is only for the brave. In Nigeria, it makes up about 10% of GDP, according to official statistics, which may not be _____. In South Africa, a far more-developed economy, it accounts for 13% of GDP, _____ from 20% in 1990. In Thailand, the equivalent _____ is 28%. Africa’s share of world manufacturing fell from 3% in 1970 to 2% in 2013. What’s more, almost that entire output is for domestic consumption, not export. Labour is mostly cheap, but making things can still cost more than in Europe, because of _____ infrastructure, sometimes-powerful trade unions, and corruption. Africa lacks China’s electronics factories or Bangladesh’s textile sweatshops, and it imports items from cornflakes to kettles from Europe or Asia.

Believers in Africa say that lower prices for _____ materials and weakening currencies will make imports more expensive, forcing governments to allow foreign investment, and to reduce regulation and corruption. Unfortunately, this “nasty medicine” scenario is too rosy...

Though 4000 km apart (!), South Africa and Nigeria cannot “represent” sub-Saharan Africa. However, they do generate half its GDP, and can illustrate challenges the whole region faces.

One such problem is with _____. Nigeria has just 3000 MW of electricity-generating capacity – less than North Korea. And electricity use per person in Africa has actually gone down, as population has grown to 1.2bn people (17% of humanity, taking just 3% of world electricity). Even that is concentrated in just a _____ countries like Zambia and Malawi (where most capacity is from hydroelectric plants built in colonial times or soon _____ independence). South Africa’s power plants often date from the ‘60s, so its cities suffer blackouts, and factories often _____ work.

The _____ quality of roads is another problem, but even in South Africa – where _____ and road connections are quite good – the huge distances make it costly to _____ things across the country.

Fixing such fundamental problems is _____, so many states used protectionism to help their industries. The government of Nigeria’s Muhammadu Buhari tried to boost local production by banning foreign-currency purchases of items including toothpicks and glass. That was in addition to total bans on imports like Chinese cloth; as well as high tariffs on new cars imported. South Africa’s car industry is similarly protected, and used cars cannot come in at all.

And in some ways, this worked, as without it South Africa’s car industry would have had a harder time. Similarly, bans pushed Nigeria to _____ all its own cement. At the *Dangote Group*’s biggest cement plant, managers admit they would never have competed in normal conditions.

But the main “industry” aided by Nigerian trade barriers is corruption. In a hotel in Kano, a smuggler explains how his syndicate has for years brought fabrics, rice, pasta and vegetable oil into a huge warehouse, via Benin and Niger. “The official process is tedious and expensive. You have to _____ with customs, immigration, security, and it takes so _____. We organise the illegal route, and products come in successfully.”

Smuggling is rare in South Africa, but policy there is little better. *Nissan*’s factory is 1 of 7 in a country whose carmaking is 30% of manufacturing output. While demand for cars in Africa is soaring, South Africa struggles to respond because of those power cuts, and poor labour relations. Last year, a _____ shut the *Nissan* plant for 2 months. Managers in car factories still tend to be white, and workers black... And it would take a fundamental change in South Africa’s inflexible labour laws to help the 1 in 4 adults who are unemployed to get work.

So Africa’s best hope comes from locals who know the system, and from products sold locally, rather than _____ borders. But growth would be faster if foreign investors (not just Africans) built factories. An Africa more like Asia would create millions of export-related jobs. But for that to happen, huge obstacles will need to be overcome.

Exercise B. In each question, mark the one completion of the sentence that best reflects the article content overall, **AT THE TIME OF WRITING**.

<p>1) Products made in Africa are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dumped at low prices in foreign countries. • hardly seen at all in other parts of the world. • made expensive by high wage-related costs. • too costly for Africans to be able to afford. 	<p>2) In Africa, the Chinese/Asian model is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being followed by many countries. • expected to become widespread. • not very likely to be found or seen. • the one that all states are aiming at.
<p>3) Thailand and N. Korea are mentioned as they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facing even more problems than African states. 	<p>4) The bureaucratic way of protecting markets has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • boosted production.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • imperfect states, but still better than Africa. • interested in investing a lot more in Africa. • very similar to Nigeria and South Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • banned exports. • reduced corruption. • ruined industries.
<p>5) <u>Manufacturing in South Africa is:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high-level, due to low costs of paying workers. • less well-developed, as goods are smuggled. • pushed up a lot by African demand for cars. • still below the peak it could potentially reach. 	<p>6) <u>OVERALL, the article suggests that Africa has:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • found useful and unique ways to help with growth. • no advantageous economic features of any kind. • problems that foreign investment could help solve. • progressed, except in Nigeria and South Africa.

Exercise C. IN ENGLISH, say what is meant by (only) the following underlined word(s) or phrases present in the reading text above. These are given with some context below, but please also refer to the whole article if necessary. **Remember** that a definition may not use the same words that are being defined!

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... this "nasty medicine" scenario is too rosy

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...the main "industry" aided by Nigerian trade barriers is corruption.

We organise the illegal route...

Smuggling is rare in South Africa, but policy there is little better.

... demand for cars in Africa is soaring...

Managers in car factories still tend to be white, and workers black...

...it would take a fundamental change in South Africa's inflexible labour laws...

...1 in 4 adults who are unemployed...

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