

Innovating with the Multimodalities-Entextualization Cycle in Language Across the Curriculum (LAC) to Improve ESL Junior Secondary Students' English Literacy

Materials tried out in teachers' lessons:

**World Trade:
An LAC Collaboration [Teacher Version]**

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The lesson materials tried out represented an LAC collaboration between
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Enhancing Students' English Reading and Writing Skills through Language across the Curriculum

Compare and Contrast



Unit Overview

Target Level	Form 1
Target genre	Compare-Contrast
Learning Objectives	<p>Content: Students can:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(1) explain the gains from world trade to the whole economy and its harmful effects on sectors with low competitiveness.</p> <p>Language: Students can:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(1) Identify the structure of compare-contrast texts;</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(2) Write compare-contrast texts in stages of “Orientation[^] Comparison[^] Summary (optional)”;</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(3) use the following language of compare and contrast:</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;">(a) comparative & superlative adjectives</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;">(b) phrases or sentence patterns indicating comparison (e.g. on the contrary).</p>

Content

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Part 1: Gains and Disputes from World Trade

World trade is at the heart of the global economy. It brings benefits to the whole economy, but it can also bring harmful effects to sectors of low competitiveness.

Task 1 Reading: Benefits of World Trade

The following persuasion passage is about the benefits of world trade. Read it carefully and complete the activity which follows.

Benefits of World Trade

World trade brings benefits to the trading countries. First, trade enables countries to specialise in the production of certain goods where they have their own competitive advantage. This can lower the production cost per unit and increase production efficiency. Since the cost of production drops, people can buy products at a cheaper price and their lives are better off.

Second, countries get benefits from exports because they can sell their surplus goods for making profits. The profits earned are likely to be re-invested in the market, creating more jobs and higher income. All this will boost the economic development of the exporting countries.

Third, because of imports, local firms will face more competition. Therefore, they have to improve product quality or production technology in order to compete with the importing products. The overall improvement of product quality will raise the quality of living.

Fourth, world trade promotes cultural exchange among countries involved. Christmas decorations and Easter eggs, for example, broaden Asians' understanding of western festivals and Christianity. People become more knowledgeable about the world they live in.

In sum, there are great benefits to have world trade for both exporting and importing countries.

Adapted from:

https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/references-and-resources/life-and-society/module_19_Eng_July_2014.pdf

Activity: Reading for the main ideas

Reading for the main ideas allows one to get the gist (i.e. main points) of a passage quickly. Now read the passage 'Benefits of World Trade' again. Underline the main idea of each benefit of world trade, and transfer them to the right column. The first benefit is done as an example.

Benefits of World Trade

World trade brings benefits to the trading countries. First, world trade enables countries to specialise in the production of certain goods where they have their own competitive advantage. This can lower the production cost per unit and increase production efficiency. Since the cost of production drops, people can buy products at a cheaper price and their lives are better off.

Second, countries get benefits from exports because they can sell their surplus goods for making profits. The profits earned are likely to be re-invested in the market, creating more jobs and higher income. All this will boost the economic development of the exporting countries.

Third, because of imports, local firms will face more competition. Therefore, they have to improve product quality or production technology in order to compete with the importing products. The overall improvement of product quality will raise the quality of living.

Fourth, world trade promotes cultural exchange among countries involved. Christmas decorations and Easter eggs, for example, broaden Asians' understanding of western festivals and Christianity. People become more knowledgeable about the world they live in.

In sum, there are great benefits to have world trade for both exporting and importing countries.

The first benefit:

World trade enables countries to specialise in the production of certain goods. This can lower the production cost. Therefore, people can buy products at a cheaper price and their lives are better off.

The second benefit:

Countries can sell their surplus goods for making profits. This will boost the economic development of the exporting countries.

The third benefit:

Local firms will face more competition and will have to improve product quality or production technology to compete. The overall improvement of product quality will raise the quality of living.

The fourth benefit:

World trade promotes cultural exchange among trading countries. People become more knowledgeable about the world they live in.

Task 2 Harmful effects of trade

1. Read the cartoon below carefully and answer the following questions.



(1) What problems do Sufferer 1 and Sufferer 2 face?

Sufferer 1: They face problems of massive layoffs and vanishing worker rights.

Sufferer 2: They face problems of slave wages and no worker rights.

(2) Why do workers in developed countries suffer from the problems stated in (1)?

[Hint: Think of the following: a) Are the goods produced by developed countries cheaper or more expensive than those produced in less developed countries? b) Can these goods be sold in the global market? c) What are the effects on the related industries and workers in developed countries? d) What would happen to the “bargaining power” of the workers?]

Workers in developed countries suffer because goods produced by their countries are more expensive than those produced in less developed countries and cannot be sold in the global market. Then, the related industries collapse and workers lose jobs and their bargaining power on workers' rights.

(3) (a) Do the workers abroad shown in the cartoon live in a developed country or a less developed country? How do you know? [Hint: Note what he wears.]

They live in a less developed country. As shown in the cartoon, he wears the plain type of bamboo hat or Asian conical hat.

(b) Is the worker abroad shown in the cartoon rich or poor?

He is a poor worker.

(4) (a) What does the man in the middle of the cartoon represent?

He represents large corporations in the developed countries.

(b) How does he feel? Why does he have such feeling? Give a reason to support your view. [Hint: The word “exploit” is useful in answering this question.]

He is happy because free trade helps his corporation expand its market without any trade barriers. This allows him to earn more profit by exploiting the local worker and the worker abroad.

(5) What message do you think the cartoonist wants to convey regarding free trade?

From the description, I think the cartoonist wants to express that

large corporations in developed countries are exploiting workers from both developed and less developed countries.

2. The following is a persuasion text that convinces the readers of the harmful effects of world trade. Read it and extract the main idea of each paragraph and write them down in the spaces provided.

<p style="text-align: center;">Harmful Effects of World Trade</p>	<p>Issue: There are various <u>harmful effects</u> from world trade.</p>
<p>Harmful effects of world trade range from neglecting the welfare of workers to environmental damage. Sometimes the welfare of people is ignored for the sake of making profits. Other problems associated with international trade include possible domestic job losses, risky dependence on foreign nations and negative cultural effect.</p>	<p>The first harmful effect: The welfare of workers in less developed countries can sometimes be <u>ignored</u> for the sake of <u>profits from world trade</u>.</p>
<p>Firstly, the welfare of workers in less developed countries can sometimes be ignored for the sake of profits in world trade. It is common to find that sweatshop workers are forced to work under unfair conditions, which include low wages and working continuously in adverse environments.</p> <p>Secondly, world trade can result in domestic job losses in more developed countries. It is usually the case that goods and services are produced more cheaply in less developed countries. If corporates of more developed countries transfer the production of such goods and services to less developed countries to reduce the production cost, this can lead to job losses in more developed countries due to the collapse of related industries.</p>	<p>The 2nd harmful effect:</p>
<p>Thirdly, risky dependence on foreign nations can be caused by world trade. When the exporting country knows that certain export goods are significant to an importing country, the importing country may suffer from high export price or trade restrictions if the exporting country wants more financial gains.</p>	<p>The 3rd harmful effect: <u>Risky dependence on foreign nations can be caused by world trade</u> since the importing country may <u>suffer from high export price or trade restrictions</u></p>
<p>Fourthly, world trade can bring about negative impacts on the culture of importing countries or regions. Although exposure to foreign culture can broaden one's horizons, it can be harmful for a country's cultural industry. The cultural goods from more influential foreign countries can easily damage the local culture. For example, since 1993 France has been limiting the import of foreign cultural goods with the "cultural exception" policy (i.e. treating cultural products differently from regular commercial goods in trade agreements) after realising that American movies and TV</p>	<p>The 4th harmful effect: <u>world trade can lead to negative impacts on the culture of importing countries</u> as more influential foreign countries may <u>damage</u></p>

programs have dominated the French market.

Finally, world trade can also result in destruction of natural resources. Some countries are so desperate for profits that they may over-exploit their natural resources to produce more goods for export. This can create serious environmental problems.

To conclude, despite its obvious benefits, world trade can also have various harmful effects.

Adapted from: "What are the disadvantages of international trade?"
(<https://www.wisegeek.com/what-are-the-disadvantages-of-international-trade.htm>)

the local culture.

The 5th harmful effect:
World trade can lead to destruction of natural resources because of over-exploitation.

Summary:
World trade can also have various harmful effects.



Language Support – discussing contrasting viewpoints

Presenting contrasting viewpoints can be challenging. Look at the notes gathered by a student below:

Notes on the benefits (+) & harmful effects (-) of trade

- (+) *World trade enables countries to specialise in the production of certain goods.*
- (-) *the welfare of workers in less developed countries can sometimes be ignored for the sake of profits in world trade.*
- (-) *world trade can result in domestic job losses in more developed countries due to the collapse of related industries.*
- (+) *Countries can sell their surplus goods for making profits.*

With some organisation and **connecting words**, the contrasting viewpoints on world trade can be presented more clearly:

There are benefits and harmful effects of trade:

On one hand , world trade can bring benefits:	On the other hand , world trade can lead to harmful effects:
Firstly , world trade enables countries to specialise in the production of certain goods.	Firstly , the welfare of workers in less developed countries can sometimes be ignored for the sake of profits in world trade.
Secondly , countries can sell their surplus goods for making profits.	Secondly , world trade can result in domestic job losses in more developed countries due to the collapse of related industries.

Here are some synonyms to the connecting words above if you are looking for some variety:

Firstly, / Secondly: First of all, What is more, In addition, Plus,

On the other hand: In spite of these, / However, / But

Task 3 Writing - Discussing contrasting viewpoints

While understanding that people generally support world trade, you want to share with them some alternative views. Discuss the positive and negative sides of international trade by using the 1+1 pattern in Language Support 1. You can refer to the main ideas that you have summarised in Task 4 and Task 5.



World trade is common among modern societies. There are great benefits to gain, but there can also be harmful effects, too.

World trade can bring great benefits to the trading countries. World trade enables countries to specialise in the production of certain goods. This can lower the production cost. People can buy products at a cheaper price and their lives are better off. Second, countries can sell their surplus goods for making profits. This will boost the economic development of the exporting countries. Third, local firms will face more competition and have to improve product quality or production technology to compete. The overall improvement of product quality will raise the quality of living. Fourth, international trade promotes cultural exchange among countries involved. People become more knowledgeable about the world they live in.

However, world trade can lead to various harmful effects. Firstly, the welfare of workers in less developed countries can sometimes be ignored for the sake of profits in world trade. Secondly, world trade can result in domestic job losses in more developed countries due to the collapse of related industries. Thirdly, risky dependence on foreign nations can be caused by world trade since the importing country may suffer from high export price or trade restrictions. Fourthly, world trade can bring about negative impacts on the culture of importing countries as more influential foreign countries may damage the local culture. Finally, world trade can result in destruction of natural resources because of over-exploitation.

Peer Evaluation

Read the writing by your partner. Give feedback to him/her by blackening the stars in the table below.

Description	Feedback <i>No star = minimum score; 5 stars = maximum score</i>
Presented persuasive arguments for world trade.	
Presented persuasive arguments against world trade.	
Used connecting words such as <i>firstly</i> and <i>secondly</i> well to link up the arguments.	
Used linking words/conjunctions correctly to signal the beginning of the discussion	
Optional: Do you want to give any written feedback* to your classmate?	
	Signature:

Part 2: My vocabulary bank and learning record

In this part, you will revise the topic vocabulary and assess your learning.

Task 4 My Vocabulary Bank



My Vocabulary Bank

Do you want to write better answers to questions?

Good writing comes from well-written paragraphs and sentences, and well-written paragraphs and sentences are built with proper English vocabulary. Generally, English vocabulary can be sorted into three groups: **subject-specific** (專科的) vocabulary, **general academic vocabulary**, and **logical connectors** (linking words).

- **Subject-specific vocabulary:** key concepts specific to a subject, namely Life and Society or Integrated Humanities.
- **General academic vocabulary:** Words that are used more often in written texts rather than informal conversations. They help us express ideas more precisely.
- **Logical connectors (linking words):** conjunctions and phrases that connect ideas.

Gains and disputes from trade		
Subject-specific vocabulary	General academic vocabulary	Linking words
Collapse of industries (n. ph.)	Be better off (adj. ph.)	Sequencing
Competitive advantage (n. ph.)	Boost (v.) the economic development	First, ... /Firstly, ...
Cost of production (n. ph.)	Bring about (v. ph.)	Second, ... /Secondly...
Cultural exchange (n. ph.)	Compete with... (v. ph.)	Third, ... /Thirdly, ...
Economic development (n. ph.)	Domestic job loss (n. ph.)	Fourth, ... /Fourthly, ...
Exporting countries (n. ph.)	Enhance (v.)	In sum, ... /To conclude, ...
Gain (v.)	For the sake of (prep. ph.)	
Global market (n. ph.)	Financial gains (n. ph.)	
Negative cultural effect (n. ph.)	Foster (v.)	Cause and effect
Importing countries (n. ph.)	Harmful effects (n. ph.)	because, due to, therefore, thus...
Production efficiency (n. ph.)	Lose job (n. ph.)	
Quality of products (n. ph.)	Make profits (v. ph.)	
Quality of living (n. ph.)	Massive layoffs (n. ph.)	

Risky dependence (n. ph.)	Natural resources (n. ph.)	Showing contrast
Surplus (n.)	Over-exploit (v.)	In spite of these,
Trade restrictions (n. ph.)	Result in (v. ph.)	However, But, On one hand....On the other hand
	Slave wages (n. ph.)	
	Substantial benefits (n. ph.)	
	Welfare of workers (n. ph.)	

Task 5. My choice of the most useful words and expressions

In the space below, write:

- FIVE top most useful subject-specific words,
- FIVE general academic words, and
- THREE linking words you have learnt in this unit.

Compare your choice with your neighbouring classmate; see if there are similarities and differences and discuss.

Subject-specific words	General academic words	Linking words

Task 6. My learning record

Put a tick (✓) if you think you can manage the item in this unit.

Do I know ...



	Item:	Yes (✓) / No (X)
1.	Gains and disputes from world trade	
2.	the structure (結構) of a compare and contrast test	

3.	how to use the language of compare and contrast	
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