

Part III Test yourself

Questions 1 and 2 will be based on the following news item.

The United Nations is warning that the world is not prepared to deal with the fast growth of cities. The World Economic and Social Survey 2013 calls for new ways to meet the needs of city populations. More than 6.5 billion people are expected to be living in cities by 2050.

Most new city dwellers will be in developing countries. The United Nations says the effect on limited resources in many countries will be huge. The World Economic and Social Survey points to the increasing demand for energy, water, sanitation, public services, education and health care.

The world population is expected to rise to more than nine billion by 2050, two-thirds of all people are expected to live in cities. The United Nations says about 80 percent of this growing urban population will be found in Africa and Asia. The report says sustainable development of urban areas requires coordination and investments to deal with important issues, including land use, food security, job creation and transportation. Willem van der Geest is with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He says cities need to work closely with rural communities so that food supplies can be secured, and the environment can be protected.

1. When is the world's population expected to rise to more than nine billion?
2. What issues should be dealt with in the sustainable development of urban areas?

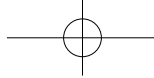
Questions 3 and 4 will be based on the following news item.

The economic crisis is claiming another victim: world trade. Last month the World Bank predicted a two percent decrease this year — the largest drop since the 1940s. Economies that depend on exports for growth have been hit hard.

Japanese exports decreased almost 27 percent in November from a year earlier. Japan has the world's second largest economy.

A new report this week from China showed that its economy became the world's third largest in 2007, passing Germany. China could also pass Germany as the world's biggest exporter. But Chinese exports fell almost three percent in December from a year earlier — the sharpest drop in at least ten years. A story in the Chinese news magazine *Outlook* warned that factory closing could lead to unrest as the economy slows.

The latest reports show that German exports in November were down almost 12 percent from the year before.



American exports decreased almost two percent in November from a year earlier. They were down six percent from October — but imports were down 12 percent. That reduced the monthly trade deficit to the lowest level in five years.

3. What does the economic crisis affect?
4. Which country reduced the monthly trade deficit to the lowest level in five years?

Questions 5 to 7 will be based on the following news item.

Myanmar is in a good position to make big gains in Asia's fast-growing markets. But development must include all of society and be sustainable for Myanmar to reach its goals. That is what the Asian Development Bank said in a recent report.

Cyn-Young Park is an economist with the bank. She said Myanmar's economic position is strengthened by its natural resources, such as oil, gas and minerals. It also has two large growing neighbors: India and China. And the nation is young: One in four of its citizens are under the age of 30.

But Myanmar has a long way to go. After 50 years of military rule, it is one of Asia's poorest countries. Basic infrastructure, like roads, bridges and railways, are not developed. And only 30 percent of rural people have electricity.

Myanmar is trying to increase foreign investment. Its civilian government is struggling to agree on a new foreign investment law. Recent versions of the law restrict foreign ownership in some industries and ban it completely in others. Sean Turnell is an economist with Australia's Macquarie University. He said the foreign investment law is now facing local disapproval, or push back.

5. What strengthens Myanmar's economic position?
6. What can we learn about the new foreign investment law in Myanmar?
7. What is the news report mainly about?

UNIT 4

Part II Listen to the news

News item 1

Beidou, which means the Big Dipper in Chinese, has been providing accurate and