You will hear a text about the Indian food market and British investments into Indian firms.

I. According to what you hear, circle A), B) or C).

1. Nitin Jain is a ........ at India’s biggest onion market.
   A) leader
   B) truck driver
   C) farmer

2. Mr Jain thinks the reason for the price rise of onions is...
   A) that it’s the favourite.
   B) totally mysterious.
   C) easily calculable.

3. The head of India’s central bank thinks high food prices had ........ effect on inflation.
   A) no
   B) little
   C) huge

4. The retail price of vegetables rose by ........%.
   A) 278
   B) 146
   C) 46

5. The Indian food supply chain...
   A) needs updating.
   B) can meet the demand.
   C) consists mostly of small groceries.

II. According to what you hear about Walmart, Carrefour and Tesco, decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

6. Walmart, Carrefour and Tesco would like to invest in logistics chains in India.

7. Walmart, Carrefour and Tesco would draw contracts with farmers rather than wholesalers.

8. There have been few changes because of individual Indian States.

9. In October Walmart established a joint venture with an Indian business group.

10. Further liberalisation of the investments was promised by India’s finance minister.
You will hear the beginning of an on-line lecture on economics.

III. While listening, fill in each gap in the notes with a maximum of 3 words.

Notes on macro- and microeconomics

Title: The ..........(11) of economics; business, banking, finance and everyday life

Macroeconomics – focus on:
   How national and global economies ..........(12)
   Big problems: unemployment, inflation, threats of ..........(13)

At business and professional level ⇒ answers to questions:
   - how much to ..........(14) this month or inventory to keep
   - should I invest in, expand or ..........(15) my firm

At personal level ⇒ answers to questions:
   - should I ..........(16) (Give 1 example!)
   - investments for ..........(17)
   - should I get mortgage

Microeconomics – focus on:
   - how ..........(18), wages and rents are determined
   - why governments regulate industries
   - studying trends, fluctuations and events
   - how political, economic and ..........(19) incidents affect our lives

More info: www.modernscholar.com
   Access to links, a virtual seminar room and a ..........(20)
**KEY**

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<td>11.</td>
<td>principles</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>perform</td>
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<td>(large) (budget) deficits</td>
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<td>manufacture</td>
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<td>downsize</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>switch jobs/ ask for raise/ buy a house</td>
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Text 1
The journey of an Indian onion

NITIN JAIN is the big man in Lasalgaon, a dusty town a day’s drive from Mumbai that boasts it has Asia’s biggest onion market. With a trim moustache and a smartphone stuck to his ear he struts past a thousand-odd tractors and trucks laden with red onions. Farmers hurl armfuls at his feet to prove their quality. Asked why onion prices have risen so much, Mr Jain laughs. He says that the price of India’s favourite vegetable is a mystery that no calculation can explain.

High food prices perturb some men and women even bigger than Mr Jain. Raghuram Rajan, the boss of India’s central bank, is grappling with high inflation caused in large part by food prices: wholesale onion prices soared by 278% in the year to October and the retail price of all vegetables shot up by 46%. The food supply chain is decades out of date and cannot keep up with booming demand. Only 2-3% of groceries are bought in formal stores, with most people reliant on local markets.

Walmart, Carrefour and Tesco have been waiting for years to invest in India. They say they would revolutionise shopping. They would also modernise logistics chains, either by investing themselves, or indirectly, by stimulating food producers to spend on factories, warehouses and trucks, and establish direct contracts with farmers, eliminating layers of middlemen.

On the ground little has happened. Individual Indian states can opt out of the policy – which is unhelpful if you want to build a national supermarket chain. In October Walmart terminated its joint venture with Bharti, an Indian group. Tesco has cut expatriate staff.

The reaction from politicians has been indifference. ‘We have liberalised to the extent that we can. People have to accept this and decide whether they want to invest,’ said Palaniappan Chidambaram, India’s finance minister. Despite the apparently obvious benefits of supermarkets and the experience of most other countries, few Indians seem to want change.
Today we begin a course entitled The principles of economics, business, banking, finance and your everyday life.

This course introduces the subjects of macroeconomics and microeconomics. Macroeconomics focuses on the big economic picture, specifically how the overall national and global economies perform. Or study focuses on big problems like unemployment and inflation and the dire threats that large budget deficits can pose for economic well-being.

At the business and professional level macroeconomics can help answer such questions as how much should I manufacture this month, how much inventory should I maintain, should I invest in new plant and equipment, expand into foreign markets or downsize my firm.

At the personal level macroeconomics can also help to answer equally important questions, should I switch jobs, or ask for raise, should I buy a house now or wait until next year, should I get a variable or fixed rate mortgage, and what about my investments for retirement.

In contrast microeconomics deals with the behaviour of individual markets and the businesses, consumers, investors and workers who make up the macroeconomy.

Microeconomics focuses on issues such as how prices are set, how wages are determined, how rents are set and why the government is sometimes forced to regulate industries that are too monopolistic, that pollute too much, or that may conceal vital information. By studying the trends, fluctuations and events that affect the market, we’ll learn how seemingly distant political, economic and environmental incidents actually shape our personal lives and businesses.

For more information on this course please visit its webpage at www.modernscholar.com where you have access to links to related sights, a seminar room to share your thoughts with other students and yes, of course, a final exam.