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Level 4 – 13th May, 2020

Saudi Arabia to triple VAT to support economy

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200513-vat-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200513-vat-4.html>

Saudi Arabia will triple the rate of value added tax on goods and services. It will rise to 15 per cent. The government said this was necessary because of the effects of coronavirus on the economy. The pandemic has damaged the oil-rich nation's finances. Oil prices and demand for oil have fallen. Saudi started VAT for the first time in 2018. Oil revenue this year has fallen by almost a quarter when compared to the same period last year.

Saudi's Finance Ministry also suspended the cost of living allowance. This is paid to state workers to help with rising prices and expensive petrol. The Finance Minister said: "These measures are...necessary to maintain financial and economic stability over the medium to long term...and to overcome the unprecedented coronavirus crisis with the least damage possible." The measures would impact consumption and could lower revenues.

Sources: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/saudi-arabia-raise-vat-threefold-030733064.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52612785>
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/saudi-triples-vat-suspends-handouts-in-virus-led-austerity-drive/ar-BB13SVjm>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200513-vat-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. value added tax on | a. a quarter |
| 2. The government said this | b. nation's finances |
| 3. damaged the oil-rich | c. revenue |
| 4. Oil prices and demand | d. was necessary |
| 5. for the first time | e. period last year |
| 6. oil | f. goods and services |
| 7. fallen by almost | g. for oil have fallen |
| 8. compared to the same | h. in 2018 |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. suspended the cost | a. impact consumption |
| 2. This is paid to state | b. economic stability |
| 3. necessary to maintain financial and | c. revenues |
| 4. over the medium | d. workers |
| 5. the unprecedented coronavirus | e. to long term |
| 6. with the least damage | f. of living allowance |
| 7. The measures would | g. possible |
| 8. lower | h. crisis |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200513-vat-4.html>

Saudi Arabia will triple the rate of value added tax on (1) _____. It will rise to 15 per cent. The government said this was (2) _____ the effects of coronavirus on the economy. The pandemic has damaged the oil-(3) _____. Oil (4) _____ for oil have fallen. Saudi started VAT for the first time in 2018. Oil revenue this year has fallen by (5) _____ when compared to the same (6) _____.

Saudi's Finance Ministry also suspended the cost (7) _____. This is paid to state workers to help (8) _____ and expensive petrol. The Finance Minister said: "These (9) _____ to maintain financial and economic stability over the (10) _____ term...and to overcome the unprecedented coronavirus crisis with (11) _____ possible." The measures would impact consumption and (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200513-vat-4.html>

Saudi Arabia will triple the rate of value added tax on goods and services. It will rise to fifteen percent. The government said this was necessary because of the effects of coronavirus on the economy. The pandemic has damaged the oil-rich nation's finances. Oil prices and demand for oil have fallen. Saudi started VAT for the first time in 2018. Oil revenue this year has fallen by almost a quarter when compared to the same period last year. Saudi's Finance Ministry also suspended the cost of living allowance. This is paid to state workers to help with rising prices and expensive petrol. The Finance Minister said: "These measures are... necessary to maintain financial and economic stability over the medium to long term... and to overcome the unprecedented coronavirus crisis with the least damage possible." The measures would impact consumption and could lower revenues.

TAX SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200513-vat-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about tax in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200513-vat-4.html>

Write about **tax** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
