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Distinguishing Facts from Opinions

D) Write *F* if the statement is a Fact, or write *O* if the statement is an Opinion.

No.	Statement	F / O
1.	The European Union imported textiles (clothing and carpets) to the value of RM 83.7 billion in 2010.	F
2.	Supporters of overseas production facilities agree that most multinational companies pay the correct minimum wage and sometimes pay more.	O
3.	Multinational companies argue that they meet local employment laws. They claim that they refuse to work with factories which do not follow their rules.	O
4.	Critics of overseas production believe that child labour is wrong. They claim that children should be in full-time education rather than working in a factory.	O
5.	It seems that if multinational companies are going to benefit from low production costs by using overseas suppliers, they should do more to improve the social situation.	O
6.	It is also clear that multinational companies should invest in communities in the developed countries where they sell their products.	O

E) Give reasons to your answer in D. Discuss which key words in each statement express fact and opinion.

1. The European Union... RM83.7 billion in 2010 (facts)
2. Supporters of overseas production facilities agree... (opinion of supporters of overseas)
3. Multinational companies argue...they claim... (opinions of multinational companies)
4. Critics of overseas production believe... they claim... (opinions of critics of overseas)
5. they should... (opinion of author)
6. multinational companies should... (opinion of author)

Understanding types of opinion

F) Which of these opinions belongs to the author and other people?

No.	Statement	Author opinion	Other opinion
1.	Supporters of overseas production facilities agree that most multinational companies pay the correct minimum wage and sometimes pay more.		✓
2.	Multinational companies argue that they meet local employment laws. They claim that they refuse to work with factories which do not follow their rules.		✓
3.	Critics of overseas production believe that child labour is wrong. They claim that children should be in full-time education rather than working in a factory.		✓
4.	It seems that if multinational companies are going to benefit from low production costs by using overseas suppliers, they should do more to improve the social situation.	✓	
5.	It is also clear that multinational companies should invest in communities in the developed countries where they sell their products.	✓	

G) Give reasons to your answer in F.

1. Supporters of overseas production facilities agree... (opinion of supporters of overseas)
2. Multinational companies argue... (opinions of multinational companies)
3. Critics of overseas production believe... (opinions of critics of overseas)
4. they should... (opinion of author)
5. multinational companies should... (opinion of author)

Practice

Read the text about Antibiotics. Highlight the facts and opinions it contains. Decide whether the opinions belong to the author or other people.

- 1 According to a recent study, one of the biggest dangers now is neither war nor food shortages. It is in fact the growth in bacteria caused by the overuse of antibiotics. According to many researchers, this could become a global threat in the future. Antibiotics are a medicine that destroys harmful bacteria in the body. Alexander Fleming was the first scientist to conduct research into antibiotics when he discovered penicillin in 1929. Since 1945, antibiotics have been used in the fight against some infections. 5
- 2 This medicine has helped many people around the world. However, according to many researchers, antibiotics are now being overused. This is because doctors often prescribe them to patients. In addition, another study claims farmers mix antibiotics with animal food because they believe that this keeps their animals healthy. These antibiotics eventually find their way into the human food supply as well. The problem is that every time a patient takes antibiotics, or humans eat meat from animals that have been given food containing them, some bacteria are destroyed, but some also remain. These surviving bacteria can quickly grow. As many types of bacteria are now exposed to antibiotics, they become stronger. In other words, the more we use antibiotics, the more bacteria evolve. The more we use antibiotics, the more they become resistant to modern drugs. 10 15
- 3 New forms of tuberculosis and E-coli infections have recently been observed in Malaysia. Doctors claim that these diseases are becoming increasingly common. They also believe that soon these diseases may be much more difficult, or even impossible to treat. Drug-resistant bacteria could become an even bigger problem for mankind than climate change, unless we stop overusing antibiotics. 20

Legends		
Author's opinion	Other people's opinion	Facts