

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–13**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

Wood: A Valuable Resource in New Zealand's Economy

During the settlement of New Zealand by European immigrants, natural timbers played a major role. Wood was easily accessible and relatively cheap. A tradition of wooden houses arose, supported by the recognition that they were less likely to collapse suddenly during earthquakes, a not-infrequent event in this part of the world. But in addition to demand from the domestic market, there was also demand for forest products from overseas.

Early explorers recognised the suitability of the tall, straight trunks of the kauri for constructing sailing vessels. The kauri is a species of coniferous tree found only in small areas of the southern hemisphere. So, from the early 1800s, huge amounts of this type of wood were sold to Australia and the UK for that purpose. For a period, the forestry industry was the country's major export earner, but the rate of harvest was unsustainable and, by the beginning of the 20th century, indigenous timber exports were rapidly declining.

From the 1940s, newly established plantations of an imported species of tree called radiata pine supplied timber and other wood products in increasing quantities. By the 1960s, plantation-grown timber was providing most of the country's sawn-timber needs, especially for construction. Today, less than two percent of timber is cut from indigenous forests, and almost all of that is used for higher-value end uses such as furniture and fittings. As the pine industry developed, it became apparent that this type of wood was also well suited for many uses. It makes excellent pulp*, and is frequently used for posts, poles, furnishings and mouldings, particleboard, fibreboard, and for plywood and 'engineered' wood products. Pine by-products are used in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and residues are consumed for fuel. This amazing versatility has encouraged the development of an integrated forest-products industry which is almost unique in the world.

Exporters of wood products have largely targeted the rapidly growing markets of South and East Asia and Australia. Eighty percent of exports by value go to only five markets: Japan, Korea, China, the United States and Australia. The product mix remains heavily biased towards raw materials, with logs, sawn wood, pulp and paper comprising 75 percent of export value. However, finished wood products such as panels and furniture components are exported to more than 50 countries.

*pulp: wood which is crushed until soft enough to form the basis of paper

In New Zealand itself, the construction industry is the principal user of solid wood products, servicing around 20,000 new-house starts annually. However, the small size of New Zealand's population (just over four million), plus its small manufacturing and remanufacturing base, limits the forestry industry's domestic opportunities. For the last few years local wood consumption has been around only four million cubic metres. Accordingly, the development of the export market is the key to the industry's growth and contribution to the national economy in decades to come.

In 2004, forestry export receipts were about 11 percent of the country's total export income, their value having increased steadily for ten years, until affected by the exchange fluctuations and shipping costs of recent years. The forestry industry is New Zealand's third-largest export sector, generating around \$3.3 billion annually from logs and processed wood products. But it is generally agreed that it is operating well below its capacity and, with the domestic market already at its peak, almost all of the extra wood produced in future will have to be marketed overseas. That presents a major marketing challenge for the industry.

Although the export of logs will continue to provide valuable earnings for forest owners, there is broad acceptance that the industry must be based on value-added products in future. So the industry is investigating various processing, infrastructure and investment strategies with a view to increasing the level of local manufacturing before export. The keys to future success will depend on a variety of factors — better international marketing, product innovation, internationally competitive processing, improved infrastructure and a suitable political, regulatory and investment environment. The industry claims that, given the right conditions, by 2025 the forestry sector could be the country's biggest export earner, generating \$20 billion a year and employing 60,000 people.

One competitive advantage that New Zealand has is its ability to source large quantities of softwood from renewable forests. Consumers in several key wood markets are becoming more worried about sustainability, and the industry is supporting the development of national standards as well as the recognition of these internationally. However, New Zealand is not the only country with a plantation-style forestry industry; Chile, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and Australia all have extensive plantings of fast-growing species (hardwood and softwood), and in the northern hemisphere, Scandinavian countries have all expanded their forests or controlled their use in the interests of future production.

Finally, in addition to competition from other wood producers, New Zealand faces competition from goods such as wood substitutes. These include steel framing for houses. This further underlines the necessity for globally competitive production and marketing strategies.

Questions 1–6

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1–6 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	<i>if the statement agrees with the information</i>
FALSE	<i>if the statement contradicts the information</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if there is no information on this</i>

- 1 Settlers realised that wooden houses were more dangerous than other types of structure.
- 2 During the 1800s, New Zealand exported wood for use in boat-building.
- 3 Plantation-grown wood is generally better for construction than native forest wood.
- 4 Compared with other types of wood, pine has a narrow range of uses.
- 5 Demand for housing in New Zealand is predicted to fall in the next few years.
- 6 In future, the expansion of New Zealand's wood industry will depend on its exports.

Questions 7–13

Answer the questions below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 7–13 on your answer sheet.

- 7** Apart from exchange rates, which factor has had a negative impact on New Zealand's forestry exports?
- 8** Which part of New Zealand's economy does the forestry industry rank third in?
- 9** According to the New Zealand forestry industry, what could be the size of its workforce by 2025?
- 10** What kind of timber product is available in large amounts from renewable forests in New Zealand?
- 11** Which aspect of timber production are New Zealand's main customers increasingly concerned about?
- 12** Outside the Southern Hemisphere, who are New Zealand forestry's main competitors?
- 13** Which group of products is New Zealand's forestry industry now having to compete with?

判断题 Questions 1–6

题号	答案	定位句 (第 X 段)*	解释
1	FALSE	第1段 “...they were less likely to collapse suddenly during earthquakes...”	原文说明木结构房屋更不容易倒塌，题干却说 “more dangerous”，与原文相反。
2	TRUE	第2段 “...from the early 1800s, huge amounts of this type of wood were sold ... for constructing sailing vessels. ”	明确表示19世纪输出木材用于造船。
3	NOT GIVEN	—	文中仅说人工林木材在建筑中被广泛使用，并未比较其优劣，也未说明 “generally better”。
4	FALSE	第3段 “It makes excellent pulp ... and is frequently used for posts, poles, ... plywood and ‘engineered’ wood products.”	原文强调松木用途广泛且多样，题干却说 “a narrow range of uses”。
5	NOT GIVEN	—	文中提到 “domestic market ... at its peak”，但既未预测需求将下降，也未说明会下跌。
6	TRUE	第5段 “...the development of the export market is the key to the industry’s growth...” 第6段 “...almost all of the extra wood produced in future will have to be marketed overseas. ”	两处都指出行业未来扩张依赖出口。

* 段落序号按文章从上到下自然计数。

简答题 Questions 7–13 (每题限 ≤2 个单词 / 数字)

题号	答案	定位句 (第 X 段)	解释
7	shipping costs	第6段 “...until affected by the exchange fluctuations and shipping costs of recent years.”	除汇率外，运输成本对出口产生负面影响。
8	export sector	第6段 “The forestry industry is New Zealand’s third-largest export sector ...”	问题问 “经济的哪一部分”，即出口领域。
9	60,000	第7段 “...could be ... employing 60,000 people. ”	2025 年预计从业人数。
10	softwood	第8段 “its ability to source large quantities of softwood from renewable forests. ”	可再生林中大量供应的木材种类。
11	sustainability	第8段 “Consumers ... are becoming more worried about sustainability ...”	客户越来越关注生产的哪一方面。
12	Scandinavian countries	第8段 “...in the northern hemisphere, Scandinavian countries have all expanded their forests...”	南半球之外的主要竞争对手。
13	wood substitutes	第9段 “...competition from goods such as wood substitutes . These include steel framing for houses.”	现在须与之竞争的产品类别。