

## Economic issues

1. **In what ways do we contribute to the economy as individuals?**

**As far as I'm concerned that depends on** many factors, being your **occupation** the most **influential** aspect. **I mean**, a part of everyone's salary goes to the state through taxes, so **the more** you earn, **the more** taxes you pay. **Apart from** that, every **transaction that is carried out** has some taxes attached to it, so **as long as** you use money, you are contributing to the economy.

2. **What is the most important export in your country?**

**To be honest**, I'm not really sure about that. But in my region the most important export comes from agriculture, in the southeast of Spain the biggest producers of vegetables and citrus fruits **can be found**. There are whole towns and villages where **the vast majority** of people work in the fields, owning family businesses that have been **running for centuries**.

3. **Are you worried about the levels of unemployment in your country?**

**To my mind**, the situation was **far worse** a few years ago, when the economic crisis **took place**. But nowadays it seems unemployment rates are not as high as they **used to be**. Anyway, getting a job is more difficult than in the past, the **qualifications** needed to **apply for a job** in any field are getting **more and more demanding**, since there are more **applicants**.

4. **What taxes do you pay? Do you think taxes are too high?**

A part of everyone's salary goes to the state through taxes, so **the more** you earn, **the more** taxes you pay. **Apart from** that, every **transaction that is carried out** has some taxes attached to it. I think that no-one likes to pay taxes and **thus**, they always seem too high, **nevertheless**, we have to admit they are necessary too.

5. **Do governments have responsibility to send aid to countries with weaker economies?**

**Well, this is a controversial issue**, I believe that the decision to **provide** other countries **with aid should be made depending on** the situation those countries are **going through** and the situation of the country which has more resources.

6. **How difficult is it for first-time buyers to get a mortgage on a house in your country?**

If the buyer is young it's **nearly impossible unless** you have someone who **backs you up** economically. **I mean**, when someone applies for a mortgage,

very often their parents have to **vouch for** them, signing a contract that **guarantees** they will pay the mortgage in case their children do not.

7. **Tell me about an important company from your country.**

Free answers.... SANTANDER, ZARA, IBERDROLA, ETC.

8. **What is your opinion about clothing companies using cheap labour to produce clothes?**

**Undoubtedly**, this is unfair. Lots of brands **set up** their factories in **underdeveloped** countries, where salaries are **far lower** than in western countries. The production costs are **inexpensive**, then they **ship** the clothes to their selling destination and multiply its price hundreds of times. Afterwards, they spend all the money they save on expensive marketing campaigns and **endorsement contracts** with famous **athletes** and public figures.

9. **Some companies are worth billions. Is it possible for companies to be too big?**

**I can't imagine** how a company gets so big, but I guess when a company grows so much it is like many small companies, with many bosses and departments. So, I don't think a company can get too big.

10. **How has technology and the internet affected the global economy?**

**From my point of view** it's hard to explain how much the internet has **revolutionised** the whole world so fast, including the global economy, of course. Nowadays you can get any product or service on **the** internet, from the comfort of your living room and that is changing everything.