

Grade 9 EMS Worksheet

Prosperity in South Africa

Read the article below about prosperity in South Africa and answer the questions that follow.

The emerging black middle class – true black economic empowerment?

Friday, 24 June 2005

The South African Advertising Research Foundation (SAARF) has identified three waves of black economic empowerment. The first was the black elite, the politically well-connected individuals and dynamic entrepreneurs who took full advantage of the economic opportunities presented post-1994. The second was the emergence of the black professional, the 'buppies' of the 1990s – up-and-coming, young and qualified. The third wave is by far the largest. These are the 'bappies' (booming, aspirational and previously poor) who are taking advantage of the booming economy and moving on up.

As Tim Cohen notes, the bappies are the backbone of social development and progress. They are hard-working, law-abiding and dedicated and are prepared to make sacrifices to ensure their – and their children's – continued progress. Bappies are determined to provide their children with quality education, thereby ensuring that this growing middle class is sustainable. SAARF estimates that two million working class South Africans have escaped poverty since 1998 and joined the middle class, albeit at the bottom end.

It's not just the numbers that point to an emerging middle class. The evidence is all around, from the current retail boom, the record sales of new vehicles, to the soaring housing prices. The South African Motor Vehicle Licensing Department has reported that 31% of new vehicle owners were black last year, compared with 11% in 1990. Black ownership of homes in Johannesburg's affluent suburbs has increased by 700% in the last five years and the black middle class now accounts for over 20% of Pam Golding Properties' business, compared with 7% in 1998.

By Ian Macdonald

(Source: www.sagoodnews.co.za)

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- a) Write down one sentence from the article that proves that 'bappies' are productive. [1 mark]
- b) Being productive has enabled working class South Africans to escape poverty. How did it help them escape poverty? [2 marks]
- c) How can productivity help South Africans to prosper? [2 marks]
- d) Quote three facts from the paragraph that prove that the productivity and prosperity of 'bappies' have helped the economy to prosper. [3 marks]
- e) Consult a dictionary or research the term "prosperity". Then write down a definition. [2 marks]

[Total: 10 marks]

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	10	<p>a) They are hard-working, law-abiding and dedicated and are prepared to make sacrifices to ensure their – and their children’s - continued progress. [1 mark]</p> <p>b) They work hard and by being productive they can contribute to the success of their employer. This enables the employer to prosper, pay his or her workers and even create more employment. By earning a living wage, the working class South Africans have escaped poverty [2 marks]</p> <p>c) If they can get a job, they can earn an income and buy things that can improve their quality of life. They can make decisions about saving and investing, which helps them to prosper. [2 marks]</p> <p>d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The retail boom. • The record sales of new vehicles. • Soaring house prices. • 31% of new vehicle owners were black. • Black ownership of homes in Johannesburg’s affluent suburbs has increased by 700% in the last five years. <p style="text-align: right;">(any three) [3 marks]</p> <p>e) Prosperity is defined as wealth, success or a state of betterment. Prosperity improves our quality of life and standard of living. Economic prosperity entails the economic improvement of people and communities.</p> <p>[2 marks]</p>