

## **Manufacturing in SA**

### **Assessment Task**

#### **An overview of the manufacturing sector in South Africa (Individual activity) (LO4 AS1)**

Read the information below and answer the questions that follow.

##### **South Africa's manufacturing sector**

Manufacturing is a robust pillar of South Africa's economy. The manufacturing sector in South Africa is dominated by the motor industry, textiles, metals beneficiation, chemicals, ICT and electronics, and agricultural processing.

South Africa's chemicals industry is the largest in Africa, contributing 5% to GDP and making up 25% of manufacturing sales. The country is also the world leader in coal-based synthesis and gas-to-liquids technologies.

South Africa is also set to be a world leader in renewable energy. Biofuels – clean fuels produced from renewable resources such as maize and soya – are the new big thing in the country's agriprocessing industry.

Growth in South Africa's established and sophisticated ICT and electronics industry outstrips the world average. With more than 3 000 companies, the sector was ranked 22nd for world ICT spend in 2001.

The textile, clothing and footwear industry has been through a remarkable makeover since 1994. It was upgraded and modernised to deliver high-quality products to world markets.

Exports account for R1.4-billion for clothing and R2.5-billion for textiles, mostly to the US and Europe.

Agriculture – inputs, farming and agriprocessing – contributes R124-billion to South Africa's GDP, with R17.2-billion in processed products exported in 2001.

Farming has long been the country's lifeblood. Our sophisticated infrastructure, rich biodiversity and marine resources, competitive input costs and southern hemisphere seasons (think summer fruit in the European winter) make us a major player on the world's agricultural markets – and a lucrative investment destination.

(Source: adapted from [www.southafrica.info](http://www.southafrica.info))

- a) List the different industries that dominate the manufacturing sector of South Africa. [6 marks]
- b) What is agriprocessing? Give one example. [2 marks]
- c) What is a renewable energy source? Give one example. [2 mark]
- d) "The country is also the world leader in coal-based synthesis and gas-to-liquids technologies."  
Which South African parastatal is involved in this industry? [1 mark]
- e) What is a parastatal? [1 mark]

[Total: 12 marks]