1. FACT: The Administration court on September 29 ordered investment operations at Map Ta Phut suspended after environmental groups charged state agencies with the failure to comply with requirements under the 2007 constitution that large industrial projects be closely vetted for their environmental and health impact on communities.

*Opinion**:** Some analysts warn that a setback could have dramatic consequences for new investment and economic growth in 2010.*

State whether you agree or disagree with the above opinion. Give brief reasons.

2. FACT: The consumer price index, which tracks 417 products and services, rose 1.9% in November from a year earlier after climbing 0.4% in October.

Opinion: An economist said a rise in consumer prices stemmed largely from higher capacity utilization, which increased to 65% from 54%, prompting demand for raw materials and energy, therefore raising the prices.

State whether you agree or disagree with the above opinion. Give brief reasons.

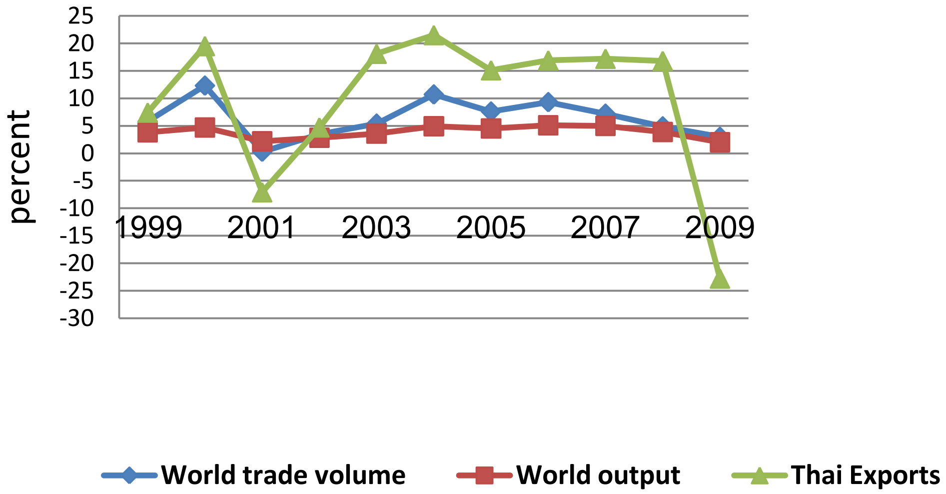
3. FACT: Under the Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA), bilateral trade between Thailand and Japan totaled $28 billion in the first nine months of this year with Japan recording a surplus of $4 billion.

   Opinion: Thailand is likely to lose as a result of the bilateral trade agreement with Japan since rice is not included in the agreement.

State whether you agree or disagree with the above opinion. Give brief reasons.

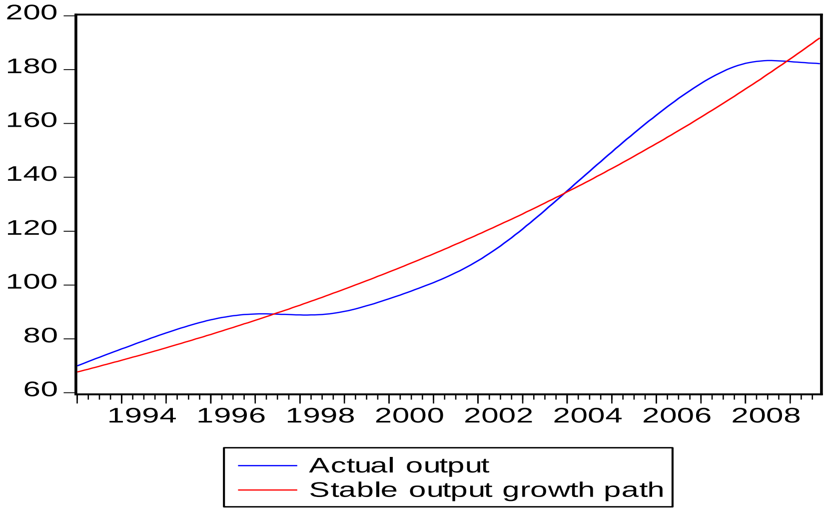
4. “The devastating impact of the 2009 global recession on Thailand’s exports (Figure 1) suggests that export-led growth strategy should not be continued”. *State whether you agree or disagree with the above statement. Give brief reasons.*

Figure 1



5. Monthly manufacturing production index is shown in Figure 2. Discuss factors responsible for deviations from the long-term growth path.

Figure 2



6. “Table 1 indicates that income inequality in Thailand is a very serious problem compared to both developed and developing countries. Inequality and poverty will get worse when food prices rise next year.”

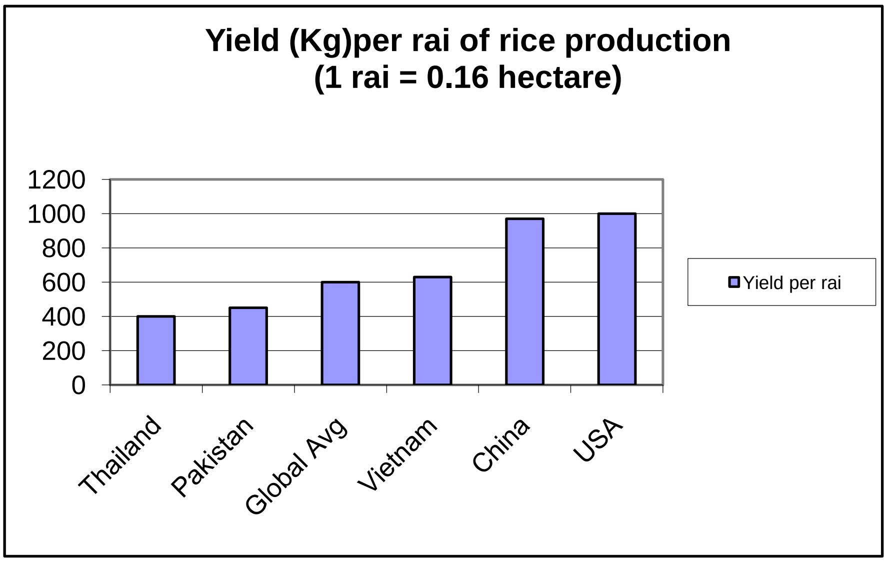
   State whether you agree or disagree with the above statement. Give brief reasons.

Table 1: Gini Coefficient in 2000

China	.46
USA	.41
Vietnam	.37
UK	.36
France	.32
India	.32
Japan	.25
Thailand	.48

7. Explain why Thailand has the lowest yield in rice production (Figure 3), but can still manage to be number one rice exporter in the world.

Figure 3



8. “Exports of processed food and textile products increased substantially in response to the increasing trend of vertical infra-industry trade”.

   State whether you agree or disagree with the above statement. Give brief reasons.

9. “If fiscal policy rules sustain growth and stability, the large fiscal stimulus in 2009 and 2010 would only enhance growth in the short run”.

   State whether you agree or disagree with the above statement. Give brief reasons.

10. “Both financial crises in Thailand and the US stemmed from similar causes”.

    State whether you agree or disagree with the above statement. Give brief reasons