

The division of labor

By definition, labor as a factor of production is the name given to the productive services which include the human physical efforts, skills and intellectual powers.

As far as the division of labor is concerned, this concept has been dealt with in three ways: the technical division of labor, i.e., describing the different productive processes.

The eighteenth century Scottish economist Adam Smith advocated this technical division of labor. This principle depends upon the advantages which come from specialization of workers in particular operation of a productive process. In other words, work is shared out among the workers; each one is responsible for a part of the job and all are dependent on each other for the end product.

The advantages of such a division of labor were clearly put forward by Adam Smith: the increase in skill and speed of performance, reducing time lost by workers not having to switch from one task to another.

Whereas, August Comte the French sociologist stressed on the social division of labor. He recognized that the social division of labor led to increase social solidarity through the mutual relations of dependence between the workers.

What is more, some modern economists and sociologists have extended and elaborated the concept of the division of labor. They have advocated the sexual division of labor. That is to say, the division of activities and roles between men and women.

Part one: Reading comprehension

1- Questions: Answer the following questions from the text

- 1.1- What is labor?
- 1.2- What are the advantages of the division of labor?
- 1.3- Does the social division of labor increase the social solidarity?
- 1.4- What is meant by sexual division of labor?

2- Answer the following questions by True or False.

- Labor refers to the human competence
- The technical division of labor emphasises on the importance of the principle of specialisation
- The social division of labor creates mutual relations of dependence between the workers
- Modern economists and sociologists have developed and elaborated the principle of the sexual division of labor.

Part two: Prepositions

1- Put the right preposition in each blank (with, to, for, by)

- The central authority is concerned _____ methods of production
- Their capital was finally reduced _____ nothing
- They charged quite a lot of money _____ that commodity
- The government is usually responsible _____ setting the standard of living for people
- He agreed _____ the other economists that the system was unclear
- He was well paid _____ the government _____ the work he did.

2- Put the verbs between brackets into the past simple.

- We (learn) online on our laptops and computers
- John (send) me his research two days ago
- He (make) a lot of mistakes in the exam
- The employer (is) absent yesterday
- The director (put) a new rules last week
- The professor (supervise) his student last year.