Reading 2

Skills:

- Details
- Vocabulary in context
- Make inferences
- Understand points of view

Getting started: What kind of alternative energy sources do you know?

OCTOPUS ENERGY TO CREATE 1,000 NEW UK JOBS

Octopus Energy, a British supplier specialising in sustainable energy, plans to create 1,000 new technology jobs across sites in London, Brighton, Warwick and Leicester, and a new tech center in Manchester. All this comes as part of its vision to make the UK the "Silicon Valley of energy". The supplier will employ graduates at the new sites to help develop a green energy technology platform which has helped to make Octopus one of the fastest-growing companies in the UK.

The prime minister, Boris Johnson, said the new jobs will "provide exciting opportunities across the country for those who want to be at the cutting edge of the global green revolution". "It's UK tech companies like Octopus who will ensure we continue to build back greener alternatives and remain a

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world leader in pioneering renewable energy, leading the path to **net zero** while creating thousands of skilled jobs," Johnson said.

Octopus became the UK's latest "tech **unicorn**" in May this year after the Australian energy company Origin paid £300m for a 20% stake. It has since announced a £100m push into the US market, as part of its goal to reach 100 million energy customers around the world by 2027. The company's newest recruits will aim to develop smart technologies that can help Britain's transport and heating systems **harness** cheap renewable energy, helping them to reduce their emissions in line with the UK's pledge to be carbon neutral by 2050.

The chancellor, Rishi Sunak, said the growth of green jobs was not only good news for British jobseekers, but also "a vote of confidence in the UK economy as it recovers" and a crucial part of "our collective efforts to build a greener, cleaner planet".

Octopus has already used its cutting-edge energy technology platform, known as Kraken, to help its customers earn money by using more electricity when renewable energy generation is high, and avoid paying higher costs when renewable energy is low. It has also widened its reach to other UK energy companies including E.On UK, Good Energy and Co-Op Energy, which also use the Kraken platform under technology licence deals.

Greg Jackson, the chief executive of Octopus, said the technology could help "make Britain the best place to invest in creating new clean electricity generation". He said: "When Apple created the App Store, nobody knew that it would change the way we live." "We're revolutionising the energy industry in the same way, creating jobs not just through increased demand for affordable renewables, but by facilitating the development of new and emerging industries like electric vehicles, electric heating and vertical farming."

**Adapted from https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/oct/05/tech-unicorn-octopus-energy-to-create-1000-new-uk-jobs*

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Glossary:

- **Net zero**: It refers to achieving an overall balance between emissions produced and emissions taken out of the atmosphere.

- **Unicorn**: It is the term used in the capital industry to describe a startup company with a value of over $1 billion.

Answer the following questions:

1. What kind of people are going to be hired by Octopus Energy?
   a. People with more than 10 years of experience.
   b. People who have a university degree.
   c. Individuals who live in Manchester.
   d. College students

2. According to paragraph 2, what is Boris Johnson's attitude towards the news?
   a. He thinks Octopus could be greener as what they're doing is not enough.
   b. He believes this is going to bring great chances for many people in the UK.
   c. He hardly believes companies like Octopus can create a green revolution.
   d. He assumes Octopus is one of the world leaders in renewable energy.

3. The word **harness** in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to
   a. deteriorate
   b. harm
   c. use
   d. buy

4. Based on the text, what is likely to happen by 2060?
   a. Boris Johnson will continue being the Prime Minister.
   b. Octopus will have gotten 100 customers in the UK.
   c. Octopus will be the most important company in Silicon Valley.
   d. The UK will have found a balance between carbon absorption and emissions.

5. What is stated about Kraken in paragraph 5?
   a. All British companies use Kraken.
   b. People may save money by using it.
   c. Kraken has a high number of customers.
   d. It is related to an old type of technology.

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6. Greg Jackson is very optimistic about his company and the UK. Which predictions represent that feeling? (**Choose two answers**)
   a. Green industries can decrease unemployment rates.
   b. Octopus may buy Apple Inc.
   c. New food platforms will emerge in the near future.
   d. The number of electric cars could be higher in a couple of years.

What do you think?

Do you think technology can help the environment?

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