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## Working life

### Reading

1 Read the letter asking for advice and Allison's response. Match the beginnings of the sentences (1-3) with the endings (a-c).

- 1 The writer of the letter wants to \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 The writer's co-workers want to \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 Alison thinks that the letter-writer should \_\_\_\_\_

- a think more carefully about the definition of ambition.  
 b continue working hard at a very enjoyable job.  
 c advance at work through promotions and pay increases.

2 Complete the notes with the symbols and abbreviations.

- b / c (because)  
 expl. (explanation)  
 - (minus, without)  
 ≠ (does not equal, does not mean)  
 > (greater than)  
 ↓ (decrease)

- Happy with job now, 1 \_\_\_\_\_ ambition
- Alison: Happy has ambition, but it ? \_\_\_\_\_ colleagues' ambitions
- Past predictions: work importance and hours will 2 \_\_\_\_\_ in 21st century
- Actually, importance of work now 1 \_\_\_\_\_ in the past
- Recommends Happy gives boss 3 \_\_\_\_\_ of feeling about job
- Shouldn't be promoted 4 \_\_\_\_\_ loves job now

3 Circle the correct options to complete the text.

The text is <sup>1</sup>an advice column / a news article.  
 Although Alison refers to past predictions about work, the statements she makes about what the letter-writer should do are <sup>2</sup>objective / subjective.  
 Her ideas are based on <sup>3</sup>personal opinion / science and <sup>4</sup>are / aren't supported by facts and statistics.  
 The advice deals with a situation that is <sup>5</sup>the same for every reader / specific to the letter-writer.

4 Circle the information that would make Alison's advice stronger.

- 1 Data showing typical pay increases in the first five years of working.
- 2 Statistics on the links between strong ambition for advancement or increased income and stress.
- 3 Information about how long workers typically stay with one company.
- 4 Research about which personality types make the best managers.
- 5 Data showing the benefits to companies of happy workers.

