

Social Issues

Exercise 1

Listen to a radio interview about maintaining a good work-life balance and choose the best answer.

1. How popular is Chris Svensson's book?
 - ☐ A. Not very popular
 - ☐ B. Very popular
 - ☐ C. It's new. People don't know it yet.

2. What is the work-life balance like in traditional workplaces?
 - ☐ A. Work lives and private lives are clearly divided.
 - ☐ B. People work too much overtime and so they have no private life.
 - ☐ C. People are free to manage the balance themselves.

3. How often do people do overtime?
 - ☐ A. Often
 - ☐ B. Sometimes
 - ☐ C. They don't.

4. In traditional workplaces, do people work at weekends or when on holiday?
 - ☐ A. Yes, it's normal.
 - ☐ B. No, never.
 - ☐ C. Usually, they don't.

5. How has technology helped people work with more flexibility?
- ☐ A. They can send and receive emails from their phones from home.
 - ☐ B. Their working hours can be easily tracked.
 - ☐ C. Robots can do their work for them.
6. Traditional divisions between work and life are fading. What does this mean for employees?
- ☐ A. Everyone has to do overtime, all the time.
 - ☐ B. People have to work while they're on holiday.
 - ☐ C. They can be flexible to work when and where it suits them.

Exercise 2

Listen to a team meeting about diversity and decide whether the following sentences are **True** or **False**.

	True	False
1. The team has grown and become more diverse in the past year.	☐	☐
2. Everyone in the team respects and values everyone else.	☐	☐
3. They're going to create a workplace charter to encourage diversity, equality and inclusion.	☐	☐
4. They're going to involve the whole team when creating the charter.	☐	☐
5. They have already run some successful workshops this year.	☐	☐
6. Nina has already shared some positive research.	☐	☐

Exercise 3

People are talking about issues. Which issue do they think is most important right now?

Listen and circle the correct answer.

1 a water pollution

b air pollution

2 a unemployment

b crime

3 a public transportation

b housing

4 a government

b unemployment

5 a public transportation

b unemployment

6 a education

b health

Exercise 4

What issues are these people talking about? Listen and circle the correct answer.

1 a air pollution

b water pollution

c overpopulation

2 a global warming

b water pollution

c unemployment

3 a poverty

b overpopulation

c war

4 a crime

b traffic

c air pollution

5 a air pollution

b garbage

c unemployment

6 a housing

b poverty

c crime

Exercise 5

Listen to a talk on very large cities, or "megacities." Why do people move from the country to megacities? Listen and check (✓) the reasons you hear.

	Reason	Not a reason
1 They want to find work.		
2 They want to be farmers.		
3 They think salaries will be higher.		
4 They think the work will be easier.		
5 They think the people will be friendly.		
6 They think city life will be glamorous.		
7 They want to be on television.		
8 They want better health care.		

Exercise 6

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

1. Mia thinks that thirty years ago _____.
 - ☐ A. life was simpler
 - ☐ B. the pace of life was faster
 - ☐ C. people were happier

2. Mia thinks that email puts pressure on people because _____.
 - ☐ A. people's computers crash
 - ☐ B. emails sometimes don't arrive
 - ☐ C. we are expected to give an instant response

3. Tom says that Beijing has grown because people _____.
 - ☐ A. don't have as much money as before
 - ☐ B. came from around the world to get rich
 - ☐ C. came from all over China to make money

4. Tom says that life in the countryside _____.
 - ☐ A. has changed enormously because of new technology
 - ☐ B. will never change because people do not have access to technology
 - ☐ C. has not changed that much, but people have more technology

5. Owen says that living conditions around the world _____.
 - ☐ A. are improving, even though many people are still living in terrible poverty
 - ☐ B. are terrible and are going in the wrong direction
 - ☐ C. are not improving, and more and more people are living in poverty

6. Owen thinks that there are _____.
☐ A. fewer wars than before, but weapons are getting more dangerous
☐ B. more wars than before, and weapons are getting more dangerous
☐ C. the same number of wars as before, and weapons are getting safer

Exercise 7

Listen to the recording and answer the questions.

1. The girl's name is _____.
☐ A. Alex ☐ B. Alice
☐ C. Ellen
2. She says we should save water when _____.
☐ A. cleaning clothes ☐ B. taking a bath
☐ C. washing cars
3. The girl's second suggestion is about _____.
☐ A. separating different types of garbage
☐ B. disposing of trash properly
☐ C. having a family clean-up party
4. By recycling paper, we can _____.
☐ A. save money ☐ B. cut down on waste
☐ C. protect the forests

5. What does the girl do once a month?

- ☐ A. She visits a recycling center.
- ☐ B. She cleans a neighborhood park.
- ☐ C. She collects newspapers.

Exercise 8

Match the photos (A-D) to the topics (1-4). Then listen to four people talking about fake news. Which topics do they discuss?



- 1 a food that sounds disgusting _____
- 2 stories about health and medicine _____
- 3 celebrities and their private lives _____
- 4 something surprising in space _____

Exercise 9

Listen to the beginning of a radio programme about global warming and complete these notes.

Global Warming

1. Problems

➤ In Britain

- Hot weather is causing problems with:

- ◆ (1) _____

- ◆ Sleep

- ◆ (2) _____ - 100 people have (3) _____

- Temperatures above 30°C are becoming more (4) _____

➤ Around the world

- Europe is having the hottest summer in (5) _____ years

- In Antarctica, the ice is melting.

- Temperatures will rise by 5°C in the next (6) _____ years.

- (7) _____ in India.

- Fires in (8) _____

- More cyclones in the (9) _____ Pacific.

2. Reasons

Experts say:

- Temperatures are rising because there is too much (10) _____

- It is part of a natural cycle and we are not causing it.

Exercise 10

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

1. Sophie

- ☐ A. is a student.
- ☐ B. is a teacher.
- ☐ C. works with technology.

2. Sophie thinks people concentrate better

- ☐ A. when they use technology.
- ☐ B. without technology.
- ☐ C. when they wear headphones.

3. Luis doesn't like

- ☐ A. newspapers and food in the subway.
- ☐ B. food at work.
- ☐ C. the government.

4. What punishment does Luis suggest?

- ☐ A. cleaning the subway
- ☐ B. paying some money
- ☐ C. cleaning the streets

5. Pamela loves

- ☐ A. her older friends.
- ☐ B. being old.
- ☐ C. technology.

6. What punishment does Pamela suggest?

- ☐ A. reading emails from her
- ☐ B. writing spam messages
- ☐ C. reading spam messages