Interactive TKA Advanced English Practice

Textual Comprehension Skills

Nama: Kelas:

Reading Text for Questions 1-5

The Hidden Cost of Fast Fashion

Fast fashion refers to the business model of replicating recent catwalk trends and high-fashion designs, mass-producing them at a low cost, and bringing them to retail stores quickly while demand is at its highest. This model's immense appeal lies in its ability to offer consumers trendy, affordable, and a wide variety of clothing options. This accessibility allows individuals to update their wardrobes frequently without a significant financial burden, keeping up with ever-changing styles promoted by social media influencers and celebrities. The constant influx of new items creates a cycle of perpetual consumption, encouraging shoppers to view clothing as disposable.

However, this convenience comes at a significant environmental price. The fashion industry is one of the largest polluters globally. Cotton, a common material, requires enormous amounts of water to grow. The production process often involves toxic chemical dyes that are discharged into rivers, poisoning local water sources and ecosystems. After a short lifespan, most fast fashion garments end up in landfills. Many are made from synthetic fibers like polyester, which are non-biodegradable and can take centuries to decompose. Furthermore, washing these synthetic clothes releases millions of microplastic fibers into the water system, which eventually pollute oceans and enter the food chain, posing a threat to marine life and humans alike.

Beyond the environmental toll, there is a profound human cost. To keep prices low, manufacturing is often outsourced to developing countries where labor laws are lax and worker protections are minimal. Garment workers, predominantly women, frequently face poor working conditions, low wages, and excessively long hours in unsafe factories. They are pressured to meet impossibly tight deadlines driven by the rapid turnover of trends. This system prioritizes corporate profits over the well-being and basic rights of the people who make the clothes.

In response to these issues, the "slow fashion" movement has emerged as a conscious alternative. It advocates for a more sustainable and ethical approach to clothing production and consumption. Slow fashion emphasizes quality over quantity, encouraging consumers to invest in timeless, well-made garments that will last for years. It promotes the use of eco-friendly materials, ethical production standards, and fair wages for workers. The movement encourages consumers to shift their mindset by buying less, choosing second-hand items, repairing clothes, and supporting transparent brands that are committed to sustainability. It is a call to action for a more mindful relationship with our clothes and the planet.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. According to the first paragraph, what is the primary appeal of fast fashion for consumers?

A. The high quality of the materials used.

B. Its durability and long-lasting nature.

C. The promotion of a minimalist lifestyle.

D. Its affordability and the wide variety of trendy options.

2. What specific problem is mentioned in the second paragraph regarding washing clothes made from synthetic fibers?

A. It causes the clothes to shrink quickly.

B. It releases microplastic fibers into the water system.

C. It consumes a large amount of electricity.

D. It fades the colors of the garments.

3. Based on the text, which of the following are characteristics of the 'slow fashion' movement? (Choose all that apply)

Pilih semua jawaban yang benar.

A.Emphasis on quality over quantity.

B.Rapid turnover of trends.

C.Use of eco-friendly materials.

D.Support for fair wages for workers.

Match the main idea of each paragraph from the 'Fast Fashion' text to its corresponding paragraph number.

The definition and consumer appeal of the fast fashion model.	Paragraph 1
The negative consequences for the environment.	Paragraph 2
An ethical and sustainable alternative movement.	Paragraph 3
The poor treatment and exploitation of garment workers.	Paragraph 4

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Based on the text, classify the following impacts of the fashion industry into 'Environmental Impact' or 'Social Impact'.

1. Toxic chemical dyes poisoning local water sources.

Environmental Impact | Social Impact

2. Garment workers facing unsafe factory conditions.

Environmental Impact | Social Impact

3. Non-biodegradable clothes accumulating in landfills.

Environmental Impact | Social Impact

4. Pressure on workers to meet impossibly tight deadlines.

Environmental Impact | Social Impact

Reading Text for Questions 6 - 10

Navigating the Gig Economy

The gig economy refers to a labor market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs. Driven by digital platforms that connect clients with workers, this model includes everything from ride-sharing drivers and food delivery couriers to freelance writers, graphic designers, and consultants. It represents a fundamental shift away from the traditional model of long-term, stable employment with a single company, instead favoring a more flexible, project-based approach to work.

For many workers, the primary allure of the gig economy is the unparalleled flexibility and autonomy it offers. Gig workers can often choose their own hours, decide where they work, and select the projects they want to take on, effectively making them their own bosses. This level of control is particularly appealing to students, parents who need to balance work with family responsibilities, and semi-retired individuals seeking supplemental income. It also provides an opportunity for professionals to diversify their income streams and pursue passion projects alongside their main jobs, fostering entrepreneurship and skill development.

However, this freedom comes with significant drawbacks and a lack of security. Unlike traditional employees, gig workers typically do not receive benefits such as health insurance, paid sick leave, or contributions to retirement plans. Their income can be highly unstable and unpredictable, fluctuating based on demand and the availability of "gigs." This creates financial precarity and requires a high degree of self-discipline in budgeting and saving. Furthermore, the isolation of working alone can lead to a lack of community and professional support, and the blurred lines between work and personal life can contribute to burnout. There are also ongoing legal debates in many countries about whether gig workers should be classified as independent contractors or employees, a distinction that has major implications for their rights and protections.

The gig economy is undeniably reshaping the future of work. While it offers a liberating alternative to the rigid structures of the past, it also presents serious challenges that must be addressed. For individuals, success in this environment demands not only professional skill but also resilience, financial literacy, and strong time-management. For society, the challenge lies in adapting our social safety nets and labor laws to support this growing segment of the workforce, ensuring that flexibility does not come at the cost of basic security and dignity.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6. What is the primary reason the gig economy is appealing to workers, according to the second paragraph?
A.High, stable income
B.Comprehensive health benefits
C.Flexibility and autonomy
D.A strong sense of community

7. According to the text, what are the significant drawbacks or risks for gig workers? (Choose all that apply)
Pilih semua jawaban yang benar.
A.Lack of benefits like health insurance
B.Guaranteed long-term contracts
C.Unstable and unpredictable income
D.Isolation and lack of professional support

Match the concept from the gig economy text to its correct implication.

Autonomy	The financial instability due to unpredictable income.
Precarity	The need to adapt laws for worker protection.
Legal Debates	The ability for workers to choose their own hours and projects.
Social Safety Nets	Societal support systems for workers, like retirement plans.

The text presents a balanced view. Categorize the following points as either a 'Benefit of the Gig Economy' or a 'Challenge of the Gig Economy'.

1. Opportunity to diversify income streams.
   Benefit Challenge

2. Difficulty in budgeting and saving.
   Benefit Challenge

3. Fostering entrepreneurship and skill development.
   Benefit Challenge

4. Blurred lines between work and personal life leading to burnout.
   Benefit Challenge

What is the author's overall conclusion about the gig economy?
A. It is a flawed system that should be abandoned entirely.
B. It is a perfect model for the future of work with no downsides.
C. It is a transformative shift that offers freedom but requires new forms of support and regulation.
D. It is only suitable for students and semi-retired individuals.

LIVEWORKSHEETS