7 Prediction and speculation

Various structures and verb forms are used in English to speculate about and predict things. Look at the following sentences from the text and match them to the correct structure below.

1. Having more space on desks can also increase productivity by up to 30 per cent.
2. And if an office has a very pleasant smell, then it's very possible that it's there on purpose.
3. Workers who enjoy their office environment are likely to work harder.
4. It is suggested that the extra noise will increase energy levels and help reporters to meet deadlines.
5. But after all that walking, workers are certainly going to want to lie down.
6. A sincere "good job" from the boss is certain to boost an employee's productivity.

a. *be certain to* + infinitive
b. *be going to* + infinitive
c. *be likely/unlikely to* + infinitive
d. *can* + infinitive
e. *It's possible/unlikely that ...*
f. *will/won't* + infinitive

Complete the sentences below with a suitable word or structure from this exercise. Compare your answers with a partner. Who is more optimistic about improving staff motivation?

1. A cup of coffee _____ increase your energy level.
2. Allowing employees to work from home _____ boost their motivation.
3. _____ spending time on Facebook has a negative effect on work performance.
4. A very demanding boss _____ make workers more productive.
5. _____ giving employees more freedom improves their work performance.
6. Increasing workers' salaries _____ improve their job satisfaction.
7. Giving free chocolates to staff _____ improve their health.
8. Having a messy desk _____ make you work harder.
9. Giving free fruit to staff _____ improve their health.

LIVEWORKSHEETS