



אנגלית, חורף תש"נ, מס' 016582, גרסה א'

PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (60 points)

Read the article below and then answer questions 1-7.

INTRODUCING THE SHORTER WORKWEEK

I It is nine o'clock on a Wednesday morning, a time when most office workers are sitting down behind their desks, beginning another busy working day. But at Versa, an Australian computer company, the offices are empty. For over a year, the company has been giving its employees the day off every Wednesday, requiring them to work only a four-day week for their usual 5 five-day salary. The workers are delighted with the new policy, and the management, too, is very pleased. Despite the shortened workweek, the company's profits are greater than ever. Versa's boss, Kathryn Blackman, sees this as evidence that, contrary to popular belief, fewer working hours can actually help workers become more productive.

II Versa's view is also supported by recent studies. One team of researchers interviewed the 10 200 employees of a company where a four-day workweek was introduced, and identified several strategies they developed to increase efficiency. For instance, the usual two-hour meetings were completed in thirty minutes, and the time spent on phone calls and emails was substantially reduced. Furthermore, workers reported greater job satisfaction, and they also seemed more relaxed and even healthier, taking fewer sick days. These findings are likely to surprise company 15 managers. According to surveys, they often assume that shorter workweeks will result in additional stress for workers, who will try to get the same amount of work done in fewer hours.

III Although the managers of Versa believed their company would benefit from reduced working hours, they weren't sure of the best way to organize the new workweek. The idea of creating a three-day weekend was immediately rejected—such a long break, they felt, would make 20 it difficult for employees to reconnect with their work on Monday mornings. The company did try allowing them to choose their own day off. That, however, made it nearly impossible to schedule meetings or to know when any particular person would be available. The Wednesday-off arrangement proved to be very popular with workers, who said they returned on Thursdays feeling full of energy.



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25 **IV** Not all attempts to change the workweek have been so successful. An experiment with fewer work days at homes for the elderly in Sweden, for example, led to much higher costs since more people had to be hired. Nevertheless, many sociologists are in favor of the reduction. Among them is Erica Carter of Marsville College, who believes it could help solve a serious problem faced by companies. "Highly skilled women often leave the workforce when they become mothers," 30 she says. "If they are given more time at home, many might decide not to quit their jobs." Dr. Carter also notes that according to studies, extra time spent by parents with their children contributes to the children's self-confidence and to the whole family's quality of life. It seems, therefore, that changing the workweek could have a far-reaching impact not only on the workers and companies involved but also on the wider society.

QUESTIONS (60 points)

Answer questions 1-7 in English according to the article. In questions 6 and 7, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

1. What are we told about Versa in paragraph I?

PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

- i) What its workers do on their days off.
- ii) How it is different from other companies.
- iii) Why its employees' salaries will have to increase.
- iv) How many hours its employees work every day.
- v) Why it needed to improve productivity.
- vi) What it has gained from the change it made.

(2x7=14 points)

2. What can we understand is the "popular belief" referred to in line 7?

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

People who work fewer hours are

(8 points)

3. If working hours are reduced, what might workers do to increase their efficiency?

Give ONE answer. Base your answer on information in paragraph II.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

They might

(8 points)



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4. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

From paragraph II we learn why companies might not want to

..... (8 points)

5. What does the writer explain in paragraph III? Give ONE answer.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

He explains why Versa decided not to

..... (8 points)

6. The Swedish example is given to show (-). (paragraph IV)

- i) how the workweek could be shortened
- ii) why not all workers want a shorter workweek
- iii) what problem shorter workweeks could cause
- iv) how shorter workweeks can be made more productive

(7 points)

7. What do we learn from Dr. Carter? (paragraph IV)

- i) Which skills companies value most.
- ii) Who can benefit from shorter workweeks.
- iii) How attitudes to workers are changing.
- iv) How working women acquire their skills.

(7 points)



תליישת דף עלולה להביא לפסילת הבחינה נزع ורقة قد يؤדי אליו לغاء الامتحان

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PART II: WRITTEN PRESENTATION (40 points)

Write 120-140 words in English on the following topic.

8. Do you think anti-smoking advertising campaigns can be effective?

Write a composition stating and explaining your opinion.

בהצלחה!

Use this page and the next (pages 7-8) for writing a rough draft.