Written Comprehension

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

The Change of Job Titles

I When Jean-Philippe Michel, a Canadian career coach, works with secondary-school students who are trying to prepare for their future, he doesn't focus on helping them choose a job or profession. Instead, he encourages them to try to identify which skills they'd like to acquire and which kinds of challenges they're interested in helping to overcome.

II Michel believes that it's no longer helpful for young people who are entering the workforce to focus on job titles. Today, as the number of job titles in the workplace continues to increase, it's no longer possible to keep track of more than a fraction of them. What's more, as technology continues to advance, it's clear that many of today's jobs will change beyond recognition in the future or will disappear. As a result, according to Michel, attempting to define your future career based on the job titles that exist today may be unnecessary.

III Many experts believe that in the future, rather than entering into the kinds of traditional work roles that we're familiar with today, people will pursue "portfolio careers". These careers will be made up of numerous different projects or roles. In a digital world where it's relatively easy to find out about new opportunities, people will be able to build up a "portfolio" of projects that they can work on simultaneously. Furthermore, as people live longer, it's expected that the length of people's working lives will increase significantly. Consequently, people could have as many as 40 different jobs during their working lives.

IV So what does all this mean for those young people who are about to enter the workforce? Firstly, they must focus on developing their skill set in order to make them more employable in a variety of roles. Secondly, since it's likely that their career will involve numerous moves from one project to the next, it's essential that they change their mindset regarding what it means to have a successful career. Instead of focusing on promotions and changes to job titles as a measure of their success, they'll have to focus on the satisfaction they derive from being able to choose where and how they work.

1 Choose the correct answer. (2 x 3 = 6 points)

1 Students who are finishing secondary school ..... .
   a are unlikely to find work easily in the future
   b will probably work more years than their parents did
   c have fewer job opportunities than their parents did
   d will change jobs every year

2 In the future, people will ..... .
   a have less job satisfaction than they do today
   b not be as successful at work as they are today
   c define success at work in much the same way as they do today
   d benefit from greater flexibility in their work

2 Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F). Find evidence in the text to support your answers. (2 x 4 = 8 points)

1 It's easier today than in the past to find out about job opportunities. .....
.....

2 People who pursue a portfolio career will do one job at a given time. .....
.....

3 Complete the sentences. (2 x 4 = 8 points)

1 It's expected that as people live longer, they will probably .....

.....

2 It's important for people entering the workforce to get as .....

.....

4 Answer the questions. (2 x 4 = 8 points)

1 Why does Michel advise secondary-school students not to focus on job titles?

.....

2 How should young people entering the workplace measure their success?

.....

5 Find words or expressions in the text that mean: (5 x 2 = 10 points)

1 obtain (paragraph I) .....

2 monitor (paragraph II) .....

3 many (paragraph III) .....

4 attitude (paragraph IV) .....

5 indication (paragraph IV) .....