READING

A newspaper article

1 ★ **Read the article. Which opinion in the last paragraph do you agree with?**

Goodbye to Saturday jobs?

Fifty years ago, it was very common for a British teenager to work part-time. These days, the number of teens with a 'Saturday job' is falling.

The most common jobs in the UK for young people are delivering newspapers and working in shops and offices, or as waiters. In the past, teens could easily get these jobs. Now, employers need special permits for teens under 16 to work in their businesses. Also, 13 to 15-year-olds can't work between the hours of 7 pm and 7 am.

Another reason for the fall in part-time teenage workers is that in the past they could have a part-time job and do their schoolwork. Now, success in exams is the most important thing, and there's more pressure to do well at school.



'Working part-time and doing well at school isn't easy,' says 15-year-old shop assistant Cheryl Bates. 'You need to organise your time and maybe do some of your homework at lunchtime. It's harder than you think, but when I earn my own money, I feel more independent because I don't need to ask my parents to buy me things.'

Fourteen-year-old waiter Martin Cox adds, 'Doing a job is the best way to learn the skills you need for the future. I was the quietest boy in my class, and I couldn't talk to people very well. Now, because I talk to customers at work, I'm much better in social situations.'

So, can part-time work help to prepare young people for adult life, or does it put extra pressure on teens with already busy lives? What do you think?



2 ★★ **Read the article again and check the meaning of the words in the box in a dictionary. Then complete the sentences.**

common	employer	~~independent~~
part-time	permit	pressure

1 Maisie is a very *independent* girl. She never needs much help.
2 Is there much _____ to pass all your exams at your school?
3 Fruit picking is usually a _____ job in the summer months. It's a very _____ job in lots of countries.
4 Mrs Preston is a good _____. All her teenage workers really like her.
5 Do you need a _____ to work here when you're under 16?

3 ★★ **Read the article again. Are the sentences *T* (true) or *F* (false)?**

1 In the UK, there weren't many young part-time workers in the past. F
2 A 16-year-old girl can work in a shop without a permit. ___
3 A 14-year-old boy can work between 7 am and 7 pm. ___
4 There was more pressure to do well at school in the past. ___
5 Cheryl thinks earning her own money is easy. ___
6 For Martin, talking to people isn't a problem now. ___

4 ★★★ **Answer the questions with your own ideas.**

1 Is part-time work for teenagers common in your country? Why / Why not?

2 How do you get the money to buy the things you want?

LIVEWORKSHEETS