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Working life

Reading

- 1 Read the letter asking for advice and Allison's response. Match the beginnings of the sentences (1-3) with the endings (a-c).

- 1 The writer of the letter wants to _____
 - 2 The writer's co-workers want to _____
 - 3 Alison thinks that the letter-writer should _____
- a think more carefully about the definition of ambition.
 - b continue working hard at a very enjoyable job.
 - c advance at work through promotions and pay increases.

- 2 Complete the notes with the symbols and abbreviations.

b / c (because)
 expl. (explanation)
 - (minus, without)
 ≠ (does not equal, does not mean)
 > (greater than)
 ↓ (decrease)

- Happy with job now, 1 _____
ambition
- Alison: Happy has ambition, but it
? _____ colleagues' ambitions
- Past predictions: work importance and hours
will 2 _____ in 21st century
- Actually, importance of work now
1 _____ in the past
- Recommends Happy gives boss
3 _____ of feeling about job
- Shouldn't be promoted 4 _____
loves job now

- 3 Circle the correct options to complete the text.

The text is 'an advice column / a news article.
 Although Alison refers to past predictions about work, the statements she makes about what the letter-writer should do are 'objective / subjective.
 Her ideas are based on 'personal opinion / science
 and 'are / aren't supported by facts and statistics.
 The advice deals with a situation that is
 'the same for every reader /
 specific to the letter-writer.

- 4 Circle the information that would make Alison's advice stronger.

- 1 Data showing typical pay increases in the first five years of working.
- 2 Statistics on the links between strong ambition for advancement or increased income and stress.
- 3 Information about how long workers typically stay with one company.
- 4 Research about which personality types make the best managers.
- 5 Data showing the benefits to companies of happy workers.

