

Listen to the interview and fill in the blank with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS

Interviewer: Today we have the (1)....., Jim Bower in the studio. Jim, according to the government's Women and Work Commission, women are still earning 17% less than men. Now the government has (2)..... to tackle gender equalities in pay, but will they be enough?

Jim: Well, according to the Fawcett Society, under the current system it will take about 80 years before women working full-time earn as much as their (3)....., and 140 years before part-time female workers catch up with men. Despite girls consistently outperforming boys at GCSE, A-level and Degree, findings show that within three years of (4)..... are still earning less than men.

Interviewer: So would you say that inequality starts in the classroom?

Jim: According to the Equal Opportunities Commission, 15% of young people in school are neither given advice nor encouraged into (5)..... in professions dominated by the opposite sex. The government's response in schools is being praised by most, and involves introducing new schemes to give young girls better understanding of the wider (6)..... available to them, but there is still room for improvement.

Interviewer: Do you think that the government is missing the point?

Jim: Well, instead of closing the gap between wages of men and women in careers that require (7)....., the government is instead planning to spend £20 million to raise the skill level of women working in these roles, encouraging them to change careers altogether. This policy will only reduce the available 'woman-power' in these (8)..... What we have to do is revalue the kind of work that women are doing such as cleaning, catering and caring for others – we've got to value it more highly.

Interviewer: Is it true to say that children cost mothers more than fathers?

Jim: According to the London School of Economics, mothers who returned to their previous jobs as part-timers quickly (9)..... their male colleagues financially, and those that entered new jobs on a part-time basis did even worse. Currently many companies still (10)..... to 'stuffed shirt' policies that have no openings for part-time workers in (11)..... This is forcing a large workforce of highly skilled and qualified women with young children out of the boardroom, because they cannot deliver a 40-plus-hour week, and into jobs below their (12)..... Basically, the whole system still needs further reform if women are to have equal rights in the workplace and be able to bring up a family too.

Interviewer: I'm afraid that's all we have time for today. Jim, thank you very much.

Jim: My pleasure.