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GLOBAL ENGLISH 9: IELTS PRACTICE

HOMEWORK MINDSET FOR IELTS 3 - UNIT 4 - READING

The accepted concept of a career path followed a similar pattern for decades. After completing their education, people would enter the adult world of work, settling down to a job in which they would likely remain from that point onward. Not only would this occupation provide their income for their entire working life, it would also allow them a healthy pension when they retired and moved into old age. Over the past twenty years, however, the relationship between a wage earner and their chosen profession has changed enormously. Today, the idea of a 'job-for-life' has all but disappeared, to be replaced by an unforgiving world of unstable employment. Some observers even argue that current society appears to pit old against young in a constant battle to find work of some description, all against a backdrop of increasing debt and economic difficulties.

At the same time, the government regularly releases figures that suggest that the economy is prospering, evidencing this claim with the fact that the unemployment rate continues to fall annually. Given this claim, logic would seem to dictate that, since there are fewer people out of work, an increasing number of people are enjoying a regular income. To dispute this, Frank Thomas's 2016 study on the nature of work, *Employment as a Myth*, revealed an interesting and contradictory interpretation. There are indeed more jobs available. However, a huge number of these are casual, temporary or short-term positions, all of which are low-paid and create little in the way of tax income for the government. This has a number of debilitating long-term effects, not least because this assurance of a growing economy is based more in myth than fact. Thomas explains, 'Without tax income, the economy cannot grow; if the economy stays weak, new jobs will not be created.'

He also illustrates how, around the world, increases in life expectancy have created a problem for a huge number of retired workers, who are starting to find that the sum of money they have saved for their retirement does not stretch far enough to provide the financial security that they had expected. As a result, there has been a widespread return of these workers to the job market, very often in search of the type of casual employment that was once the preserve of people in their late teens and early 20s. Lois Lawrence expands on this view in *Unfair Returns*: 'Older people are taking opportunities away from their grandchildren. Post-education, those new to the world of work are not able to earn any sort of living wage, nor are they getting the opportunity to develop the 'soft skills', e.g. social intelligence, that will enable them to flourish in the job market.'

For Lawrence, the days of the salaried worker – comfortable, assured, financially secure – are coming to an end, and are being replaced by a new model: the exploited worker. Instead, these are

the days of the 'zero-hours' contract, where an employee is told by an employer to be *available* for work, but is not necessarily given any, and so earns nothing for their time simply spent waiting. She argues that this is causing even more inequality in the employment market, as business leaders realise that they have no obligation to provide their staff with a full- or part-time contract, and can therefore avoid additional expenditure. The 'zero-hours' worker receives no holiday or sick pay, and is considered to be self-employed, so has to pay their own taxes. They also have no hope of stability, and can be instantly dismissed without any hope of recourse. Employment laws, written decades ago at a time when the vast majority of the country's workforce benefitted from permanent positions, do not protect the new breed of worker from being unfairly dismissed at a moment's notice by their manager.

Less pessimistic interpretations of today's employment market do exist elsewhere. A 2015 study by William Haroldson, *How the Market Adjusts to Opportunity*, advocated a definition of a new type of multi-skilled worker: the model employee who not only refuses to age, but also does not want to work in the same office every day, or even to be an employee in the first place. In such a progressive, forward-looking environment, young and old are supposed to collaborate extensively, sharing the benefits of each other's talents and prior knowledge. Furthermore, although younger people are traditionally thought to be more willing to try any number of routes into work before deciding on an industry in which they want to develop, such an approach to employment no longer excludes workers of a more advanced age. Thomas agrees: 'Most of today's self-starters believe that the job market offers a vast array of potential opportunities from which they can learn and gain experience. Whether they have a wide range of existing experience, or none at all, is irrelevant to them.'

Moving from job to job is no longer seen in a negative way, he goes on to argue. In the past, anyone with a series of short-term positions on their CV was seen as unreliable or disloyal. Most of today's self-starters, however, approach the job market as a vast source of possibilities, while employers themselves are more likely to be entrepreneurs who are willing to accept job mobility without question, and less likely to punish potential staff for doing so. One positive result of this development is that 'soft skills' such as social intelligence can therefore be learnt in a new way, and through a greater number of person-to-person encounters than used to be available. This has been made possible through the fact that so much of human contact today now takes place in one enormous meeting room – the internet. Even if it means that the people in contact are not actually present together in the same room, the

1 encounter still happens.

13 Read the passage and answer questions 1-7.

Questions 1-7

Look at the following statements and the list of studies below. Match each statement with the correct study, A-C.

- 1 Unlike in previous years, a willingness to experiment with a wide range of possible roles is visible in all groups of job-seekers.
- 2 Younger people are being denied the chance to develop the social skills necessary for the modern office environment.
- 3 Many modern positions can be more easily terminated than ever before.
- 4 Claims of economic expansion are demonstrably incorrect.
- 5 An unforeseen problem has led to an increase in the number of people available to work.
- 6 Much of today's workforce do not feel constrained by a lack of familiarity with a new position.
- 7 Refusal to conform to traditional behaviour models at work is a positive step.

List of studies

- A *Employment as a Myth*
- B *Unfair Returns*
- C *How the Market Adjusts to Opportunity*

Question 8

What is the best title for this passage?

- A The Conflict between Young and Old in the Workplace
- B Modern Employment: the Need for Adaptability
- C The Changing Face of Working Life
- D What Today's Workforce Really Wants

MINDSET FOR IELTS 2 - UNIT 6 - WRITING

04 Rewrite these sentences so they sound more formal.

- 1 Our environment is getting worse day by day.
- 2 We might not be able to see all of the bad things in our environment, but they are there for sure!
- 3 If this keeps going on, our families will struggle in the future.
- 4 There are many things our teens and families can do to help get rid of pollution, e.g. hand-wash our clothes, ride a bike to school/work etc.
- 5 There could be a solution to helping our environment if we
 - reach out to people who don't care about the environment
 - change their point of view
 - tell them how bad things are.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

08

Read the task and sample essay, and complete it with linking words from the box. Words can be used more than once.

also	consequently	for example	furthermore	however
whilst	in conclusion	in contrast	therefore	

SAMPLE ESSAY

In the future, experts predict that robots will be doing many of the tasks currently done by humans. 1 _____, there will be many advantages and disadvantages for society. In this essay, I will discuss both the positive and negative aspects of this new development.

The biggest advantage robots will bring to the workplace is their ability to work quickly and accurately. 2 _____, they don't need to take breaks or have holidays. This would 3 _____ mean that having a robot worker would be much more economical than employing a human.

Another great advantage of using robots in the workplace is that they can perform tasks that are thought to be dangerous, 4 _____, working on busy roads or underground. They can 5 _____ do the jobs humans don't want to do, such as cleaning the house or dealing with rubbish.

6 _____, there are also many disadvantages to robots entering the workplace. The most significant disadvantage is that many humans would be left unemployed.

7 _____, if a robot was to stop working, this could cause major problems for a company which relied heavily on the technology. A robot which wasn't working properly could also be very dangerous in some cases. The cost of maintaining these robots could also be very expensive.

8 _____, as can be seen from the points made in this essay, there are both advantages and disadvantages to having robots enter the workplace. 9 _____ there are many advantages to this, a significant negative impact would be the loss of jobs for humans. If managed in the right way, 10 _____, I feel that overall the advantages would outweigh the disadvantages.

MINDSET FOR IELTS 2 - UNIT 6 - WRITING

06 ▶

Use the information and language from this lesson to answer this Writing Part 2 task. You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Most people do not care enough about environmental issues. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

[illegible]

MINDSET FOR IELTS 3 - UNIT 3 - LISTENING

Các con mở link nghe bằng máy tính nhé: <https://tinyurl.com/5n88rpnr>

09▶

Listen and match the century with the information about the castle.

21

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 11th century | a The Westchester family became the owners. |
| 2 12th century | b The castle had its origins at this time. |
| 3 13th century | c The living quarters were added. |

Các con mở link nghe bằng máy tính nhé: <https://tinyurl.com/5n88rpnr>

10▶

Listen again and answer the question.

21

- In which century did Westchester Castle become a residence?
- A 11th B 12th C 13th

Các con mở link nghe bằng máy tính nhé: <https://tinyurl.com/2n8zvwt>

12▶ Listen again. Which part of the castle is still in good condition?



- A the drawbridge B the moat C the turrets

Các con mở link nghe bằng máy tính nhé: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9b65hz>

13▶ Listen and write the missing words.



The castle would have had 1 _____ in the basement to store enough food for many months in case of a siege. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to enter the basement area as it's not safe, but we know that there are underground 2 _____ used for escape and for making sorties, or attacking raids, against the enemy. This castle is unusual in that there has been no evidence found of 3 _____ – underground prison cells. Perhaps they never took any prisoners!

Các con mở link nghe bằng máy tính nhé: <https://tinyurl.com/4z5jyhm>

15▶ Listen and answer questions 1–10.



Questions 1–6

Label the map opposite.

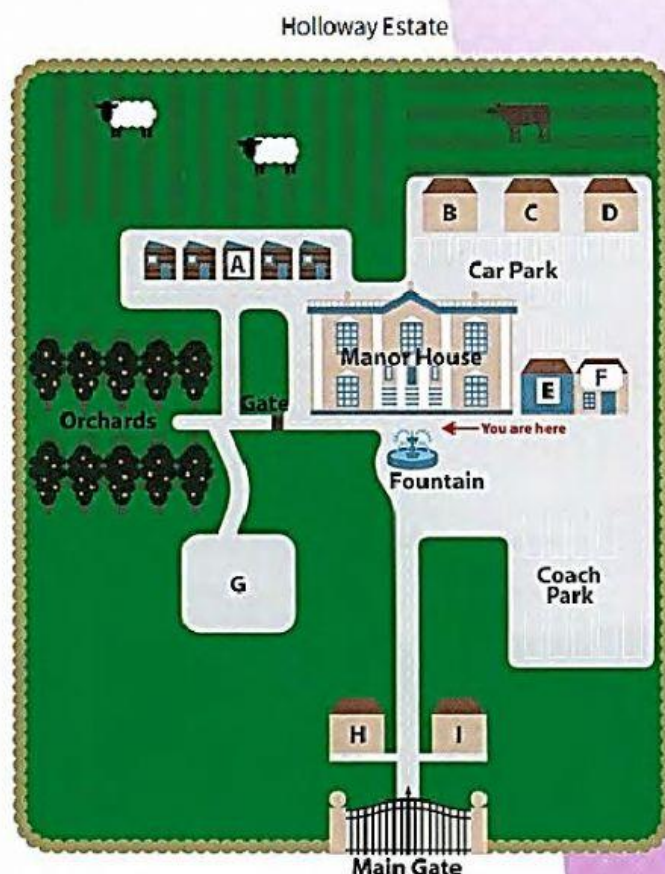
Write the correct letter, A–I, next to questions 1–6.

- 1 gift shop
- 2 beehives
- 3 holiday cottages
- 4 dairy
- 5 museum
- 6 estate office

Questions 7–10

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

- 7 How many unpaid helpers does the National Trust have?
 - A about 62,000
 - B about 5,899
 - C about 4.24 million
- 8 The main aim of the National Trust is
 - A to make money from its properties.
 - B to preserve historical properties.
 - C to donate money to property owners in financial difficulties.
- 9 A couple can join the National Trust for a year for
 - A £64.
 - B £108.
 - C £114.
- 10 Paying membership fees by direct debit also gets you
 - A a pair of binoculars.
 - B a National Trust handbook.
 - C three copies of the National Trust magazine per year.



MINDSET FOR IELTS 3 - UNIT 4 - LISTENING

Các con mở link nghe bằng máy tính nhé: <https://tinyurl.com/m3yy6n2w>

06▶

Listen to the first part of the lecture and answer questions 1–4 above. Use NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each answer.



- 1 What were used as an ancient type of currency for trade?
- 2 What were the first coins made in Greece a natural mixture of?
- 3 Which material did the Chinese use in the seventh century BC to make coins?
- 4 What did most early Chinese coins resemble?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Các con mở link nghe bằng máy tính nhé: <https://tinyurl.com/bdeteakh>

08▶

Listen to the second part of the lecture and answer questions 5–8 above. Use NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer.



- 5 What distinguished the coins of first Chinese emperor, Shi Huangdi, apart from being round in form?
- 6 According to historians, what was the purpose of the round jade discs that Shi Huangdi's coins were based on?
- 7 Which aspect of previous Chinese coins was not kept for Shi Huangdi's coins?
- 8 Which industrial process can Shi Huangdi's coin-making be seen as a primitive example of?

5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____