8 Working life

Reading

1 Read the letter asking for advice and Alison'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* [2]_____ *colleagues' ambitions*
- *Past predictions: work importance and hours will* [3]_____ *in 21st century*
- *Actually, importance of work now* [4]_____ *in the past*
- *Recommends Happy gives boss* [5]_____ *of feeling about job*
- *Shouldn't be promoted* [6]_____ *loves job now*

3 Circle the correct options to complete the text.

The text is [1]*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 [2]*objective / subjective*. Her ideas are based on [3]*personal opinion / science* and [4]*are / aren't* supported by facts and statistics. The advice deals with a situation that is [5]*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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS