

Section 3

YOUNG MAN: That seminar yesterday on (1) was really good wasn't it? Looking at the first industrial revolution in Britain in the 19th century and seeing how people reacted to massive change was (2)

YOUNG WOMAN: Yes. It was interesting to hear how people felt about automation then and what challenges they faced. I didn't know that first started with workers (3)

YOUNG MAN: With those protesting workers called the Luddites destroying their knitting machines because they were (4) losing their jobs.

YOUNG WOMAN: Yes, and ultimately, they didn't achieve anything. And anyway, industrialisation (5)

YOUNG MAN: Yes, that's true – but it probably didn't seem a positive thing at the time. I can see why the Luddites (6)

YOUNG WOMAN: I know. I'm sure I would have felt the same. The discussion about the future of work was really optimistic for a change. I like the idea that work won't involve doing boring, repetitive tasks, as robots (7) Normally, you only hear negative stuff about the future.

YOUNG MAN: (8), don't you think? For example, I can't see how people are about to (9), when all the evidence shows people are spending longer than ever at work.

YOUNG WOMAN: No – that's true. And what about lower unemployment? I'm not so sure about that.

YOUNG MAN: Perhaps in the long term – but not (10)

YOUNG WOMAN: Mmm. And I expect most people (11) work until they're much older – as everyone's living much longer.

YOUNG MAN: That's already happening.

YOUNG WOMAN: I enjoyed all that stuff on how technology has changed some jobs and how they're likely to change in the near future.

YOUNG MAN: Yeah, incredible. Like accountants. You might think all the technological innovations would have put them (12) but in fact there are more of them than ever. They're still really in demand and (13)

YOUNG WOMAN: Right. That was amazing. Twenty times more accountants in this country compared to (14)

YOUNG MAN: I know. I'd never have thought that demand for hairdressing would have gone up so much (15) One hairdresser for every 287 people now, compared to one for over 1,500.

YOUNG WOMAN: Yeah because (16) has gone up so they can afford to (17) like that.

YOUNG MAN: But technology hasn't changed the actual job that much.

YOUNG WOMAN: No, they've got hairdryers, etc. but it's one job where you (18) a computer ... The kind of work that administrative staff do has changed enormously, thanks to technology. Even 20 years ago there were secretaries doing (19)

YOUNG MAN: Yes. Really boring compared to these days, when they're given (20) and higher status.

YOUNG WOMAN: Mmm. A lot of graduates go in for this kind of work now ... I'd expected there to be a much bigger change in (21) in the 19th century. But the 1871 census showed that roughly 25% of the population worked on the land.

YOUNG MAN: Yeah, I'd have assumed it would be more than 50%. Now it's (22)

YOUNG WOMAN: What about care workers?

YOUNG MAN: They barely existed in the 19th century as people's lifespan was (23) But now of course this sector will see huge growth.

YOUNG WOMAN: Yeah- and it's hard enough to meet current demand. The future (24) for bank clerks. They've been in decline since ATMs were introduced in the eighties.