

## Unit 3: The changing world of work

### 1 Language: Differences and changes

Unscramble the following words.

elisbenoarc d, idaamtcr, lsyaei, oenrusmo, eguh, ranyalilmg, iesamvs, fcatsingni, sroudenmt, tavil

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### 2 Fill the gaps with the appropriate words from exercise 1 (each word is only used once). The first letter is provided.

In recent years, the world has experienced a d\_\_\_\_\_ (1) transformation due to s\_\_\_\_\_ (2) global changes. Technological advancements, economic shifts, and digital connectivity have had quite an impact.

The h\_\_\_\_\_ (3) surge in e-commerce has brought about c\_\_\_\_\_ (4) alterations in business operations and customer interactions. Companies cannot afford to invest in their online presence only m\_\_\_\_\_ (5) if they want to remain competitive.

Furthermore, the rise of automation and artificial intelligence plays a m\_\_\_\_\_ (6) role in reshaping the job market. Some tasks can now be e\_\_\_\_\_ (7) automated, leading to e\_\_\_\_\_ (8) changes in employment opportunities.

Moreover, there is a t\_\_\_\_\_ (9) shift towards sustainability and responsible consumption, with people altering their lifestyles to address global challenges.

As global changes continue to unfold, embracing innovation and remaining agile will be important for shaping a better and more prosperous future. Sustainable practices and a focus on responsible approaches will be v\_\_\_\_\_ (10) in navigating the evolving global landscape.

### 3 Language: Interpreting meaning

Match 1–7 with a–g.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Although it's complex, that doesn't         | a little about the quality of life.            |
| 2 These graphs reveal quite a lot             | b that the service industries are flourishing. |
| 3 The annual average income is stable, as     | c necessarily mean it can't be interpreted.    |
| 4 Unfortunately, it indicates very            | d from these statistics.                       |
| 5 I assume this means                         | e of this figure is. It's unclear.             |
| 6 I'm not sure what the significance          | f about recent trends in employment.           |
| 7 The rich are getting richer, as is apparent | g this graph shows.                            |

### 4 Expand the underlined part of each sentence. Use the correct form.

- 1 It seem mean more of us will have to depend on public transport.  
*It seems to mean that more of us will have to depend on public transport.*
- 2 significance the discovery of DNA cannot be underestimated.
- 3 apparent his report that urban living conditions are improving.
- 4 The survey reveals people are increasingly moving away from major urban areas.
- 5 That not necessarily that we will experience more extreme weather.
- 6 It not indicate much the popularity of social networking sites.
- 7 table show, total sales for February fell dramatically.

5

### Complete the journalist's interview of a police chief with the words below in the correct form.

as cautiously conclusion deduce forward highly implication imply interpret jump plausible point put suggest to (2x) unlikely

**Journalist:** But why did the suspect run away? He was on bail, awaiting trial in two weeks.

**Chief:** We don't know. I suppose we could \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ (1) the action of a desperate man.

**Journ.:** But that \_\_\_\_\_ (2) he was guilty ... or didn't think he'd get a fair trial. Anyway, where do you think he is now?

**Chief:** Well, I'm reluctant to \_\_\_\_\_ (3), but everything \_\_\_\_\_ (4) an escape from the country: he took his passport, he exchanged a large sum of money for euros, his car was found at the airport.

**Journ.:** I'd like to \_\_\_\_\_ (5) another theory: he speaks no foreign languages, he knows no one abroad, and his face is known across Europe, the \_\_\_\_\_ (6) being it's \_\_\_\_\_ (7) he would view Europe as a safe destination. May I \_\_\_\_\_ (8) that he faked a departure and is still here?

**Chief:** I don't think that's \_\_\_\_\_ (9). We've reviewed his background and psychological profile and have \_\_\_\_\_ (10) that he would most likely go to ... sorry, I can't really give you that information.

6

### Reading: Rich and poor

Read the article about the growing divide between rich and poor from exercise 23c, page 44 again. First decide whether the statements (1–6) are true (T) or false (F) and put a cross (☒) in the correct box. Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision. Write the first four words of this sentence in the space provided. There may be more than one correct answer; write down only one. The first one (0) has been done for you.

	Statements	T	F	First four words
0	The gap between the rich and the poor is growing worldwide, except in certain Latin American countries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social and economic differences
1	More and more people are realizing that inequality is causing a lot of problems, including civil disorder.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Tax rates for top earners have plummeted within the last two decades.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Without global warming, income inequality would be a quarter lower.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Limited access to technology excludes unskilled workers, especially in developing countries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	Living standards can be positively influenced by successful urban planning and local governance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	The author rejects migration in search of a better life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## Listening: Racial wealth gap

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mqrhn8khGLM> and watch the episode of the *Explained* Netflix series on the racial wealth gap in the US. While watching, answer the questions (1–10) below.

1	What is the racial wealth gap?
2	What happened in 1865?
3	What is the median income of white households?
4	What is the median income of black households?
5	What is the Special Field Order No 15?
6	What happened in response to the Great Depression in 1929?
7	What happened in the 1990s when banks and politicians realized that discrimination is unprofitable?
8	Why is the wealth of the white college graduates increasing while the wealth of black people with the same educational achievement is decreasing?
9	Why is the gap still growing?
10	How could the racial wealth gap be closed?

## Key

**exercise 1:** considerable, dramatic, easily, enormous, huge, marginally, massive, significant, tremendous, vital

### exercise 2

1 dramatic, 2 significant, 3 huge, 4 considerable, 5 marginally, 6 massive, 7 easily, 8 enormous, 9 tremendous, 10 vital

**exercise 3:** 1 c, 2 f, 3 g, 4 a, 5 b, 6 e, 7 d

### exercise 4

2 The significance of the discovery of DNA cannot be underestimated.

3 It is apparent from his report that urban living conditions are improving.

4 The survey reveals that people are increasingly moving away from major urban areas.

5 That doesn't necessarily mean that we will experience more extreme weather.

6 It doesn't indicate much about the popularity of social networking sites.

7 As the/this table shows, total sales for February fell dramatically.

**exercise 5:** 1 interpret (it) as, 2 implies, 3 jump to conclusions, 4 points to, 5 put forward, 6 implication, 7 highly unlikely, 8 cautiously suggest, 9 plausible, 10 deduced

### exercise 6: Reading

1 T What is changing now

3 T The report estimates that

5 T Meanwhile, better urban planning

2 F In wealthier countries, the

4 T Almost 87% of people

6 F, Better migration policies and

### exercise 7: Listening

1 The racial wealth gap is a measure of white and African American family income.

2 In 1865, the Civil War ended, and slavery was abolished.

3 Median income of white households: \$171,000

4 Median income of black households: \$17,600

5 In order to live in freedom, the black community demanded land. According to the Special Field order No. 15, each family was given 40 acres of land.

6 In 1929, the government eased the burden of debt. As a result, home ownership became synonymous with the American Dream. Black people were seen as a threat to house prices as property values immediately fell. Consequently, neighbourhoods for black people began to emerge.

7 In the 1990s, the mortgage market was opened up to black people. This increased black home ownership. However, black people were admitted to subprime loans with worse conditions.

8 It has to do with how they spend the money. Black people are more likely to provide financial help to family members.

9 A wide range of factors contribute to the perpetuation of the wealth gap: long-term investments and compound interest, black unemployment due to racial discrimination, housing discrimination, legal discrimination (laws excluding black people from building wealth); segregation in jobs, schools, home ownership.

10 Reparations for the slavery of African Americans could help close the racial wealth gap.