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Rethinking the future of work



Level:



Let's think!

1. How important do you think work is compared to other aspects of life?
2. Do you think working can make you happy?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



Text 1

From Quiet-quitting to Reskilling

What is quiet-quitting?

Quiet-quitters are not willing to compromise personal values for work. They do the least amount of work possible to keep their jobs. They do not do anything to get ahead, such as working towards a job promotion.

What is reskilling?

Since some skills are no longer in demand at the workplace, companies need to reskill or upskill their employees. Reskilling can be done by training the employees in new skills needed at the company. Meanwhile, upskilling can be done by updating the employees' existing skills, so that they are still productive.

Figure 1:

Study on young people's views of the future

From a score of 0 to 8, how optimistic are you about your future?

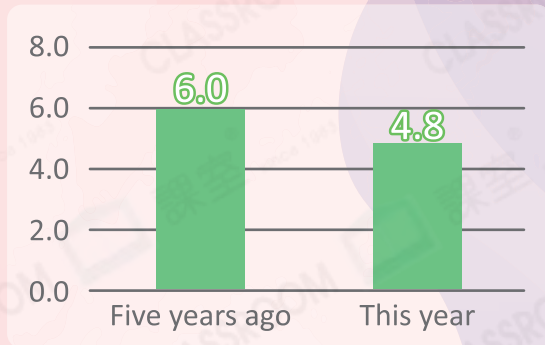
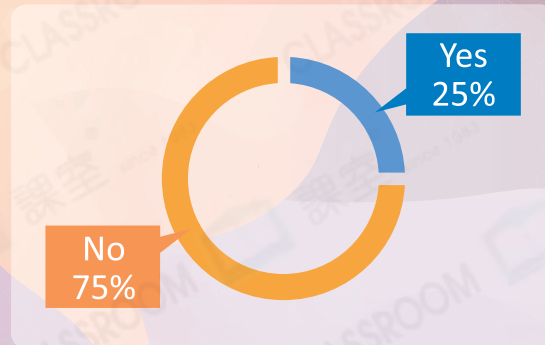


Figure 2:

Study on people from low-income families, aged 15 to 25

Do you feel unmotivated at work?



~100 words

Looking into Grammar

We use **Type 1 conditionals** to talk about things that have a **90% chance of happening**. It does **NOT** mean **definitely will** (Type 0).

✓ ... this attitude will fade away gradually if there are more chances ...

simple future tense

simple present tense

? In paragraph 4 of text 2, underline TWO Type 1 conditional sentences.

Text 2



THE NEXT ERA OF WORK

**NEWS
EVERY
DAY**

1 It is common for some young people to have doubts about their chances of getting promotions and salary rises at their jobs. Seeing this, some have adopted the 'quiet-quitting' mindset. They aim to perform as little work as possible without running the risk of getting fired.

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2 A local business leader has complained about the negative attitude among younger workers. He described this mindset as 'passive and self-indulgent'. According to him, those who adopt it risk wasting away their future and do not contribute to society. He further added that such an attitude could harm the city's economic development. However, he believes that this attitude will fade away gradually if there are more chances for young people to move up the career ladder.

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3 Meanwhile, social workers have highlighted that the life choices that young people make are determined primarily by their family background. Many young people from low-income families have to live in tiny flats. They struggle to do well in their studies, due to the limited resources available to them. These factors have left some of them feeling pessimistic about their future prospects. The social workers think that teachers should spare more time to speak with them. They suggest that schools encourage students to discover and cultivate their passions and interests, rather than solely focusing on drilling them to pass exams.

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4 We interviewed a 22-year-old university graduate who considers himself to be a quiet-quitter. 'I just hate to take part in the meaningless rat-race in order to get ahead in society. I prefer to earn just enough to meet my basic needs,' said the graduate. He is now working as a part-time illustrator. 'I will find a full-time position later if my current income level fails to support my lifestyle, but I don't think that I will apply for jobs with higher salaries if they take up most of my time,' he added.

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5 In spite of all the discussions above, studies have found that most youths are not quiet-quitting. After all, most people are willing to work hard to earn more income. In fact, our young workforce is very adapted to balancing the achievement of fulfilling career advancement and work-life balance.

~350 words



Read Text 1 and answer questions 1–3. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (6 marks)

1. When someone is ‘quiet-quitting’ (line 1), what do they do and not do?

(i) Do: _____

(ii) Don't: _____

2. According to Text 1, decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG).

	T	F	NG
(i) Employees lose their jobs when they are reskilled.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) People are upskilled so they remain useful at work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) Workers get paid more after they are reskilled.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. According to Figure 1, youths in Hong Kong are _____ optimistic than in the past. Figure 2 shows that _____ of the young people interviewed are unmotivated at work.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. less ... a quarter | C. more ... a quarter | A | B | C | D |
| B. less ... half | D. more ... half | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Read Text 2 and answer questions 4–13. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (23 marks)

4. According to paragraph 1, people feel _____ about their future.

- | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. encouraged | C. indifferent | A | B | C | D |
| B. uncertain | D. pessimistic | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

5. Below is a summary of paragraph 2. In each of the lines, there is ONE mistake. If you find a mistake, underline it and replace the word with one that expresses the correct idea in the Correction column. Both grammar and spelling must be correct.

Summary	Correction
(i) The businessman believes that young people’s beliefs benefit	
(ii) society. He thinks that young people are improving their lives and	
(iii) are hurting Hong Kong’s society. Despite this, he is somehow	
(iv) pessimistic that they will eventually change their mind.	

6. According to paragraph 3, how might family background affect youths?

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

7. According to paragraph 3, are the social workers satisfied with how schools currently prepare students for their future careers? Explain your answer.

8. What do the social workers recommend to help students?

(i) _____

(ii) _____

8 Look at paragraph 3. What do the social workers want schools to do?

9. Read paragraph 4. What phrase does the graduate use to refer to the intense competition in the workplace?

10. How does the graduate feel about the job market?

- A. amazed
B. hopeful
C. disapproving
D. neutral

10 Look closely at the graduate's choice of words in paragraph 4.

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

11. Find words in paragraphs 3–4 with similar meanings to the following definitions.

- (i) _____ (*adj.*) believing that bad things will happen
(ii) _____ (*n.*) the possibility of being successful, especially at work
(iii) _____ (*n.*) payments earned for work that is paid at a fixed, guaranteed rate

12. Based on the information in paragraph 4, complete the social media profile of the graduate. Your answers must be grammatically correct.

Profile: Chris Wong	
Age:	(i) _____
Education level:	(ii) _____
Current job:	(iii) _____
I only need (iv) _____ income to support my daily life, but I am willing to switch to (v) _____ work if my current job does not meet my financial needs. I will not accept a well-paid job if it does not give me (vi) _____ of free time.	

13. Which of the following is most likely to be the writer's view?

- A. Most youths have little drive to improve their lives.
B. Young people work because it gives them purpose.
C. Money does not motivate people to work.
D. Young people can enjoy free time while working in a job.

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



A. Complete the extract from a fictional novel below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Adjective: pessimistic productive

Noun: advancement mindset passion promotion prospect salary

Phrasal verb: get ahead

Verb: compromise

The workplace in 2050

Welcome to your new office of the future! It is 2050 now. In this world, everyone's basic needs are provided by the government, so people no longer work for a / an (1) _____.

In this office, workers who accomplish high-quality work rather than those who work fast are considered to be (2) _____. So you will have to completely change your (3) _____.

In order to keep producing high-quality work, many of your co-workers focus on areas where their personal interests and (4) _____ lie.

In this new workplace, all workers are equal and there are no ranks. You no longer have to think about how to (5) _____ in your career, or how to win over your co-workers to get that (6) _____ to manager. The only thing you need to (7) _____ is letting computers make all the decisions. In other words, they are your boss.

Of course, if the (8) _____ of being told what to do by computers is not what you want and makes you feel (9) _____, you can choose to leave the workplace entirely. Instead, you can pursue your dreams. Perhaps you want to assist in the (10) _____ of society by inventing a cure for cancers? It's totally your shout!

B. Complete the notice below with the given words and phrases.

Words related to work

burnout

collaboration

immediate results

individual performance

innovations

mentorship

pioneering suggestions

sustained growth



Building a better workplace

Dear Team,

We would like to inform you about the goals we have set to improve our work environment.

Current situations	Goals
Focusing on (1) _____ _____ that can be achieved quickly	Bringing about (2) _____ _____ that lasts a long time but takes time to achieve
Focusing on (3) _____ _____ and competition among workers	Focusing on (4) _____ that brings different teams together
Limited opportunities to develop new skills	Providing (5) _____ to allow workers to acquire new knowledge
Long working hours, leading to stress and (6) _____	Shorter working hours, and more holidays
Limited room for creativity and (7) _____, leading some workers to leave the company	Encouraging workers to offer (8) _____.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to raise them with us.

Best regards,

Human Resources Team

Writing

Your dream job

Write an article of about 180 words to share about your dream job.

