



The Gig Economy

Reading Test

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Student

Time: *Approximately 1 hour*

Two types of lesson

Lesson#1: [Easy] ***** [B2/C1]

1. Try to predict the content of text / write down key terms / ideas
2. Read text – check words and meanings with a dictionary
3. Answer questions
4. Check answers (pass mark is 70%)

Lesson #2: [Hard] ***** [C1]

1. Read text – no dictionary
2. Answer questions
3. Check answers (pass mark is 70%)

Teacher

Two types of lesson

Lesson#1: [easy] ***** [B2/C1]

1. Give out text a week before the test – students read, check vocabulary and meaning.
2. Test day – give out a new copy of text and the questions (no dictionary or notes)
3. Set 1 hour to read text and answer the questions
4. Take in and correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%)
5. Extra activity – students write the summary* (add 30 minutes to test)

Lesson #2: [hard] ***** [C1]

1. Test day – give out text and questions
2. Set 1 hour to read text and answer the questions
3. Take in and correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%)
5. Extra activity – students write the summary* (add 30 minutes to test)

***Summary writing**

Link: www.academic-englishuk.com/summary

The Gig Economy

C. Wilson (2017)

1) The working world is changing. In our increasing [redacted], the **notion** of a 'job for life' and the concept of 9-5 workday is diminishing. In its place is the gig economy, which [redacted] where people work on temporary contracts (gigs), often as freelancers and self-employed. Recent research from Oxford University (2016) suggests that [redacted] with predicted growth of [redacted], and is occupied by 30% of the UK's population working on short-term temporary projects. This significant growth is [redacted], increased financial pressures and the increased frequency of people changing jobs (The Recruitment & Employment Confederation (REC), 2016).

2) Defining the Gig Economy is incredibly difficult because of how diverse the labour market is. World leading research from the Mckinsey Report (2016) defines it as [redacted], payment [redacted] or sales and a short-term relationship between the worker'. This includes people who provide labour services [redacted] in goods or rent assets. The McKinsey Report also defines workers into four bands: Free [redacted] and **Financially Strapped**. Vaughan and Daverio (2016) separate the gig economy into five key sectors: peer to peer accommodation, peer-to-peer transportation, on demand household services, [redacted] and collaborative finance. Overall, these economies are independent temporary short-term positions that include a [redacted] and are often operated through a digital platform. This article will use the 'gig economy' as an **umbrella** [redacted] of the above.

3) There are 275 collaborative economy platforms in the EU creating an estimated €25bn annually (Vaughan and Daverio, 2016). Key leaders in peer-to-peer accommodation are companies like Airbnb. This platform allows [redacted] room or an entire house to [redacted] is the creation of extra income for the supplier but also creating an **authentic experience** and cheaper accommodation for the traveller. Peer-to-peer transportation is Uber who provide 'a [redacted] their Uber app. Clients submit a trip request and the app links them to the nearest Uber 'gig' driver. A popular [redacted] service is the company Deliveroo, who are an online food delivery service company through which customers order food from local restaurants advertised on the Deliveroo platform. The food is then [redacted] by gig employees within 30 minutes. On demand professional services are companies like [redacted]. These platforms advertise and organize top professionals. Workers **showcase** their portfolios, recent work and trusted reviews so that employers can choose appropriately. Finally, collaborative [redacted] as 'crowd-funding' these offer individuals and businesses opportunities to invest, lend and borrow directly between each other. The gig [redacted] a vital component of the UK labour market for a range of sectors and industries (REC, 2016).

4) The transformative impact of the gig economy is having **veritable** economic benefits by raising [redacted], **stimulating** consumption, and boosting productivity

(McKinsey Report 2016). It is meeting the growing [redacted] and [redacted] the potential for considerable growth and development over the next 20 years (REC, 2016). Research [redacted] the gig economy offers a better work-life balance through **autonomy** and flexibility. In addition, businesses are benefitting from [redacted] talent pool, reduction in operational [redacted] the risks of long-term employment contracts.

5) Such a rapid growth of the gig economy is posing profound challenges for policy makers and [redacted] are already significant differences [redacted] in tax policies, applications and enforcement across Europe (Vaughan and Daverio, 2016: 3). REC (2016) claims that [redacted] common workers' rights laws, do not qualify for sick, holiday or pension entitlements, and they can be forced [redacted] with no job security or continuity. With regards to employers, REC (2016) states that gig workers [redacted] to the company's brand, there is also the possibility that crowd sourcing profiles are **deceptive** or exaggerated, [redacted] of gig employees, companies may become **embroiled** in legal disputes over worker's rights. Overall, it [redacted] a number of challenges to be addressed.

6) The commodisation of the labour market has created short fixed working contracts, and limited job security, and lifetime [redacted] is now **a relic of the past**. Digital technologies are changing work patterns and offering greater opportunities. It seems no [redacted] collaborative economy is highest [redacted] under 35 age range (Vaughan and Daverio, 2016), thus suggesting this is going to be the future of employment. The biggest challenge for the [redacted] control. Research is key in enabling policy-makers to modernize classifications of work patterns, tax filing [redacted] improvements. It is imperative that this research improves regulation offering protection for low-skilled, [redacted] working rights, acknowledging [redacted] discrimination laws and also controlling minimum wages. Overall, 'regulating the gig economy [redacted] **to flourish** but making sure the advantages [redacted] (REC, 2016: 56).

[Words: 860]

References

[redacted] (2016) Independent Work: choice, necessity and the gig economy (October 2016). *Mckinsey Global Institute Publications*.

The Recruitment & Employment Confederation (2016) [redacted] Work. *Institute of Recruitment Professionals publishing*.

The University of Oxford (2016) *Rise of Online Work Captured in the First Online Labour Index*. Available at: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2016-09-21-rise-online-work-captured-first-online-labour-index> [Accessed 03 February 2016]

Vaughan, R. & Daverio, R. (2016) [redacted] Collaborative Economy in Europe. *PWC- European Commission Paper* (DG GROW).

Comprehension Questions

1. Headings – choose a subtitle for each paragraph

| | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | B | The rise of the gig economy | A | Principal gig companies |
| 2 | | | B | The rise of the gig economy |
| 3 | | | C | The importance of the gig economy |
| 4 | | | D | A complex definition |
| 5 | | | E | Future [REDACTED] |
| 6 | | | F | The limitations of the gig economy |

___ / 5

2. True / False / Not Given – one question per paragraph

T/F/NG

| | | |
|------|--|--|
| i. | People who work for the Gig Economy are self-employed. | |
| ii. | Defining is difficult because of the different types of workers. | |
| iii. | On demand services like [REDACTED] are the most popular. | |
| iv. | The majority of gig workers are satisfied with the flexibility. | |
| v. | Some [REDACTED] are lying. | |
| vi. | More research is necessary to offer better protection. | |

___ / 6

Open answer questions

Paragraph 1

3. What is Oxford University forecasting?

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
|---|--|

___ / 1

Paragraph 1

4. What are the main reasons [REDACTED] of the gig economy?

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |

___ / 3

Paragraph 2

5. What are the main differences between the two definitions.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |

___ / 2

Paragraph 3

6. What are the five [redacted] given as examples?

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |

___ / 5

Paragraph 4

7. What are the key benefits?

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Economic | 1. <i>Labour force participation</i> |
| | 2. |
| | 3. |
| | |
| [redacted] | 1. |
| | 2. |
| | 3. |
| | |
| Business | 1. <i>Global talent pool</i> |
| | 2. |
| | 3. |

___ / 7

Paragraph 5

8. What are the key problems?

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Policy makers | Differences in regulatory frameworks such as... |
| | 1. <i>Tax policies</i> |
| | 2. |
| | 3. |
| | |
| [redacted] | 1. <i>Not protected by workers' rights</i> |
| | 2. |
| | 3. |
| | 4. |
| | 5. |
| | |
| Employers | 1. |
| | 2. |
| | 3. |

___ / 9

Paragraph 6

9. What is the main evidence that [redacted] is here to stay?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

___ / 1

Paragraph 6

10. What are the most important issues to be addressed?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

___ / 2

Paragraph 6

11. What four aspects [redacted] focus on?

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

___ / 4

12. Author's stance?

| | | |
|--|---------|--------------|
| Is the author for or against the Gig economy? Why? | | |
| For | Against | [choose one] |
| Why? | | |

___ / 2

13. Reference words – explain what these reference words connect to: (underlined in the text)

| Paragraph | Word | Connection |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | <i>This</i> | 25% growth |
| 2 | <i>those</i> | |
| 3 | [redacted] | |
| 4 | <i>It</i> | |
| 5 | <i>they</i> | |
| 6 | [redacted] | |

___ / 5

14. Key language – explain these terms from the context / use synonyms where appropriate)

| Paragraph | Word | Explanation |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>notion</i> | <i>A belief / conception</i> |
| 2 | <i>encapsulates</i> | |
| 2 | <i>financially strapped</i> | |
| 2 | ██████████ | |
| 3 | <i>authentic experience</i> | |
| 3 | <i>To showcase</i> | |
| 4 | <i>veritable</i> | |
| 4 | ██████████ | |
| 4 | <i>autonomy</i> | |
| 5 | ██████████ | |
| 5 | <i>embroiled</i> | |
| 6 | <i>'a relic of the past'</i> | |
| 6 | <i>to flourish</i> | |

___ / 12

Overall Total: ___ / 64

Comprehension Questions ANSWERS

1. Headings – choose a subtitle for each paragraph

| | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | B | The rise of the gig economy | A | Principal gig companies |
| 2 | D | A complex definition | B | The rise of the gig economy |
| 3 | A | Principal gig companies | C | The importance of the gig economy |
| 4 | C | The importance of the gig economy | D | A complex definition |
| 5 | F | The limitations of the gig economy | E | Future challenges |
| 6 | E | Future challenges | F | The limitations of the gig economy |

___ / 6

2. True / False / Not Given – one question per paragraph

T/F/NG

| | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| i. | Most people who work for the Gig Economy are self-employed. | T |
| ii. | Defining is difficult because of the different types of workers. [markets] | F |
| iii. | On demand services like <i>Peopleperhour</i> and <i>freelancer</i> are the most popular. | NG |

ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...