

1. Ask and answer the questions:

- a) In what way can self-employment (being your own boss) increase people's job satisfaction?
- b) How can a job affect people's family life, health or daily routines?
- c) What are the advantages of lifelong employment in one and the same company?
- d) What are the drawbacks of working in the same company for a very long time? Justify your opinion.

2. Read the text: Stressed out office workers dream of outdoor life

Millions of office workers dream of having a practical or outdoor job because of rising levels of stress and workloads, a new survey of 1000 employees revealed today. One in five office staff long to get their hands dirty in a more vocational post, while a third are actively planning a career switch. The poll showed that one in eight lawyers dreamed of becoming a farmer, while a similar number of architects would love to become artists or cartoonists. Many of those questioned said they would like to become their own boss. Research findings indicate that self-employment is a popular choice as workers push job satisfaction up the agenda. Britain has always had a strong enterprise culture, but anyone considering the self-employment route needs a certain set of skills to succeed, such as financial management and marketing.

(Adapted from *The Guardian*, 17 August 2004)

3. Find the following words in the text. Then match these words with their meanings.

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1. poll       | a) initiative  |
| 2. agenda     | b) change  |
| 3. employee   | c) connected with the skills, knowledge that you need to do a job                      |
| 4. enterprise | d) a way of finding out public opinion by asking a number of people their views on sth |
| 5. succeed    | e) a list of matters to be discussed or dealt with                                     |
| 6. switch     | f) a person who works for somebody   |
| 7. workloads  | g) to manage to achieve what you want  |
| 8. vocational | h) the amount of work that you have to do  |

4. Which statement is true and which is false according to the text? Correct the false ones.

- a) A lot of office workers would like to change their job because they are fed up with wearing suits for work.
- b) Job satisfaction is one of the priorities for workers.
- c) The research shows that some architects would like to work as artists.
- d) Half of the questioned office workers declare that they would like to change their career.
- e) Research findings indicate that people treat becoming their own boss as a new challenge.
- f) Each office worker would prefer to have an outdoor job.
- g) Everyone can become self-employed.

5. Answer the questions:

- a) Why are office workers dissatisfied with their jobs?
- b) What skills are needed to achieve success in self-employment?
- c) Which jobs are considered by lawyers or architects if they had to change their career? What are their reasons in your opinion?
- d) How many employees were asked for their opinions in the poll?

Key:

**Task 3: Stressed out office workers dream of outdoor life**

Millions of office workers dream of having a practical or outdoor job because of rising levels of stress and workloads, a new survey of 1000 employees revealed today. One in five office staff long to get their hands dirty in a more vocational post, while a third are actively planning a career switch. The poll showed that one in eight lawyers dreamed of becoming a farmer, while a similar number of architects would love to become artists or cartoonists. Many of those questioned said they would like to become their own boss. Research findings indicate that self-employment is a popular choice as workers push job satisfaction up the agenda. Britain has always had a strong enterprise culture, but anyone considering the self-employment route needs a certain set of skills to succeed, such as financial management and marketing.

**1-d   2-e   3-f   4-a   5-g   6-b   7-h   8-c**

**Task 4.**

- a) F ( because of the rising levels of stress and workloads)
- b) T
- c) T
- d) F (a third are actively planning a career switch)
- e) T
- f) F (millions of office workers dream of having a practical or outdoor job)
- g) F (self-employment route needs a certain set of skills to succeed, such as financial management and marketing)

**Task 5**

- a) They are dissatisfied with their jobs because they are overworked. They work under pressure so they are stressed out.
- b) You need a set of skills, such as financial management and marketing to succeed in self-employment.
- c) If the lawyers were to change their job, they would choose to be a farmer. This job seems to be relaxing and enjoyable as you can stay in fresh air, be close to nature, so they would feel good. The architects would like to become artists or cartoonists. These jobs seem to be relaxing as well, but at the same time, people working in these professions can express themselves, develop their creativity and achieve self-satisfaction in this way.
- d) The survey was conducted on a group of 1000 employees.