

## Topic 8 WOW – THE WORLD OF WORK

1 Complete the text using vocabulary from topic 8.

### The world of work

Today's world of work is profoundly changing. One reason for this development is automation.

Many people are obsessed with it and only see the benefits. On the one hand, automation will make work increasingly easier, but on the other, many jobs are at stake and trade unions are doing their very best to fight against job losses. At the same time, however, the British government is launching new laws in order to limit trade unions' power. In the future, it will be harder for workers to go on strike and picketing may become a civil offence under certain circumstances – workers who do not back a strike and are willing to work should be allowed to do so.

Supporting women in the world of work is a major part of the trade unions' fight for workers' rights. Although today more women can make it to the top, some people still doubt whether a woman can become the CEO of a company. This has a lot to do with the traditional roles of the sexes that are still fixed in some people's minds. For example, if a woman wants to breastfeed her baby, she is supposed to do this at home. However, thankfully there are companies which offer flexible working patterns so women will find it easier to dedicate time to their babies and toddlers, and to their job at the same time.

Another point which is becoming more and more important for companies is cultural awareness. Due to globalization companies are frequently exposed to more different cultures than ever before, and having a proper concept of how to deal with these differences helps companies avoid misunderstandings.

All in all, globalization is a very controversial development. Some people say there are more winners than losers, and others say that companies are the only winners of globalization. Since they can easily off-shore jobs, they can profit from cheap labour. It is evident that this increases profits. But shouldn't companies ensure that they maintain jobs in Europe as well? Due to the extent of automation and globalization the total number of jobs has already shrunk considerably in Europe. Today's situation is barely recognizable in comparison with a few decades ago, and the world of work will inevitably continue to change in the future.

**2** Match the words on the left (1-7) with their synonyms on the right (A-G).

E	1	dividend	A	strongly
G	2	equitably	B	to finance
F	3	to delink	C	to introduce
B	4	to fund	D	to supervise
A	5	firmly	E	gain
D	6	to oversee	F	to separate
C	7	to implement	G	fairly

**3** Match the words on the left (1-7) with their definitions on the right (A-G).

E	1	to unveil	A	an official examination
C	2	to choke off	B	feeling something so strongly that you can't think clearly
G	3	to empower somebody to do something	C	to prevent from happening
A	4	audit	D	the crime of buying and selling people
B	5	overwhelmed	E	to show people a new plan
D	6	human trafficking	F	to say strongly that something is very important
F	7	to emphasise	G	to give somebody the right to do something

**4** Fill in the gaps.

- The utility of something tells you how useful it is.
- Germany doesn't permit immigrants to work as long as they are not recognized refugees.
- An entrepreneur is someone who starts a business.
- You are a long way off when your goals are still far away.
- In global companies you stumble upon many cultural differences.
- The rejection of globalization has existed since the very beginning.
- Before a strike can start, there must be a ballot so people can vote for or against the strike.

**5** What is it in German?

- to affect betreffen
- proficiency Kenntnisse
- abundance Fülle
- rejection Ablehnung
- to bargain verhandeln
- to benefit nutzen
- as opposed to im Gegensatz zu
- turnout Wahlbeteiligung
- approval Anerkennung