

September 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

Entrance Exam- BC  
General culture

Duration: 1 hour

## The Working-from-home Revolution

1 Before the coronavirus pandemic, 1.7 million people mainly worked from home in the UK or about 5% of the country's 33 million workforce. Since the pandemic, millions more have also started working from home. And there have been warnings that some lockdown restrictions could stay in place into 2021, so companies are facing a sudden cultural shift in how we work.

2 Mark Read, the chief executive of WPP, the world's biggest employer in the marketing and advertising sector, welcomes a working-from-home revolution but says it is not right for everyone. "If you said to me five weeks ago that I would have 100,000 people working from home and we would function fine, I'd say you were mad," he says. "One of the most common questions I get is about working from home longer term. There is interest in it, but there is also a demand to come back to an office. Junior employees and those in shared accommodation find homeworking much more difficult than senior executives with houses and gardens." Whereas for Jellyfish Pictures, working from home has been a surprise success. Jellyfish, which employs about 250 staff and has worked on films including Star Wars: The Last Jedi, has continued to work on projects despite shutting its five UK studios at the beginning of March.

3 "What we have learnt from this is that there hasn't been any reduction in productivity," the Jellyfish founder, Phil Dobree, says. "Some practices have improved, such as communication, which is actually more regular and efficient remotely. In the office, meetings often run on unnecessarily, or people don't communicate enough – now they are."

4 "Most Facebook employees are fortunate to be able to work from home," the company's chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, said. "We know that most people can't work from home as easily as many of our employees can." The companies that are most able to adapt to homeworking are sectors such as media, tech and financial services. For others – airlines, high-street shops, car manufacturing – it is impossible.

5 The likely long-term losers are airlines, hotels and the commercial property sector. It will also change some industries that have been under pressure but can adapt at least. The publishing industry has had the technology to allow many staff to work from home for years, but many companies have been resistant to the idea. The impact of the coronavirus has increased the long-term pressures on publishers, but the cost savings from being able to reduce office space will make the idea attractive to them.

6 City banks were some of the first to split their operations, sending thousands of staff to work from home. John Cronin, a financial analyst, says bosses will soon realize that most banking roles – including research, trading and sales – are desk jobs that can ultimately be done from home. "This will be a revolution in terms of how we work," he says. "There's a lot of waste. A lot of people travel abroad for one meeting, and I think those days are over."

**Part One: Reading Comprehension: (12 pts)**

**A- Answer the following questions using your own words.**

1- What's the main idea of the text? (1.5 pt)

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2- According to paragraph one, are scientists hopeful about the end of the coronavirus this year? Explain. (1.5 pt)

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3- What percentage of the UK workforce worked from home before the coronavirus pandemic? (1 pt)

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4- How many people does Jellyfish Pictures employ? (1 pt)

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5- Which business sectors do the article mention as "likely-long-term losers"? (1 pt)

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**B- The following statements are false, correct them. (2pts)**

1- Senior executives find working from home more difficult than junior employees.

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2- Banks were among the last companies to ask staff to work from home.

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**C- Fill the gaps using these key words from the text. (restriction, pandemic, shift, costly, resistant, lockdown.) (3 pts)**

- 1- A \_\_\_\_\_ is an occurrence of a disease that affects many people across the whole world.
- 2- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a situation where people are not allowed to leave their homes.
- 3- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a rule, action or situation that limits or controls someone.
- 4- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a change in something.
- 5- If people are \_\_\_\_\_ to something, they are against it.
- 6- If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is very expensive.

**D- Change the following nouns into adjectives. (1 pt)**

- 1- finance.....
- 2- tradition.....
- 3- fortune.....
- 4- cost.....

**Part two: Writing (8 pts).**

Write a 15 line essay talking about your experience in online studying. Are you with or against it?  
Discuss and develop your opinion.

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**Good luck 😊**