

VOCABULARY REVIEW CARD

: UNEMPLOYMENT, WORK AND PAY

1- VOCABULARY (About 50 words)

An occupation : une profession, une activité professionnelle	The professions : les professions libérales
To work from home : travailler chez soi	A factory, a plant : une usine
A sweatshop : un atelier clandestin	A work permit : un permis de travail
To be on / off duty : être / ne pas être de service / de garde	To change jobs : changer de travail
To be unemployed, jobless, out of work : être au chômage	Unemployment benefit : allocation chômage
To be on the dole (GB), to be on welfare (US) : toucher le chômage	Job market / labour market : le marché du travail, de l'emploi
A fixed-term contract : un CDD	An open-end contract : un CDI
Job flexibility : flexibilité de l'emploi	Job security / insecurity : sécurité / précarité de l'emploi
A casual worker : un travailleur précaire	An internship, a work-placement : un stage
An intern, a trainee : un stagiaire	An odd job : un petit boulot
To temp, to work as a temp : faire de l'intérim	To transfer sb : muter qqn
A job-seeker : un demandeur d'emploi	A Job centre (GB) : une agence Pôle Emploi
A curriculum vitae, a CV, a résumé (US) : un CV	An applicant : un candidat à un poste
A job interview : un entretien d'embauche	A job offer, a job vacancy, a job opportunity : une offre d'emploi
A blue-collar worker : un ouvrier	A white-collar worker : un employé de bureau
The self-employed : les travailleurs indépendants	Fees : honoraires
What does he do for a living ? : Que fait-il dans la vie ?	A wage-earner : un salarié
A perk, a fringe benefit : un avantage en nature, annexe	A company car : une voiture de fonction
Performance-related pay : salaire au rendement	To be on a company's payroll : être employé par une entreprise
To be on holiday : être en vacances	A bank holiday : un jour férié
To be on sick leave : être en congé maladie	To take two days off : prendre deux jours de congé
Reduction of working hours : RTT, réduction du temps de travail	The 35-hour working week : la semaine des 35h, les 35h
To slash / axe jobs : faire des coupes sombres / claires dans la main d'œuvre	A redundancy : un licenciement
A voluntary redundancy : un départ volontaire	A redundancy plan : un plan social
Redundancy payment, severance pay, severance package : indemnité de licenciement, prime de départ	A golden parachute, a golden handshake : un parachute doré
To fire, to sack, to give the sack : renvoyer, virer	To get the sack : être renvoyé
An industrial dispute : un conflit social	A shop steward : un délégué syndical
A payrise (GB), a payraise (US) : une augmentation	Wage claims, wage demands : revendications salariales
To resume work : reprendre le travail	A (an old age) pensioner, a retiree (US) : un retraité

2- ESSENTIAL NOTES AND EXPRESSIONS

Manpower, a well-known employment agency, revealed in 2010 that 31 % of employers worldwide were unable to fill positions because of the lack of skilled candidates. Agencies now focus their preparations on **information technology**, engineering and healthcare in order to make their customers attractive for companies.

Until the second half of the 20th century, Americans took few days off, and filled them actively with various activities. The Protestant work ethics, by valuing work and discipline, considering that working was a participation to the Creation, made America and Northern Europe rich, but have made leisure perceived as a social and moral danger until the late 19th century.

In the 1980's, the Thatcher Government tried to make Britons stop waiting everything from **the welfare-state** (so-called “nanny-state”), by promoting self-reliance and perseverance. This hard, Victorian way of thinking was very criticized because it could design the unemployed for responsible of their situation.

Even if the Labor Day (first Monday of September) is celebrated under the form a bank holiday in the USA and Canada, work and entrepreneurship are more highly valued in those countries than in France, where the notion of “self-made man” concurs with the prestige of senior officials.

3- TRANSLATION REMARKS (3 from French to English, 3 from English to French)

- An **employment outlook** survey found that 31 % of employers worldwide were having difficulty **filling** positions because of a shortage of suitable candidates.
- Une enquête sur **les perspectives de l'emploi** a révélé qu'à l'échelle mondiale, 31 % des employeurs avaient du mal **à pourvoir** certains postes vacants en raison d'une pénurie de candidats acceptables.

- The Laffer curve shows that raising **tax rates** beyond a certain level results in lower levels of **tax revenue** because it discourages people from working.
- La courbe de Laffer montre qu'une augmentation des **taux d'imposition** au-delà d'un certain seuil se solde par une baisse des **recettes fiscales** parce que cela dissuade les gens de travailler.

- A benefit from raising the minimum wages is that those workers are the most likely to cycle their money back into the economy, since they can't afford to save it.
- Un avantage de l'augmentation du salaire minimum, c'est que ces travailleurs sont les plus susceptibles de réinjecter leur argent dans l'économie étant donné qu'ils ne peuvent pas se permettre de l'économiser.

- Mon fils m'a dit qu'il serait pompier quand il serait grand.
- My son told me he would be a fireman when he was older.

- En 2007, « travailler plus pour gagner plus » était un des slogans de M. Sarkozy qui voulait que les heures supplémentaires soient défiscalisées.
- In 2007 « working more as to earn more » was one of the slogans of Mr Sarkozy who wanted overtime to be exempted from taxation.

- Le taux de chômage a augmenté rapidement dans les années 70 puis s'est stabilisé autour de 10 % avant de repartir à la hausse au début des années 2000.
- The unemployment rate rose quickly in the seventies, then levelled off at about 10 % before starting to rise again in early 2000.

4- **THESIS LINE** AND PLAN FOR A COMMENTARY ON THIS TOPIC

Thesis Line : How far is youth unemployment a threat for a society and her future, on economical and social points of view?

PART 1: Youth: a particular category...

Argument 1: Youth unemployment is an indicator among others, that doesn't give an information on the whole labour market, but indicates the ability of companies to appoint new, unskilled workers: shows a lack of confidence in the future.

Example 1: In Greece, the young has been the first category to become underemployed in 2008.

Argument 2: A particularly vulnerable social category: youth's lack of experience make her less attractive for companies; the young have no financial reserve, when they are not in debt.

Example 2: Since 2010, students' debt represent the majority of private debt in the US...

PART 2: ... that can influence the present...

Argument 1: Youth is politically active, or even hyperactive: students are always the spearhead of demonstrations. It is never profitable for the budget situation of a country to have a lot of politically active, poor and unoccupied young people: they jeopardize the social and political order.

Example 1: France, in 1830, 1848, 1870, 1968... Spain and Egypt since 2011, etc.

Argument 2: Youth has a particular social role, due to its general activity: if many sabbaticals are used to work for charities, the unoccupied young shows an impressive propensity to do stupid things: violent behavior, drug abuse...

Example 2: Seine-Saint-Denis: the youngest, poorest, less employed and... most dangerous département in France.

PART 3: ... and determines the future.

Argument 1: The power of the future generation: in France, around 1900, one could read following in the schools: "The people that has the best schools is the first of peoples. If it is not today, it will be tomorrow". The studies that have been made, and the skills that have been acquired by young workers, determine the economic future of their country: companies seek skilled and experienced people.

Example 1: The recent exodus of Greek students mortgages even more the future of Greece, that loses its most valuable workers.

Argument 2: The strength of youth on the marketplace: up-to-date knowledge, flexibility, aptitude to spend a lot of time on working (low family charge). When companies can not afford these advantages, it's bad news for the efficiency.

Example 2: young employees are very appreciated in companies who have to face time pressure (security, catering, healthcare...).