**Teachers’ notes**

**Work The Gig Economy B1.2**

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| Foodora, Bike, Delivery, Street, Bicycle**Learning outcomes**By the end of the lesson students will have: * discussed their experiences of the gig economy
* watched a video explaining the key features of the Gig Economy
* read about people’s experiences of working in the Gig Economy and considered the advantages and disadvantages
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| **Materials**Student handout / PPT Appendix 1All images from www.pixabay.com Youtube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcCBqn2bjdc&t=28s>Appendix 1 with case studies (one per pair of students) |

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| **Time** | **Procedure** | **Materials** |
| **5 mins** | * Display and clarify learning outcomes
 | **PPT** |
| **15 minutes** | * Start the lesson by displaying the quote and asking students to explain it. Draw their attention to the glossary box as the quote uses American words that they may not know but are explained in the glossary. The gist of the quote is that more and more these days there are companies making money by acting as intermediaries i.e. people in the middle matching people and jobs/services or goods without owning any themselves. They may be able to think of other examples such as Deliveroo/ Just Eat / TaskRabbit
* Put them into small groups / create breakout rooms to discuss their own experiences of using these companies. Ask them to start thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of the different companies from the organisations’, workers’ and consumers’ point of view. Alibaba is the Chinese equivalent of Amazon. You could ask students to think about Amazon instead of Alibaba.
* Conduct whole class feedback and focus in particular on advantages and disadvantages of *working* for these companies.
 | **PPT****Activity 1** |
| **15 minutes** | * Tell students they are going to watch a video about the gig economy. Find out whether anyone knows what this is. Before doing the tasks, check understanding of the words in the box. In particular the term ‘to be on the payroll’ i.e. to be a listed member of staff of a company. The video is American so uses a lot of American English. You may need to explain some of this such as realtors, rideshare drivers but they should be obvious from the images and are not fundamental to comprehension.
* Tell students to look at the statements in Activity 2a and predict which words will go into the gap. Then tell them to look at Activity 2b and decide whether the statements refer to employers or workers. Once they have done this. Play the video by clicking on the image in the PPT so that they can check their answers.

Put students into pairs / create breakout rooms to check their answers. * Conduct whole class feedback.

**[Answers: Activity 2a**A gig is a job for a ***specified*** period of time. A gig economy is a free market system in which ***temporary*** positions are common.Gig workers could be **accountants**, photographers, handymen or dog walkers.Gig workers are not on a company’s **payroll**. **Activity 2b****Employers** don’t have to pay for any training. **Workers** have an improved work-life balance.**Workers** only do the work they are really interested in.**Employers** don’t need to provide office space.**Workers** don’t get any sickness or retirement benefits.**Workers** have to pay for their own equipment. **Workers** can work from anywhere in the world.**Workers** can work at a time that suits them.**Workers** have to work out their own tax payment.] | **PPT****Activity 2 a & b****Video from youtube** |
| **20 minutes** | * Tell students that they are going to work in pairs. Explain that they will each be given a text about a person who works in the Gig Economy. Tell them that they need to read their text without showing it to their partner. Explain that they should read their text and look for 3 different bits of information. 1. Whether the person is generally more positive or negative about their experience of working in the gig economy. 2. Their plans for the future and why. 3. The advantages and disadvantages they note. If students normally have highlighter pens, tell them to underline any advantages or disadvantages using different coloured pens. If not, suggest that they simply underline the advantages and disadvantages. Tell them that they should complete the table for the text they have been given.
* Put students into pairs / create breakout rooms and tell them to tell each other about their person (preferably without looking at the text) and emphasize the fact that they should not simply read it out. Once they have told each other about their person, they should work together to complete the table.
* Conduct whole class feedback on the texts and the advantages and disadvantages of working in the Gig Economy.

**[Answers:**Pedrag = mainly positive. Will continue doing the same in the future as it suits him and his wife and there is plenty of work available. Gabriella = mainly negative. Will try to find a permanent job in the future to earn more money, have a regular routine with paid leave.]Completed table is at the bottom of the teachers’ notes. | **PPT****Activity 3****a & b** |
| **5 minutes** | * Ask students to decide to what extent the statements are true for them then discuss as a group. It might be useful to get a show of hands to find out how many of the students are likely to work in the Gig Economy in the future.

Extension activity: If you have additional time, you could suggest that the students research different companies that are part of the Gig Economy such as Deliveroo, Just Eat, Gett, TaskRabbit, Care.com, Cabify, Fiverr etc.  | **PPT****Activity 4** |

**Completed table of advantages and disadvantages**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Pedrag | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| ✓ flexible – can work whenever he wants | X has to organise own tax |
| ✓ no boss | X no paid holiday leave |
| ✓ paying less tax | X |
| ✓ learnt a lot of new skills | X |
| ✓ plenty of work | X |
| Gabriella | ✓ flexibility – can work when she wants | X only gets paid for the job she does not an hourly rate |
| ✓ can work for different companies | X no guarantee of work – a lot of people competing for the same work |
| ✓ already has a bicycle so no extra expenses  | X often works very early in the morning or late at night which is very tiring |
| ✓ | X sometimes works in the rain and gets ill but no sick pay so has to work even though she’s sick |
| ✓ | X has no colleagues |

**Appendix 1**

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**Pedrag**

My wife and I have both find regular work on TaskRabbit; a website which connects people who want different jobs done around the home with people who can do them. We love the flexibility of it. Whilst one of us is doing a job, the other one can look after our two young children. I used to work as an engineer for an electrical company called Light Up but I didn’t get on with my boss so not having a boss is a fantastic bonus for me. Once our children start going to school all day, we can both work at the same time and there are always plenty of opportunities to find work. One thing I have really enjoyed is learning new skills. At TaskRabbit, you can be asked to do anything to help the clients around their homes and I’ve learnt a lot of new skills on the job. For example, I had no idea about gardening before doing this but now I’ve got quite a lot of experience and feel confident doing it. I’m sure learning all these new skills will be useful in the future.

When I worked for Light Up my tax was automatically deducted by the company but now I have to work it out myself. It can be quite complicated but I seem to be paying less now! Holidays are more expensive these days. When I was at Light Up, I got five weeks paid leave but if I go on holiday now, I’m not earning any money.

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**Gabriella**

I’m a student and I need to earn extra money but I need to be able to work when it suits me. Working for different delivery companies as a cycle courier is perfect for that because I can choose exactly when I want to work and I have a choice of different companies to work for. I have a bicycle anyway so I didn’t need to buy any special equipment.

But this way of working has its downsides because I only get paid if I actually do a job. I don’t get paid by the hour like people who are actually employed by a company who are paid whether or not they are doing anything. There is no guarantee that I will get work. Sometimes I log on and there is no work available on any of the apps. I think it’s because there are so many people doing the same as me so we are all competing for the same jobs. You have to be quick to get them. I have to earn a certain amount of money so this means I often work really late at night or early in the morning to make enough money to pay my bills and that is really tiring. Of course, because the work involves cycling around delivering food, I sometimes end up cycling in the rain. And if I get ill, there’s no sick pay so I have to continue working even if I’m sick.

I’m only doing this temporarily, when I finish studying, I’ll try to get a permanent job. I miss not having colleagues. I sometimes meet the other couriers but it’s not the same. I want a regular daily routine with paid sick and holiday pay and I want to be paid a lot more than I am now!

**Work The Gig Economy**

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 |

**Activity 1: Your experiences**

a Look at the quote. Can you explain it?

"**Uber**, the world’s largest taxi company, owns no vehicles. **Facebook**, the world’s most popular media owner, creates no content. **Alibaba,** the most valuable retailer, has no inventory. And **Airbnb,** the world’s largest accommodation provider, owns no real estate." Tom Goodwin

What experience do you have of **Uber,** **Facebook,** **Alibaba** (or **Amazon**) or **AirbnB**?

Do you / have you used any of these companies? Has your experience been generally positive or negative? Do you know anyone who works for any of them? Has their experience been generally positive or negative?

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| **Glossary****vehicles** - cars or vans **real estate** - property in the form of buildings**content** - ideas or information that is written or spoken**inventory** - goods/things sold in a shop |

**Activity 2: The Gig Economy**

 a What do you know about the Gig Economy? Watch the video and fill in the gaps using the words in the box.

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| **insurance waiters permanent specified temporary accountants payroll unspecified** |

A gig is a job for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ period of time.

A gig economy is a free market system in which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ positions are common.

Gig workers could be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ photographers, handymen or dog walkers.

Gig workers are not on a company’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b Look at the statements below. Circle the best option. Watch the video to check your answers.

**Employers / workers** don’t have to pay for any training.

**Employers / workers** have an improved work-life balance.

**Employers / workers** only do the work they are really interested in.

**Employers / workers** don’t need to provide office space.

**Employers / workers** don’t get any sickness or retirement benefits.

**Employers / workers** have to pay for their own equipment.

**Employers / workers** can work from anywhere in the world.

**Employers / workers** can work at a time that suits them.

**Employers / workers** have to organise and pay their own tax payments.

**Activity 3: Working in the Gig Economy**

a Read the case study your teacher gives you. Is the person you are reading about generally positive or negative about working in the Gig Economy? What are their future plans? Why?

Note the advantages and disadvantages they mention in the table.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Pedrag | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| ✓ | X |
| ✓ | X |
| ✓ | X |
| ✓ | X |
| ✓ | X |
| Gabriella | ✓ | X |
| ✓ | X |
| ✓ | X |
| ✓ | X |
| ✓ | X |

b Work with a partner. Your partner will tell you about their text. Complete the table using the information your partner gives you.

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| **Glossary****learn something on the job** - to learn how to do a job by doing it**paid leave** - time allowed away from work or holiday or illness – during this time you receive your normal pay**cycle courier** - person who delivers parcels or food from place to place on a bicycle |

**Activity 4: Reflectio****n**

Agree or disagree?

i) In the future, more and more people and companies are going to be part of the Gig Economy.

ii) The Gig Economy benefits employers more than workers.

iii) There are more advantages than disadvantages in working in the Gig Economy

iv) In the future I plan to work in the Gig Economy.