

WORK IN THE MODERN WORLD

A B2 Text for English Matura Preparation

By MMag. Karin Silvina Hiebaum de Bauer

Article (~1000–1200 words, B2 Level)

Work plays a central role in our lives. It not only provides financial security but also gives structure, purpose, and identity. In recent years, however, the concept of work has changed significantly due to technological developments, globalization, and shifting social values. Today, people are not only concerned about earning money, but also about job satisfaction, work-life balance, and personal development.

One of the most important changes in the world of work is the increasing role of technology. Digital tools, artificial intelligence, and automation have transformed many industries. While some jobs have disappeared, new ones have emerged. For example, careers in IT, digital marketing, and online services have become more common. This shift requires workers to be flexible and willing to learn new skills throughout their lives.

Another important trend is the rise of remote work. Especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, many companies have allowed employees to work from home. This has several advantages. On the one hand, people can save time and money because they do not have to commute. On the other hand, they have more freedom to organize their day. However, remote work also has disadvantages. Some people feel isolated, and communication with colleagues can become more difficult. In addition, it can be challenging to separate work from private life.

Work-life balance has become a key issue in modern societies. In the past, people often worked long hours with little time for personal activities. Today, many individuals want to have more time for family, hobbies, and relaxation. Companies have started to recognize this need and offer flexible working hours or part-time options.

Nevertheless, not everyone has access to these benefits, and in some sectors, long working hours are still common.

Job satisfaction is closely related to mental health. A stressful or unfulfilling job can lead to burnout, anxiety, and other health problems. Therefore, it is important to choose a career that matches one's interests and abilities. At the same time,

employers have a responsibility to create a positive working environment. This includes fair salaries, respectful communication, and opportunities for growth.

Globalization has also had a major impact on the world of work. Companies operate internationally, and employees often work in multicultural teams. This creates opportunities for cultural exchange and innovation. However, it also increases competition, as workers from different countries compete for the same jobs. In some cases, this can lead to job insecurity and lower wages.

Education and training are more important than ever in today's job market. A good education can open many doors and increase career opportunities. However, learning does not end after school or university. Lifelong learning has become essential, as workers must constantly adapt to new technologies and changing demands. Online courses and digital learning platforms make it easier to acquire new skills.

Another important aspect is the meaning of work. For some people, work is mainly a way to earn money, while for others, it is a source of personal fulfillment. Many young people today are looking for jobs that have a positive impact on society, such as working in environmental protection, education, or social services. This shows that values are changing, and people want their work to reflect their beliefs.

Despite these developments, there are still many challenges in the world of work. Unemployment remains a problem in some regions, and not everyone has equal access to good job opportunities. Gender inequality, for example, still exists in many countries, with women often earning less than men for the same work. Furthermore, job security is decreasing in some sectors, as temporary contracts and freelance work become more common.

In conclusion, the world of work is changing rapidly, and both opportunities and challenges are increasing. It is important for individuals to be flexible, motivated, and open to lifelong learning. At the same time, governments and companies must ensure fair working conditions and support employees in adapting to new realities. Work will always be an important part of life, but how we define and experience it continues to evolve.

  **ORAL EXAM QUESTIONS (B2 – Opinion Speech)**

1. What does work mean to you personally?
2. Do you think work-life balance is important? Why?

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of working from home?
 4. Should people choose a job they love or a job that pays well?
 5. How has technology changed the world of work?
 6. Do you think job security is important today?
 7. What skills are important for future jobs?
 8. Should young people change jobs often? Why/Why not?
 9. What problems exist in the modern workplace?
 10. How can companies improve working conditions?
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SUMMARY TASK (B2)

 Write a summary of the text:

- Explain the main changes in the world of work
 - Describe the advantages and disadvantages of modern work
 - Mention the role of education and technology
 - Keep it objective (no opinion!)
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VOCABULARY (WORK – B2 LEVEL)

General Work Vocabulary

- employment
 - career
 - job satisfaction
 - working conditions
 - salary / wages
 - employer / employee
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Modern Work

- remote work
 - digitalization
 - automation
 - flexibility
 - lifelong learning
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Problems

- unemployment
 - job insecurity
 - stress
 - burnout
 - inequality
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Useful Expressions

- In my opinion...
 - One advantage is...
 - On the one hand... on the other hand...
 - Another important aspect is...
 - To sum up...
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TIP FOR MATURA

 Combine:

✓ Vocabulary

✓ Structure

✓ Personal examples