

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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Darlington, R., Mraz, J., Smithies, G. & Richardson, M. (2018). *Humanities and social sciences: for Western Australian, 7*. Milton, Qld.: Jacaranda.

6.2 Activities

To answer questions online and to receive **immediate feedback** and **sample responses** for every question, go to your learnON title at www.jacplus.com.au. *Note:* Question numbers may vary slightly.

Remember

1. How does the ABS define work?
2. Why do you think the ABS definition requires a minimum of one hour of work per week?
3. Why is remuneration important for someone who is working?
4. Are the following statements true or false?
 - (a) Pocket money is a form of income.
 - (b) If you work only three hours a week, you are not employed.
 - (c) A full-time employee works, on average, about 40 hours per week.

Explain

5. Examine the images in section 6.2.2 and answer the following questions:
 - (a) Identify the types of activities that each person performs.
 - (b) State whether the activity would be voluntary or involuntary in each case.
 - (c) Explain how technology may have affected how the work depicted is done.
 - (d) How may these jobs change in the future? Give examples.
6. Examine table 1 and answer the following questions:
 - (a) Was there an increase or a decrease in the number of people employed? By how much?
 - (b) Was there an increase or a decrease in the number of people unemployed? By how much?
7. Examine figure 4. To what can you attribute the spike in 2009 after a steady drop during 2006–08?
8. Examine figure 5 and answer the following questions:
 - (a) Has manufacturing increased or decreased? To what can you attribute this change?
 - (b) What other industries have shown a drop in numbers?
 - (c) Which industries have grown?
 - (d) Which industry shows the greatest change (positive or negative)?

Think

9. Examine table 2 and answer the following questions:
 - (a) When did the biggest growth in the male participation rate occur?
 - (b) When did the biggest growth in the female participation rate occur?
 - (c) When did the male participation rate decline?
 - (d) When did the female participation rate decline?
10. Choose three industries from the list in figure 5. For each chosen industry, make a list of five jobs that could be found in that industry. For example, the 'Health care and social assistance' industry would include doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, IT specialists and administrative assistants — but you have to think of your own examples!

6.3 Why work?

6.3.1 Work to earn a living

How many times have you heard the saying, 'Money doesn't grow on trees'? As you get older, the importance of money and its uses becomes clearer. For example, you need money when you catch up with friends and plan a day out to the movies, ice skating, rollerblading, visiting the art gallery or any other exciting or interesting activities. You need money to fund your lifestyle.

So where does the money you need come from? If you said your parents, well you know that the money comes

FIGURE 1 Going to a concert with your friends is just one of the many activities for which you need money.



from your parents going to work. Once you leave school, though, chances are you will enter the workforce if you haven't already started working while at school. Being part of the workforce will enable you to start earning money, which you can then use to buy things that you want. Earning a living is often the primary reason that people work. It is, however, not the only one.

6.3.2 Why do people work?

Imagine for a moment that you are unbelievably rich. You have so much money that you will never have to worry about working to earn more. What would you do? Most likely you are imagining a life of non-stop fun. Now it's time for a reality check! Even the wealthiest people in the world often choose to work. This is because

there are many personal benefits to be gained from working aside from financial benefits. Non-financial benefits of participating in the workforce include:

- the opportunity to use your skills and abilities in a positive way
- meeting and mixing with new people
- doing something you love and are passionate about
- increasing your self-esteem and confidence
- developing your natural strengths and talents
- wanting to be part of a group or a team at work
- having friends at work
- contributing to the Australian economy
- being happy.

The financial benefits can include:

- earning an income
- exchanging money for goods and services
- being a consumer
- having the ability to buy what you need and want
- creating and maintaining a good standard of living for your family.

6.3.3 Benefits of paid work

The main reason that people work is to be paid — to receive an income — but there are other reasons too. Let's look at some of the most common ones.

To earn money

To survive, we must have money. Most people sell their labour to an **employer** and receive an income in return. The most common forms of income are wages and salaries. While earning money, many workers will struggle to maintain some degree of balance between work and leisure, known as the **work–life balance**. This need for work–life balance is important to many workers and can form the foundations of a good life and a worker's sense of **wellbeing**.

FIGURE 2 Jobs provide income that is used to buy goods and services.



To improve living standards

Imagine a teenage girl who has just received her first pay packet from a part-time job. On her way home, she decides to visit a shopping centre and buy new clothes. The income from her job has allowed her to improve her **standard of living** and given her a brand new wardrobe.

Working generates an income that enables consumers to satisfy their needs and wants. What if those needs and wants are intrinsic? That describes something inside the individual that will motivate them to want to go to work — for example, to be happy, to have a good life, to feel valued for the work they perform, and to pass on their knowledge and skills to the next generation. A July 2006 study found:

With societies becoming more affluent and the nature of work changing there has been a change from a focus on extrinsic work values (pay, working hours — the benefits a job has for the employees' lives outside of work), to a focus on intrinsic work values (the quality of the work itself).

Source: FDS International, *What workers want: a worldwide study of attitudes to work and work-life balance*.

What this means is that workers are no longer so preoccupied with pay rates. Instead, they are more concerned as to whether the work they do will make them happy and improve their wellbeing.

To gain status and prestige

The type of work a person does is often used to measure that person's status and prestige within our society. In other words, their status comes from their occupation. The value we place on a person's job determines his or her income. For example, a heart surgeon's highly skilled work is valued more than a labourer's, so the surgeon receives a higher income. This is partly due to the education and training needed to become a surgeon.

To obtain self-satisfaction

Two hundred **employees** of a factory were asked to write down the most important aspect of their work. The responses revealed that it was not money: 67 per cent of the employees said that knowing they had done the job well and received some praise from the supervisor were the most rewarding

FIGURE 3 Earning money is important for most workers, but achieving a work-life balance is necessary for wellbeing.



FIGURE 4 The work of a heart surgeon is well remunerated because it is held in high value by society.



aspects. Both job satisfaction and self-satisfaction were seen as important. This doesn't mean that money is not important; it is. However, there are many other rewards you can get from a job.

To make friends

Work provides the opportunity to meet other people and make friends. Sometimes workplaces have social clubs that employees can join to make friends and have fun.

To help others

Voluntary workers play an essential role in our society. Many people in the local community work for voluntary agencies such as country fire brigades, Meals on Wheels or the State Emergency Service. They receive no financial payment, but do it for pleasure and the satisfaction of being able to help others.

FIGURE 5 Volunteers, such as lifesavers, receive no payment for their work but offer their services to the community freely.



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Remember

1. Are the following statements true or false?
 - (a) Five important reasons why people work are to earn an income, to improve their standard of living, to gain prestige and status, to obtain self-satisfaction and to make friends.
 - (b) The primary reason why people work is to earn a living.
 - (c) One benefit of working is to have your own office.
 - (d) Feeling a part of the work environment is important to workers.
 - (e) Most people sell their labour to an employee.
 - (f) The most common form of income is pocket money.
 - (g) The type of work someone does is often used to measure that person's status and prestige.
 - (h) Voluntary workers play a very small role in our society.
2. List three examples of voluntary work.

Explain

3. Look at the reasons given in this section for why people work. Do you agree with them? Explain your answer.
4. Explain how the teenage girl with her first pay packet was able to improve her standard of living.

Think

5. Complete these sentences:
 - (a) We purchase goods and services to _____.
 - (b) Voluntary work is just as important as paid work because _____.
 - (c) The income I will earn from my job will help me to _____.