

Stark Academy - Master Ac 2

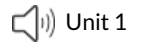
Student name _____

Group/Class _____

Date _____ Score _____

LISTENING

1 Listen to Hugo and Ben talking about life goals. Read the sentences below and decide who said them: *Hugo, Ben, or neither of them*. Choose the correct answer, A, B, or C.



0 The only thing you need in order to achieve your goals is hard work.

A Hugo B Ben C Neither

1 The social group you belong to affects your opportunities.

A Hugo B Ben C Neither

2 Wealthy people often help each other.

A Hugo B Ben C Neither

3 Lucas would have a better job if he had gotten some work experience.

A Hugo B Ben C Neither

4 Lucas's parents had to leave the rest of their family behind when they came to the UK.

A Hugo B Ben C Neither

5 A successful career isn't necessarily the most important thing in life.

A Hugo B Ben C Neither

Score: / 5

READING

Read the article about an anti-globalization campaigner.

Max Parkinson shows me into his study. He is slightly stressed. Having organized a protest march for the following weekend, he is worried about how many people will turn up.

"Anti-globalization campaigns aren't what they once were," he admits. "Basically, people just don't understand the power that these multinationals have over us, or the damage that they're doing to developing countries."

Parkinson is doing as much as he can to change that, but sometimes he feels that he's fighting a losing battle. "It seems to be particularly hard when the global economy is struggling," he says. "People may understand in theory that giant corporations are increasing the gap between rich and poor nations, but the more they're struggling to pay their own bills, the less likely they are to participate in protests."

I suggest that his view may be rather simple. After all, the worst examples of poverty, in which people exist on less than US\$1 a day, have decreased substantially in Asia, which has been open to the opportunities provided by globalization, whereas Sub-Saharan Africa, less welcoming to international companies, has not done as well.

Parkinson shrugs impatiently. "Can we really say that having \$2 a day instead of \$1 is a huge success? Companies move their factories to countries where costs are much lower simply because there is no public healthcare and workers' rights are practically non-existent. And it's in their interests to keep it that way. The less rights workers have, the bigger their profits are."

So what is the weekend's protest all about?

"We're targeting a major phone company that isn't paying its taxes," Parkinson explains. "And that's another thing, of course. If firms have branches all over the world, they can move their money around in order to avoid taxes. They pay huge fees to accounting firms in order to facilitate this, but it still saves them paying millions that should be going into hospitals, roads, welfare, and the like. That's what I want to campaign against, and I'm just hoping that other people will feel the same way."

2 Now answer the questions. Are the sentences below true, false, or is there not enough information to be sure?

Choose A, B, or C.

- 0 Max Parkinson has spent a lot of time organizing a protest for the following weekend.
A True B False C Not enough information
- 1 According to Parkinson, people are not as willing to protest when they have problems of their own.
A True B False C Not enough information
- 2 According to the interviewer, people in Asia have benefited from globalization.
A True B False C Not enough information
- 3 According to Parkinson, some companies try to improve working conditions for their staff.
A True B False C Not enough information
- 4 The interviewer feels that the planned protest is a waste of time.
A True B False C Not enough information
- 5 According to Parkinson, international companies have more opportunity to avoid taxes than national or local companies.
A True B False C Not enough information

Score: / 5