Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES **0457/12**

Paper 1 Written Examination **May/June 2024**

INSERT **1 hour 15 minutes**

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INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the sources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Source 1

Computer networks are changing the way many people work. Digital labour platforms are computer programs that control how work is organised. Using the internet, digital labour platforms connect businesses to workers and consumers directly.

Digital labour platforms help people to order food, book a taxi or find someone to do a task, like plumbing, electrical work or the delivery of parcels. Digital labour platforms enable workers to complete assignments online or remotely, for example at home.

Source 2

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Some benefits of digital labour platforms</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="7">
Fast food delivery ordered online


Taxi driver using a digital platform</td><td>Makes the allocation and completion of tasks quicker and easier</td></tr>
<tr><td>Creates new job opportunities locally and internationally</td></tr>
<tr><td>Helps women, young people and those with disabilities to get work</td></tr>
<tr><td>Provides flexible working</td></tr>
<tr><td>Enables businesses to find more customers</td></tr>
<tr><td>Increases access to skilled workers for employers</td></tr>
<tr><td>Provides new business opportunities for entrepreneurs</td></tr>
</table>

Source 3: Working in the gig economy

Working in the gig economy is difficult! Every job is a single task. I only get short-term contracts or freelance work. No job is permanent. Digital labour platforms and computers are making this worse.

During the day I write articles for magazines about fashion. At night I drive a taxi. I am self-employed. I do two types of work because I don't know when the next gig or job is coming. It is stressful. Sometimes I have no work and no income. Sometimes I have too much work.

It is pressurised. If I do a bad job and get a poor review, I get less work. I always have to do well and work extra hard.

More workers are available to employers and there is more competition due to computers. So our pay is going down. We do not know how the work is allocated by the computer. It means we have little control over our income and lives.

From a newspaper in South America, 2022

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Source 4: An online discussion – new technology and work

Saga

We should welcome new digital technologies. They make work more efficient. Time and money are saved by making the allocation of tasks and delivery times much faster.

A study by Hertfordshire University (2021) shows that 4.4 million people in England and Wales work for digital platforms in the gig economy at least once a week. The number is growing. The International Labour Organization estimates that internationally the number of online taxi and delivery platforms rose from 142 in 2010 to over 777 in 2020. I could give you many more statistics to prove my point.

Many people want to work part-time, remotely and flexibly. This helps women with families and people living in rural areas. In addition, people with disabilities can access suitable work. New technology makes all of this possible.

If businesses grow, more jobs are created. People and governments prosper and standards of living rise. Governments can then provide more schools, hospitals and services for the community.

Nils

I am sorry Saga, but I disagree. In my experience, new technology causes many problems for workers. Most benefits are for the employers.

Many trade unions and worker associations complain that the gig economy leads to low pay and poor working conditions. For example, employers may make their workers self-employed, so they have no trade union support. Gig economy workers therefore have fewer rights than traditional employees and do not get a national minimum wage, paid holidays or sick pay. This is unfair and wrong.

Too many people are having to rely on casual jobs. There is no job security. Gig economy platforms are using new technologies to exploit workers and they are treated like disposable labour.

Governments need to introduce new laws to protect workers in the gig economy.

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