



## The Gig Economy

Reading Test

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# Student

**Time:** *Approximately 1hour*

## Two types of lesson

**Lesson#1:** [Easy] \*\*\*\*\* [B2/C1]

1. Try to predict the content of text / write down key terms / ideas
2. Read text – check words and meanings with a dictionary
3. Answer questions
4. Check answers (pass mark is 70%)

**Lesson #2:** [Hard] \*\*\*\*\* [C1]

1. Read text – no dictionary
2. Answer questions
3. Check answers (pass mark is 70%)

# Teacher

## Two types of lesson

**Lesson#1:** [easy] \*\*\*\*\* [B2/C1]

1. Give out text a week before the test – students read, check vocabulary and meaning.
2. Test day – give out a new copy of text and the questions (no dictionary or notes)
3. Set 1 hour to read text and answer the questions
4. Take in and correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%)
5. Extra activity – students write the summary\* (add 30 minutes to test)

**Lesson #2:** [hard] \*\*\*\*\* [C1]

1. Test day – give out text and questions
2. Set 1 hour to read text and answer the questions
3. Take in and correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%)
5. Extra activity – students write the summary\* (add 30 minutes to test)

### **\*Summary writing**

Link: [www.academic-englishuk.com/summary](http://www.academic-englishuk.com/summary)

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## The Gig Economy

C. Wilson (2017)

1) The working world is changing. In our increasing flexible labour market, the **notion** a 'job for life' and the concept of 9-5 workday is diminishing. In its place is the gig economy, which are collaborative working platforms where people work on temporary contracts (gigs), often as freelancers and self-employed. Recent research from Oxford University (2016) suggests that this labour market

temporary projects. This significant growth is attributed to digitalization, increased financial pressures and the increased frequency people are changing jobs (The Recruitment & Employment Confederation (REC), 2016).

2) Defining the Gig Economy is incredibly difficult because of how diverse the market is. World leading research from the Mckinsey Report (2016)

between the worker'. This includes people who provide labour services as well as those who trade in goods or rent assets. The McKinsey Report also defines workers into four bands:

and **Financially Strapped**. Vaughan and Daverio (2016) separate the gig economy into five key sectors: peer to peer

professional services and collaborative finance. Overall, the key terms are that include a form of collaborative consumption and are often operated through a digital platform. This article will use the 'gig economy' as an **umbrella term** to include all the above.

3) There are 275 collaborative economy platforms in the EU creating an estimated €25bn annually (Vaughan and Daverio (2016)). Key leaders in peer-to-peer accommodation are companies a spare room or an entire house to travellers. The main driver is the creation of extra income for the supplier but also creating **authentic experience** and cheaper accommodation for the traveller.

. Clients submit a trip request and the app links them to the nearest Uber 'gig' driver. A popular on-demand household service is the company Deliveroo, who are an online food delivery service company, whereby customers order food from local restaurants advertised on the Deliveroo platform.

like peopleperhour.com or freelancer.com. These platforms advertise and organize top professionals. Workers **showcase** their portfolios, recent work and trusted reviews so that employers can choose appropriately. Finally, Collaborative finance is commonly termed as 'crowd-funding' these offer individuals and businesses opportunities to invest, lend and borrow directly between each other. The

a range of sectors and industries (REC, 2016).

4) The transformative impact of the gig economy is having **veritable** economic benefits by raising labour force participation, (McKinsey Report 2016). It is meeting the growing demand for services from consumers and

and development over the next 20 years (REC, 2016). Research seems to suggest that workers are more satisfied with a better work-life

balance through **autonomy** and flexibility. In addition, businesses are benefitting from having access to [REDACTED] the risks of long-term employment contracts (ibid).

5) Such a rapid growth of the gig economy is posing profound challenges for policy makers and regulators. There are already significant differences in [REDACTED] (Vaughan and Daverio, 2016: 3). REC (2016) claims that workers are not protected by common workers' rights laws, do not qualify for sick, holiday or pension entitlements, and they can be forced to work at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] With regards to employers, REC (op cite) states that gig workers may not be loyal to the brand, there is the possibility that crowd sourcing profiles are **deceptive** or exaggerated, and with little [REDACTED] companies may become **embroiled** in legal disputes over worker's rights. Overall, it seems that the gig economy has a number of challenges to be addressed.

6) The commodisation of the labour market has created short fixed working contracts, and limited job security, and lifetime employment with one company is now **a relic of the past**. Digital technologies are changing work patterns and advocating greater opportunities. It [REDACTED] is highest among the under [REDACTED] range (Vaughan and Daverio, 2016), thus suggesting this is going to be the future of employment. The biggest challenge for the gig economy is regulation and control. Research is key to enable [REDACTED] of work patterns, tax filing and compliance requirements. It is imperative that regulation offers protection for low-skilled, [REDACTED] rights, acknowledgement of disability and discrimination laws and also controls on minimum wage earned. Overall, '[REDACTED] innovation **to flourish** but making sure the advantages are well-distributed' (REC, 2016:56).

[Words: 860]

## References

Oxford University (2016) *Rise of Online Work Captured in the First Online Labour Index*. Available at: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2016-09-21-rise-online-work-captured-first-online-labour-index> [Accessed 03 February 2016]

Mckinsey Report (2016) *Independent Work: choice, necessity and the gig economy* (October 2016). *Mckinsey Global Institute Publications*.

The Recruitment & Employment Confederation (REC) (2016) *Gig Economy: The Uberisation of Work*. *Institute of Recruitment Professionals publishing*.

Vaughan, R. & Daverio, R. (2016) *Assessing the Size and Presence of the Collaborative Economy in Europe*. *PWC- European Commission Paper* (DG GROW).

**Comprehension Questions**

**1. Headings – choose a subtitle for each paragraph**

1	B	The rise of the gig economy	A	Principal gig companies
2			B	The rise of the gig economy
3			C	The importance of the gig economy
4			D	A [redacted] definition
5			E	Future challenges
6			F	The [redacted] of the gig economy

\_\_\_ / 5

**2. True / False / Not Given – one question per paragraph**

**T/F/NG**

i.	People who work for the Gig Economy are [redacted]	
ii.	Defining is difficult because of the different types of workers.	
iii.	On demand services like <i>Peopleperhour</i> and <i>freelancer</i> are the most popular.	
iv.	The majority of gig workers are [redacted] with the flexibility.	
v.	Some crowd-sourcing profiles are lying.	
vi.	More [redacted] is necessary to offer better protection.	

\_\_\_ / 6

**Open answer questions**

Paragraph 1

**3. What is Oxford University forecasting?**

1	
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\_\_\_ / 1

Paragraph 1

**4. What are the main reasons for [redacted] of the gig economy?**

1	
2	
3	

\_\_\_ / 3

Paragraph 2

**5. What are the main differences between the two [redacted].**

1	
2	

\_\_\_ / 2

Paragraph 3

**6. What are the [redacted] companies given as examples?**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

\_\_\_ / 5

Paragraph 4

**7. What are the [redacted] ?**

<b>Economic</b>	1. <i>Labour force participation</i>
	2.
	3.
<b>Individuals</b>	1.
	2.
	3.
<b>Business</b>	1. <i>Global talent pool</i>
	2.
	3.

\_\_\_ / 7

Paragraph 5

**8. What are the key [redacted] ?**

<b>Policy makers</b>	Differences in regulatory frameworks such as...
	1. <i>Tax policies</i>
	2.
	3.
<b>Workers</b>	1. <i>Not protected by workers' rights</i>
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
<b>Employers</b>	1.
	2.
	3.

\_\_\_ / 9

Paragraph 6

**9. What is the [redacted] that the Gig economy is here to stay?**

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\_\_\_ / 1

Paragraph 6

**10. What are the most important [redacted] to be addressed?**

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\_\_\_ / 2

Paragraph 6

**11. What four aspects should [redacted] focus on?**

1	
2	
3	
4	

\_\_\_ / 4

**12. Author's stance?**

Is the author for or against the Gig economy? Why?	
For	Against [choose one]
Why?	

\_\_\_ / 2

**13. Reference words** – explain what these reference words connect to: (underlined in the text)

Paragraph	Word	Connection
1	<i>This</i>	25% growth
2	<i>those</i>	
3	<i>these</i>	
4	<i>It</i>	
5	<i>they</i>	
6	<i>this</i>	

\_\_\_ / 5

**14. Key language** – explain these terms from the context / use synonyms where appropriate)

Paragraph	Word	Explanation
1	<i>notion</i>	<i>A belief / conception</i>
2	<i>encapsulates</i>	
2	<i>financially strapped</i>	
2	<i>an [REDACTED] term</i>	
3	<i>authentic experience</i>	
3	<i>To showcase</i>	
4	<i>ve [REDACTED]</i>	
4	<i>stimulating</i>	
4	<i>autonomy</i>	
5	<i>de [REDACTED]</i>	
5	<i>embroiled</i>	
6	<i>'a relic of the past'</i>	
6	<i>to flourish</i>	

\_\_\_ / 12

Overall Total: \_\_\_ / 64



**Comprehension Questions **ANSWERS****

**All answers included in paid version...**