

Université de Toulouse Jean Jaurès
Concours d'Entrée, juin 2017
CeTIM : Centre de Traduction, Interprétation et Médiation Linguistique

Sujet d'ANGLAIS

Niveau L3

Documents et dictionnaires non autorisés – Téléphones portables interdits

Consignes :

Merci de composer sur deux copies différentes pour le résumé et la traduction, en notant votre nom sur chaque copie :

- 1. Vous résumerez** le texte suivant au tiers de sa longueur initiale, soit en 300 mots (marge maximale de + ou - 10%). Votre résumé sera rédigé en français, et vous indiquerez clairement à la fin le nombre de mots utilisés (attention : tous les mots doivent être comptabilisés).
- 2. Vous traduirez** en français les paragraphes entre crochets (paragraphes 2 et 3).

WE ARE EXPERIENCING A WORK REVOLUTION – AND IT’S MAKING US MENTALLY ILL

More than ever, we’re living in an age of uncertainty. Now is the time to invest in tackling the mental health problems we know this engenders.

We are in the middle of an unprecedented revolution in our working lives. Within the next 20 years nearly half of current jobs in the US are at risk of being automated, according to the Oxford Martin School’s commonly-cited prediction. London will be as affected as anywhere by the global moves towards automation.

[But working is what most of us want to do. Work not only gives us an income, but also a purpose. Unemployment increases the likelihood of depression and anxiety by up to a factor of 10 within 12 weeks, according to the Royal College of Psychiatrists. In the rust-belt states of the US, high rates of unemployment, economic decline and social stagnation have led to sharply rising death rates from drugs, alcohol and suicide.

If unemployment is bad for us, so, all too often, is working—despite the fact that, for most people, work is less onerous than in the past, better supported by technology and communications, and protected by more robust employment laws. Many people cite work as the cause of, or trigger for, their mental health problems, whether they are referring to the relentless out-of-hours drive for productivity, or the insecurity of the gig economy and zero-hour contracts.]

This apparent paradox is explicable when we think about the future. The prospects for those who are out of work and those in work aren’t so very different: work is being destabilised and few industries will be unaffected. It is difficult to envisage how people of all kinds will occupy their time in the future or find meaning, drive and passion.

Meanwhile, depression and anxiety rates are reportedly going up and the London suicide rate has increased by a third in the past two years. Aside from the general precariousness, the proximate causes often include loneliness. In a city of 8,674 million, fewer and fewer people have the time or the support structures that enable them to stay in close contact with family, friends, former colleagues or school friends. Many Londoners are not just new to the city, but to Britain. The weakness of traditional support structures can clash with the pressure to make a living. The risk of schizophrenia is doubled for those who live in cities, and urban living also raises the risk of anxiety disorders (21%) and mood disorders (39%).

Stress and mental illness affect productivity. According to the Institute of Directors’ Andy Silvester: “127m hours of work were lost in 2015 due to mental health-related absence—the equivalent of around 75,000 individuals losing the entire year. The number of days taken off work with mental health problems has increased 25% year-on-year, and stress, depression and anxiety together rank as the largest reason for absence in the workplace.”

But you don’t actually have to be signed off for mental ill-health for it to be affecting your work. More than six in 10 of the UK’s working population say that they have had problems with sleep because of stress to the extent that it has affected their work the next day, according to the Mental Health Foundation. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that

our failure to cope adequately with mental health issues costs the UK some 4.5% of its GDP.

Despite this it remains underdiscussed and is often stigmatised as weakness. Minds at Work is a movement launched last year to remove that stigma. Geoff McDonald was a global VP, working in HR at Unilever, when he was diagnosed with anxiety-fuelled depression. Just as he was recovering, a close friend, a London-based banker, killed himself. This gave McDonald, and two co-founders interested in mental health and wellbeing, the impetus to start knocking at the doors of businesses all over London: “I now have a very simple purpose: I want people in organizations—whether they be big business, the NHS, the police, the army or anywhere else—to feel that they have the choice to put their hand up if they are suffering from anxiety or depression, just as they would if they were suffering from a physical illness.”

What can be done to maintain the delicate balance that allows work to be productive but not punishing, to make people feel absorbed and purposeful rather than wrung out and abused? New Economic Foundation’s Wellbeing at Work report outlines the steps employers should take towards a healthier work environment, starting by avoiding a culture of overwork, employing sufficient staff for the tasks, and aiming for a life-work balance. Hours and pay need to be transparent and fair; job insecurity should be minimised and zero-hour contracts avoided.

[...] We are only just beginning to discuss the mental health implications of the post-work world, but they should be as much at the forefront of our thinking as the economic ones. [...] The UK really ought to be able to provide good working conditions for all its inhabitants. On the whole, people want to be treated fairly, work decent hours and be paid reasonably well for their efforts. The changing structure of employment complicates matters, to be sure: we are living through a time of alarming change. But it should not be beyond our wit to respond to the mental health problems that this uncertainty engenders. We have to begin with a culture of openness and responsiveness. This will be easier if we acknowledge that the economy and working conditions are implicated and that mental health is not simply a private problem.

Louise Chunn,
in *The Guardian*, Tuesday 2 May 2017

