

BULATS

Business Language Testing Service

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Work Trends

In the Reading and Listening sections of BULATS policy and work trends is a topic that can appear. Look at the text below and decide which word is the best choice for each gap.

FLEXIBLE WORKING CONDITIONS

A study by the Department of Labour shows companies are increasingly offering improved working conditions as a 1. _____ to attract and retain workers. The main concern is to provide the kind of flexibility with leave and work schedule that allows employees to better 2. _____ with personal or study commitments.

According to the survey, which covered 4,300 enterprises, employers are not only providing longer annual and parental leave, but also marriage leave (64%) and study or exam leave (38%). The 3. _____ of companies with flexible work arrangements rose to 78 percent, which is up from 67 percent the year before. The most common type of flexible work was part time (44%), followed by flexitime (31%).

The data shows that 4. _____ rates are lowest among companies that make it easier for employees to achieve more of a work-life balance, with resignation rates lowest for companies that offer a greater number of flexible work arrangements and have a longer leave 5. _____.

- 1 a. course b. system c. manner d. **means**
- 2 a. handle b. **cope** c. attend d. conduct
- 3 a. **portion** b. fraction c. sector d. division
- 4 a. **turnover** b. departure c. withdrawal d. walkout
- 5 a. authorization b. privilege c. **entitlement** d. claim

Training

In the Reading and Listening sections of BULATS training is a topic that can appear. Look at the text and think of ONE word that can go in each gap. Write the word in the space below.

Employee Onboarding

Onboarding is the process of helping new hires adjust to their new jobs quickly and smoothly. 1._____ the employer's perspective, the main goal of onboarding is generally to provide the training necessary to get new hires 2._____ to speed as quickly as possible. However, as many new recruits leave the company within the first three months, companies must acknowledge the importance of engaging new employees early 3._____. The merits of your organisation may be apparent 4._____ your existing employees, but you will need to find ways to 'sell your company' to new hires, and waste 5._____ time in introducing their new coworkers as these are the people who offer the best support!

- 1 **From**

- 2 **up**

- 3 **on**

- 4 **to**

- 5 **no**

Trends & Results

In the Reading and Listening sections of BULATS trends and results is a topic that can appear. Look at the text below and decide which word is the best choice for each gap.

FALLING PRICES

A boom in prices for pulse crops (beans, chickpeas and lentils) is now turning to 1. _____ as a good global harvest has led to a 2. _____ increase in supply. Poor growing conditions over the past few years, especially in major growing areas such as Canada and India, meant less availability causing prices to 3. _____ to record highs. Such high prices have encouraged other growers around the world to switch large areas of farmland to pulse crops. Now, with 4. _____ growing conditions and a huge surge in supply, prices for these crops are beginning to 5. _____.

Already this year, the price of lentils has dropped 36 percent to 54 US cents a pound, down from 82 cents at the start of the year. What seems certain is that rising supply will continue to put downward pressure on prices, and there is even the possibility that supply may actually 6. _____ exceeding demand.

- | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 | a. bust | b. break | c. collapse | d. fail |
| 2 | a. demanding | b. severe | c. harsh | d. steep |
| 3 | a. escalate | b. soar | c. boost | d. expand |
| 4 | a. supportive | b. favorable | c. prosperous | d. worthwhile |
| 5 | a. depress | b. downturn | c. plummet | d. dump |
| 6 | a. close up | b. finish | c. result | d. end up |

WEBSITE VOCAB PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

In the Reading and Listening sections of BULATS health and safety is a topic that can appear. Look at the text and think of ONE word that can go in each gap. Write the word in the space below.

Safety Inspections

When inspectors enter your workplace, the person in charge will be notified 1. _____ their presence. Inspectors can enter any workplace during working hours or when there is an immediate health and safety risk to any person.

While at your workplace the inspector might:

- provide practical and constructive advice about 2. _____ to comply with the country's health and safety laws
- offer advice 3. _____ how to fix any safety breaches they come across
- conduct interviews and 4. _____ enquiries, take photos and measurements, and read and copy documents.

If an inspector finds serious health and safety breaches at a workplace, it may be referred for further investigation and the employer may be prosecuted.

5. _____ the end of an inspection, inspectors will provide a written report that includes a summary of their observations, a description of actions they have 6. _____ and the powers they used.

1 of / about

5 At

2 how

6 taken

3 on / about / for

4 make / take

WEBSITE VOCAB PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

Entrepreneurship - B2

In the Reading and Listening sections of BULATS entrepreneurship is a topic that can appear. Look at the text below and decide which word is the best choice for each gap.

InTech Innovation Awards

Last night I attended the annual InTech Innovation Award 1._____ in San Diego, where O-Pace, a locally-based startup, won a 2._____ of \$150,000 in funding with a new type of heart monitor.

In total, five companies competed for this award, each having been awarded \$25,000 in seed funding in January. This enabled competing companies to go through the InTech Innovation Program where they receive 12 weeks of 3._____ entrepreneurial training. They were also provided with access to industry experts and they have opportunity to 4._____ the value of the connections. The seed funding also gives them and it enables them to put together a working prototype.

At the end of the program, judging was 5._____ at a Demo Day where, in addition to displaying their wares, the five competing companies could 6._____ their products to potentially interested investors.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | a. service | b. ceremony | c. tradition | d. custom |
| 2 | a. grant | b. allocation | c. donation | d. credit |
| 3 | a. severe | b. intense | c. exaggerated | d. protracted |
| 4 | a. escalate | b. overestimate | c. augment | d. maximize |
| 5 | a. administered | b. directed | c. regulated | d. conducted |
| 6 | a. launch | b. pitch | c. proposition | d. bid |

WEBSITE VOCAB PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

Business Environment - B2

In the Reading and Listening sections of BULATS the business environment is a topic that can appear. Look at the text below and decide which word is the best choice for each gap.

STARTUP VISAS

As part of a new economic package, the government is to announce a plan to offer one-year startup visas to foreign entrepreneurs. The move is expected to increase competitiveness and provide a much-needed 1._____ to the economy.

A 2._____ of the existing system has been the need to in deal with the complex visa requirements that include the need to make a substantial capital investment and employ at least two full-time local employees. This has proved a serious 3._____ to dynamic new companies. Under the new system, however, foreign business people only need to be able to demonstrate that they can open offices and 4._____ funding during their stay.

The government hopes that by providing a more 5._____ environment for global talent and innovative new companies, it will be able to increase the country's international competitiveness. A government representative pointed out that Singapore has benefited significantly from its status as a regional startup 6._____.

- | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | a. boost | b. push | c. initiative | d. advance |
| 2 | a. dispute | b. reservation | c. limitation | d. regulation |
| 3 | a. disincentive | b. dispute | c. disruption | d. disengagement |
| 4 | a. accomplish | b. secure | c. compose | d. consult |
| 5 | a. corrective | b. applicable | c. adapted | d. accommodating |
| 6 | a. venue | b. hub | c. centrality | d. station |

WEBSITE VOCAB PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

CEFR - C Level Practice Activities

1. To a greater extent than ever, retailers now need to contend _____ the migration of shoppers to the internet.

A	against
B	with
C	to
D	through

2. Technology is having a(n) _____ effect on the banking industry.

A	comprehensive
B	penetrating
C	influential
D	profound

3. Of _____, we have found it difficult to recruit staff with both the professional and language skills required for this position.

A	late
B	recent
C	last
D	old

4. It remains to be seen whether the company has the determination and the _____ to make the required changes.

A	adequacy
B	wherewithal
C	potentiality
D	instrumentality