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Level 4 – 3rd August 2026

UK leader says hard hats as important as graduation caps

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-4.html>

The UK has a new prime minister, Andy Burnham. One of his priorities is to increase access to technical training for children. He wants them to acquire the skills they need for the workplace. This is to reverse the problem of youth unemployment. Britain has more than one million young people not in education, employment or training. Mr Burnham said: "Fixing the youth unemployment crisis will require a major shake-up in how we do things."

Mr Burnham's aim is to change traditional views on white- and blue-collar work. He wants children to believe that a job as a carpenter is just as valuable as working as a lawyer. He said: "Britain will value the hard hat every bit as much as the graduation cap." He added: "Students have been told that they must take the academic path to do well and to be respected. The whole school system has been built around it, and that has let down young people."

Sources: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-from-today-britain-will-value-the-hard-hat-as-much-as-the-graduation-cap>
<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/uk-news/andy-burnham-vows-value-hard-34361883>
https://www.ibc.co.uk/article/andy-burnham-technical-educations-youth-unemployment-schools-5HjdfDg_2/

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. one of his | a. in education |
| 2. increase access to technical | b. the workplace |
| 3. acquire the skills they need for | c. priorities |
| 4. This is to reverse | d. we do things |
| 5. youth | e. training |
| 6. one million young people not | f. crisis |
| 7. fixing the youth unemployment | g. the problem |
| 8. a major shake-up in how | h. unemployment |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. change traditional | a. been built around it |
| 2. white- and blue- | b. a carpenter |
| 3. a job as | c. and to be respected |
| 4. just as | d. down young people |
| 5. they must take the academic | e. views |
| 6. to do well | f. path |
| 7. The whole school system has | g. collar work |
| 8. that has let | h. valuable |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-4.html>

The UK has (1) _____ minister, Andy Burnham.

One of his priorities is to (2) _____ technical

training for children. He wants them to (3) _____

they need for the workplace. This is to (4) _____

of youth unemployment. Britain has more than one million young people

(5) _____, employment or training. Mr Burnham

said: "Fixing the youth unemployment crisis will require

(6) _____ in how we do things."

Mr Burnham's aim is to change (7) _____ white-

and blue-collar work. He wants children to believe that a job

(8) _____ is just as valuable as working as a

lawyer. He said: "Britain will value the hard hat

(9) _____ much as (10) _____."

He added: "Students have been told that they must take the academic

(11) _____ well and to be respected. The whole

school system has been built around it, and that

(12) _____ young people."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-4.html>

The UK has a new prime minister, Andy Burnham. One of his priorities is to increase access to technical training for children. He wants them to acquire the skills they need for the workplace. This is to reverse the problem of youth unemployment. Britain has more than one million young people not in education, employment or training. Mr Burnham said: "Fixing the youth unemployment crisis will require a major shake-up in how we do things." Mr Burnham's aim is to change traditional views on white-collar work. He wants children to believe that a job as a carpenter is just as valuable as working as a lawyer. He said: "Britain will value the hard hat every bit as much as the graduation cap." He added: "Students have been told that they must take the academic path to do well and to be respected. The whole school system has been built around it, and that has let down young people."

TECHNICAL EDUCATION SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about technical education in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-4.html>

Write about **technical education** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]