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Level 5 – 3rd August 2026

UK leader says hard hats as important as graduation caps

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-5.html>

The UK's new prime minister, Andy Burnham, is determined to overhaul Britain's education system. Mr Burnham, 56, came to power on July the 16th. One of his priorities is to increase access to technical training for youngsters. He wants children as young as 14 to acquire the skills they need for the workplace. This is to address 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 in Britain 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 young people to believe that a career as a carpenter is just as valuable as working as a lawyer. He wants academic and technical skills to be equally valued. He said: "From today, Britain will value the hard hat every bit as much as the graduation cap." He added: "For too long, 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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. overhaul Britain's | a. they need |
| 2. one of his | b. shake-up |
| 3. acquire the skills | c. crisis |
| 4. This is to address | d. in education |
| 5. youth | e. the problem |
| 6. one million young people not | f. education system |
| 7. Fixing the youth unemployment | g. unemployment |
| 8. Britain will require a major | h. priorities |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. traditional views on white- and blue- | a. be equally valued |
| 2. a career as a | b. down young people |
| 3. just as valuable as working as | c. carpenter |
| 4. academic and technical skills to | d. value the hard hat |
| 5. Britain will | e. respected |
| 6. they must take the academic | f. collar work |
| 7. do well and to be | g. path |
| 8. let | h. a lawyer |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-5.html>

The UK's new prime minister, Andy Burnham, (1) _____ overhaul Britain's education system. Mr Burnham, 56, (2) _____ on July the 16th. One of his priorities is to (3) _____ technical training for youngsters. He wants children as young as 14 to acquire the skills they need for the workplace. This (4) _____ the problem of youth unemployment. Britain has more than one million young people (5) _____, employment or training. Mr Burnham said: "Fixing the youth unemployment crisis in Britain will require a (6) _____ how we do things."

Mr Burnham's aim is to change traditional views on white- and (7) _____. He wants young people to believe that a career as a carpenter is (8) _____ as working as a lawyer. He wants academic and technical skills to (9) _____. He said: "From today, Britain will value the hard hat (10) _____ much as the graduation cap." He added: "For too long, students have been told that they must take the (11) _____ do well and to be respected. The whole school system has been built around it, and that has (12) _____ people."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education-5.html>

TheUK'snewprimeminister,AndyBurnham,isdeterminedtooverhaul Britain'seducationsystem.MrBurnham,56,cametopoweronJulythe16th.Oneofhisprioritiesistoincreaseaccesstotechnicaltrainingforyoungsters.Hewantschildrenasyoungas14toacquiretheskillstheyneedfor theworkplace.Thisistoaddresstheproblemofyouthunemployment.Britainhasmorethanonemillionyoungpeoplenotineducation,employmentortraining.MrBurnhamsaid:"FixingtheyouthunemploymentcrisisinBritainwillrequireamajorshake-upinhowwedothings."MrBurnham'saimistochange traditionalviewsonwhite-andblue-collarwork.Hewantsyoungpeopletobelievethatacareer asacarpenterisjustasvaluable asworkingasalawyer.Hewantsacademicandtechnicalskillstobeequallyvalued.Hesaid:"Fromtoday,Britainwillvaluethehardhateverybitasmuchasthegraduationcap."Headded:"Fortoolong,studentshavebeentoldthattheymusttaketheacademicpathtodowellandtoberespected.Thewholeschoolsystemhasbeenbuiltaroundit,andthathasletdownyoungpeople."

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-5.html>

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

[illegible]