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## **Level 6 – 3rd August 2026**

### **UK leader says hard hats as important as graduation caps**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

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

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

The United Kingdom has a new prime minister, and he is determined to overhaul Britain's education system. Andy Burnham, 56, came to power on July the 16th. One of his key priorities is to increase access to technical training for youngsters. He wants schoolchildren as young as 14 to start acquiring the skills they need for the workplace. This is to address the problem of unemployed youth. Britain has more than one million young people not in education, employment or training. They have been dubbed "the lost generation". Mr Burnham said: "Fixing the youth unemployment crisis in Britain will require a major shake-up in how we do things, and that's what this government will do."

Prime Minister Burnham's aim is to reset traditional views on white- and blue-collar work. He wants young people to believe that a career as a plumber, carpenter, or bricklayer is just as valuable as working as a lawyer or doctor. He said: "I want an education system based on parity between academic and technical, which gives all young people a clear path in life. From today, Britain will value the hard hat every bit as much as the graduation cap." He added: "For too long in this country, 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 seeking technical qualifications."

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/](https://www.ibc.co.uk/article/andy-burnham-technical-educations-youth-unemployment-schools-5HjdfDg_2/)

# WARM-UPS

**1. TECHNICAL EDUCATION:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about technical education. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

United Kingdom / education system / power / technical training / unemployed / youth traditional view / blue-collar worker / plumber / path in life / hard hat / graduation cap

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. BLUE COLLAR:** Students A **strongly** believe blue-collar workers are more important than white-collar workers; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. WHITE OR BLUE?:** What are the good and bad things about blue- and white-collar work? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

|                  | Blue-collar Work | White-collar Work |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Salary           |                  |                   |
| Job satisfaction |                  |                   |
| Status           |                  |                   |
| Physical health  |                  |                   |
| Mental health    |                  |                   |
| Usefulness       |                  |                   |

**5. HAT:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "hat". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. JOBS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best jobs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Plumber
- Lawyer
- Carpenter
- Doctor
- Bricklayer
- Accountant
- Gardener
- Teacher

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                    |                                                                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. determined      | a. A complete repair or big improvement.                                          |
| 2. overhaul        | b. Given a nickname or description.                                               |
| 3. priorities      | c. To deal with or try to solve something.                                        |
| 4. address         | d. The things that are most important.                                            |
| 5. dubbed          | e. Wanting very much to do something and not stopping or giving up.               |
| 6. generation      | f. A big change in the way something is organized or managed.                     |
| 7. shake-up (noun) | g. All the people born around the same time (thought of as one group in society). |

## Paragraph 2

- |                    |                                                                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8. blue-collar     | h. To disappoint someone.                                                       |
| 9. plumber         | i. Doing work that usually needs physical skill or manual labour.               |
| 10. parity         | j. The direction your education or career takes.                                |
| 11. hard hat       | k. The skills, experience, or certificates needed for a job or course.          |
| 12. path           | l. The state of being equal.                                                    |
| 13. let down       | m. A strong safety helmet worn at work.                                         |
| 14. qualifications | n. A person whose job is fixing and putting in water pipes, toilets, and sinks. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The UK's prime minister wants to change the UK's education system. **T / F**
2. The prime minister wants all schoolchildren to learn workplace skills. **T / F**
3. A million young people in the UK are part of a "lost generation". **T / F**
4. The prime minister said schoolchildren need a major shake-up. **T / F**
5. Andy Burnham wants there to be more blue- than white-collar workers. **T / F**
6. Burnham believes plumbers are as valuable as lawyers. **T / F**
7. Burnham believes hard hats and graduation caps have the same value. **T / F**
8. Burnham believes the UK school system has let some children down. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>determined</b>  | a. called        |
| 2. <b>overhaul</b>    | b. equality      |
| 3. <b>priorities</b>  | c. significant   |
| 4. <b>dubbed</b>      | d. profession    |
| 5. <b>major</b>       | e. intent on     |
| 6. <b>traditional</b> | f. searching for |
| 7. <b>career</b>      | g. main concerns |
| 8. <b>parity</b>      | h. route         |
| 9. <b>path</b>        | i. modernize     |
| 10. <b>seeking</b>    | j. conventional  |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                                |                             |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. he is determined to overhaul Britain's      | a. for the workplace        |
| 2. One of his key                              | b. built around it          |
| 3. start acquiring the skills they need        | c. unemployed youth         |
| 4. address the problem of                      | d. collar work              |
| 5. They have been dubbed                       | e. technical qualifications |
| 6. reset traditional views on white- and blue- | f. education system         |
| 7. just as valuable                            | g. be respected             |
| 8. to do well and to                           | h. the lost generation      |
| 9. The whole school system has been            | i. priorities               |
| 10. let down young people seeking              | j. as working as a lawyer   |

# GAP FILL

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

The United Kingdom has a new prime minister, and he is determined to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Britain's education system. Andy Burnham, 56, came to power on July the 16th. One of his (2) \_\_\_\_\_ priorities is to increase access to technical training for (3) \_\_\_\_\_. He wants schoolchildren as young as 14 to start acquiring the skills they need for the (4) \_\_\_\_\_. This is to address the problem of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ youth. Britain has more than one million young people not in education, employment or training. They have been (6) \_\_\_\_\_ "the lost generation". Mr Burnham said: "Fixing the youth unemployment (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in Britain will require a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ shake-up in how we do things, and that's what this government will do."

*unemployed*  
*key*  
*major*  
*workplace*  
*crisis*  
*overhaul*  
*youngsters*  
*dubbed*

Prime Minister Burnham's aim is to reset traditional (9) \_\_\_\_\_ on white- and blue-collar work. He wants young people to believe that a career as a (10) \_\_\_\_\_, carpenter, or bricklayer is just as (11) \_\_\_\_\_ as working as a lawyer or doctor. He said: "I want an education system based on (12) \_\_\_\_\_ between academic and technical, which gives all young people a clear (13) \_\_\_\_\_ in life. From today, Britain will value the hard hat every bit as much as the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ cap." He added: "For too long in this country, students have been told that they must take the academic path to do well and to be (15) \_\_\_\_\_. The whole school system has been built around it, and that has let (16) \_\_\_\_\_ young people seeking technical qualifications."

*path*  
*down*  
*views*  
*valuable*  
*graduation*  
*parity*  
*plumber*  
*respected*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) One of his key priorities is to increase access to technical \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. training four youngsters
  - b. training for youngsters
  - c. training for young stars
  - d. training four youngsters
- 2) He wants schoolchildren as young as 14 to start \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. inquiring them skills
  - b. acquire in the skills
  - c. acquiring the skills
  - d. requiring the skills
- 3) This is to address the problem \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. off unemployed youth
  - b. of unemployed youthful
  - c. of unemployed dearth
  - d. of unemployed youth
- 4) They have been dubbed \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the lost generation
  - b. the last generation
  - c. the lest generation
  - d. the list generation
- 5) Fixing the youth unemployment crisis in Britain will require a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. major shook-up
  - b. major shake-up
  - c. major shark-up
  - d. major shack-up
- 6) Burnham's aim is to reset traditional views on white- and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. blue-collar work
  - b. blue-lapel work
  - c. blue-cuff work
  - d. blue-hem work
- 7) believe that a career as a plumber, carpenter, or bricklayer is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. just has valuable
  - b. just was valuable
  - c. just as value able
  - d. just as valuable
- 8) From today, Britain will value the hard hat every bit as much as \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the graduation cap
  - b. the gradation cap
  - c. the graduate shun cap
  - d. the graduation cup
- 9) For too long in this country, students have been told that they must take \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the academic pass
  - b. the academic pith
  - c. the academic path
  - d. the academic part
- 10) built around it, and that has let down young people \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. seeking technical qualification
  - b. seeking technical qualifications
  - c. seeking technically qualifications
  - d. seek in technical qualifications

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The United Kingdom has a new prime minister, and he (1) \_\_\_\_\_ overhaul Britain's education system. Andy Burnham, 56, came to power on July the 16th. One of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ is to increase access to technical training for youngsters. He wants schoolchildren as young as 14 (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the skills they need for the workplace. This is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ problem of unemployed youth. Britain has more than one million young people not in education, employment or training. They have been (5) \_\_\_\_\_ generation". Mr Burnham said: "Fixing the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in Britain will require a major shake-up in how we do things, and that's what this government will do."

Prime Minister Burnham's aim is to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on white- and blue-collar work. He wants young people to believe that a career as a plumber, carpenter, or bricklayer is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ as working as a lawyer or doctor. He said: "I want an education system (9) \_\_\_\_\_ between academic and technical, which gives all young people a clear (10) \_\_\_\_\_. From today, Britain will value the hard hat every bit as much as the graduation cap." He added: "For too long in this country, 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 seeking technical qualifications."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What does the UK's new leader want to do to the education system?
2. What does the UK prime minister want schoolchildren to have access to?
3. What skills does the prime minister want 14-year-olds to start acquiring?
4. How many young people in Britain are not in school, jobs or training?
5. What did Mr Burnham say would fix the youth unemployment crisis?
6. What traditional views does Andy Burnham want to reset?
7. What does Mr Burnham want parity between in the education system?
8. What does Burnham believe people should value as much as a hard hat?
9. What have students been told to take to do well and be respected?
10. Who did Mr Burnham say had been let down by the school system?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What does the UK's new leader want to do to the education system?
  - a) give it five stars
  - b) dismantle it
  - c) overhaul it
  - d) privatise it
- 2) What does the UK prime minister want schoolchildren to have access to?
  - a) technical training
  - b) free school lunches
  - c) internships
  - d) gyms
- 3) What skills does the prime minister want 14-year-olds to start acquiring?
  - a) job interviews
  - b) workplace skills
  - c) coding skills
  - d) information about pensions
- 4) How many young people in Britain are not in school, jobs or training?
  - a) around a million
  - b) just fewer than a million
  - c) exactly one million
  - d) more than one million
- 5) What did Mr Burnham say would fix the youth unemployment crisis?
  - a) expertise
  - b) money
  - c) a major shake-up
  - d) lower taxes
- 6) What traditional views does Andy Burnham want to reset?
  - a) those in public and private schools
  - b) those on white- and blue-collar work
  - c) those on homeschooling
  - d) those on examination scores
- 7) What does Mr Burnham want parity between in the education system?
  - a) the sexes
  - b) exam scores
  - c) public and private schools
  - d) academic and technical
- 8) What does Burnham believe people should value as much as a hard hat?
  - a) a soft hat
  - b) a graduation cap
  - c) a woolly hat
  - d) a police or army helmet
- 9) What have students been told to take to do well and be respected?
  - a) science exams
  - b) the academic path
  - c) courses in coding
  - d) financial advice
- 10) Who did Mr Burnham say had been let down by the school system?
  - a) young people (seeking technical qualifications)
  - b) teachers
  - c) the British public
  - d) the UK government

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Plumber**

You think being a plumber is the best career. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their careers. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): lawyer, gardener or teacher.

## **Role B – Lawyer**

You think being a lawyer is the best career. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their careers. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): plumber, gardener or teacher.

## **Role C – Gardener**

You think being a gardener is the best career. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their careers. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): lawyer, plumber or teacher.

## **Role D – Teacher**

You think being a teacher is the best career. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their careers. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): lawyer, gardener or plumber.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'technical' and 'education'.

| technical | education |
|-----------|-----------|
|           |           |

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

|                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• new</li><li>• power</li><li>• young</li><li>• address</li><li>• dubbed</li><li>• require</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reset</li><li>• just</li><li>• based</li><li>• path</li><li>• value</li><li>• whole</li></ul> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# TECHNICAL EDUCATION SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260803-technical-education.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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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.

# TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISCUSSION

## STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'hard hat'?
3. What do you think of your country's leader?
4. What do you think of your country's education system?
5. What subjects need to be taught at school?
6. How does school prepare children for the workplace?
7. How bad is unemployment in your country?
8. What would you do to shake up your country's education system?
9. Is life for young people easier or harder than it was in the past?
10. How will AI affect education and jobs?

*UK leader says hard hats as important as graduation caps – 3rd August 2026*  
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# TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISCUSSION

## STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'graduation cap'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How good or bad was your education?
15. Are white- or blue-collar jobs best?
16. Would you rather be a carpenter or a lawyer?
17. How important is technical education?
18. What kind of career path would you like?
19. Is the hard hat as valuable as the graduation cap?
20. What questions would you like to ask the UK's prime minister?

## DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

The United Kingdom has a new prime minister, and he is determined to (1) \_\_\_\_ Britain's education system. Andy Burnham, 56, came (2) \_\_\_\_ power on July the 16th. One of his key priorities is to increase (3) \_\_\_\_ to technical training for youngsters. He wants schoolchildren as young as 14 to start acquiring the skills they need for the workplace. This is to (4) \_\_\_\_ the problem of unemployed youth. Britain has more than one million young people not in education, employment or training. They have been (5) \_\_\_\_ "the lost generation". Mr Burnham said: "Fixing the youth unemployment crisis in Britain will require a major (6) \_\_\_\_-up in how we do things, and that's what this government will do."

Prime Minister Burnham's aim is to (7) \_\_\_\_ traditional views on white- and blue-collar work. He wants young people to believe that a career as a plumber, carpenter, or bricklayer is just as (8) \_\_\_\_ as working as a lawyer or doctor. He said: "I want an education system based on (9) \_\_\_\_ between academic and technical, which gives all young people a clear path in life. From today, Britain will value the hard hat every (10) \_\_\_\_ as much as the graduation cap." He added: "For too long in this country, students have been told that they must take the academic (11) \_\_\_\_ to do well and to be respected. The whole school system has been built around it, and that has let (12) \_\_\_\_ young people seeking technical qualifications."

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |             |               |              |              |
|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) haulage | (b) haul      | (c) overhaul | (d) halt     |
| 2.  | (a) to      | (b) of        | (c) at       | (d) on       |
| 3.  | (a) access  | (b) excess    | (c) assess   | (d) recess   |
| 4.  | (a) address | (b) locale    | (c) location | (d) place    |
| 5.  | (a) dobbled | (b) dibbed    | (c) dabbed   | (d) dubbed   |
| 6.  | (a) get     | (b) mess      | (c) power    | (d) shake    |
| 7.  | (a) reset   | (b) resent    | (c) asset    | (d) recent   |
| 8.  | (a) values  | (b) valuation | (c) value    | (d) valuable |
| 9.  | (a) parity  | (b) same      | (c) equal    | (d) even     |
| 10. | (a) byte    | (b) bit       | (c) bite     | (d) bitten   |
| 11. | (a) trail   | (b) path      | (c) alley    | (d) walk     |
| 12. | (a) down    | (b) up        | (c) in       | (d) out      |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. ealvourh Britain's education system
2. One of his key siirieptro
3. start ciaqiurn the skills they need
4. They have been ubdedb the lost generation
5. the youth otepenmnlyum crisis
6. require a major esaupkh-

## Paragraph 2

7. Burnham's aim is to reset iornttldaia views
8. a career as a reulmpb
9. as vabelalu as working as a lawyer
10. medccaia and technical
11. to do well and to be deeetrcsp
12. technical acuifqitanlosi

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) "the lost generation". Mr Burnham said: "Fixing the youth unemployment
- ( ) and technical, which gives all young people a clear path in life. From today, Britain will value the hard
- ( ) around it, and that has let down young people seeking technical qualifications."
- ( ) crisis in Britain will require a major shake-up in how we do things, and that's what this government will do."
- ( ) hat every bit as much as the graduation cap." He added: "For too long in this country, students have been
- ( ) need for the workplace. This is to address the problem of unemployed youth. Britain has more than
- ( ) one million young people not in education, employment or training. They have been dubbed
- ( ) Prime Minister Burnham's aim is to reset traditional views on white- and blue-collar
- ( ) system. Andy Burnham, 56, came to power on July the 16th. One of his key priorities is to increase access
- ( **1** ) The United Kingdom has a new prime minister, and he is determined to overhaul Britain's education
- ( ) to technical training for youngsters. He wants schoolchildren as young as 14 to start acquiring the skills they
- ( ) told that they must take the academic path to do well and to be respected. The whole school system has been built
- ( ) valuable as working as a lawyer or doctor. He said: "I want an education system based on parity between academic
- ( ) work. He wants young people to believe that a career as a plumber, carpenter, or bricklayer is just as

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. Britain's determined education He is overhaul system to .
2. access his increase is of One priorities to .
3. acquiring for need skills Start the they workplace .
4. address of problem the This unemployed will youth .
5. been dubbed generation have lost the They .
6. and blue-collar Reset traditional views white- work on .
7. based education I on parity system want an .
8. academic do path take The they to well .
9. around been built has it school system The .
10. down Let people qualifications seeking technical young .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The United Kingdom has a new prime minister, and he is *detrimental* / *determined* to overhaul Britain's education system. Andy Burnham, 56, came *at* / *to* power on July the 16th. One of his key *priorities* / *priority* is to increase access to technical training for youngsters. He wants schoolchildren as *youth* / *young* as 14 to start acquiring the skills they need *for* / *to* the workplace. This is to *address* / *location* the problem of unemployed youth. Britain has more than one million young people not *on* / *in* education, employment or training. They have been *dabbed* / *dubbed* "the lost generation". Mr Burnham said: "Fixing the youth unemployment *critics* / *crisis* in Britain will require a major shake-up in how we do things, and that's what this government will *shake* / *do*."

Prime Minister Burnham's aim is to reset *custom* / *traditional* views on white- and blue-collar work. He wants young people to believe that a *work* / *career* as a plumber, carpenter, or bricklayer is just as valuable as working *as* / *is* a lawyer or doctor. He said: "I want an education system *basted* / *based* on parity between academic and technical, which gives *every* / *all* young people a clear *path* / *trail* in life. From today, Britain will value the hard hat every *bit* / *thing* as much as the graduation cap." He added: "For too *long* / *lengthen* in this country, students have been told that they must take the academic path to do well and to be *respect* / *respected*. The whole school system has been built around it, and that has let *up* / *down* young people seeking technical qualifications."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th\_ \_n\_t\_d K\_ngd\_m h\_s \_ n\_w pr\_m\_ m\_n\_st\_r, \_nd  
h\_ \_s d\_t\_rm\_n\_d t\_ \_v\_rh\_\_l Br\_t\_\_n's \_d\_c\_t\_\_n  
syst\_m. \_ndy B\_rnh\_m, 56, c\_m\_ t\_ p\_w\_r \_n J\_ly th\_  
16th. \_n\_ \_f h\_s k\_y pr\_\_r\_t\_\_s \_s t\_ \_ncr\_\_s\_ \_cc\_ss  
t\_ t\_chn\_c\_l tr\_\_n\_ng f\_r y\_\_ngst\_rs. H\_ w\_nts  
sch\_\_lch\_ldr\_n \_s y\_\_ng \_s 14 t\_ st\_rt \_cq\_\_r\_ng th\_  
sk\_lls th\_y n\_\_d f\_r th\_ w\_rkpl\_c\_. Th\_s \_s t\_  
\_ddr\_ss th\_ pr\_bl\_m \_f \_n\_mpl\_y\_d y\_\_th. Br\_t\_\_n h\_s  
m\_r\_ th\_n \_n\_ m\_ll\_\_n y\_\_ng p\_\_pl\_ n\_t \_n  
\_d\_c\_t\_\_n, \_mpl\_ym\_nt \_r tr\_\_n\_ng. Th\_y h\_v\_ b\_\_n  
d\_bb\_d "th\_ l\_st g\_n\_r\_t\_\_n". Mr B\_rnh\_m s\_\_d:  
"F\_x\_ng th\_ y\_\_th \_n\_mpl\_ym\_nt cr\_s\_s \_n Br\_t\_\_n  
w\_ll r\_q\_\_r\_ \_ m\_j\_r sh\_k\_-\_p \_n h\_w w\_ d\_ th\_ngs,  
\_nd th\_t's wh\_t th\_s g\_v\_rnm\_nt w\_ll d\_."

Pr\_m\_ M\_n\_st\_r B\_rnh\_m's \_\_m \_s t\_ r\_s\_t tr\_d\_t\_\_n\_l  
v\_\_ws \_n wh\_t\_- \_nd bl\_\_-c\_ll\_r w\_rk. H\_ w\_nts y\_\_ng  
p\_\_pl\_ t\_ b\_l\_\_v\_ th\_t \_ c\_r\_\_r \_s \_ pl\_mb\_r,  
c\_rp\_nt\_r, \_r br\_ckl\_y\_r \_s j\_st \_s v\_l\_\_bl\_ \_s  
w\_rk\_ng \_s \_ l\_wy\_r \_r d\_ct\_r. H\_ s\_\_d: "\_ w\_nt \_n  
\_d\_c\_t\_\_n syst\_m b\_s\_d \_n p\_r\_ty b\_tw\_\_n \_c\_d\_m\_c  
\_nd t\_chn\_c\_l, wh\_ch g\_v\_s \_ll y\_\_ng p\_\_pl\_ \_ cl\_\_r  
p\_th \_n l\_f\_. Fr\_m t\_d\_y, Br\_t\_\_n w\_ll v\_l\_\_ th\_ h\_rd  
h\_t \_v\_ry b\_t \_s m\_ch \_s th\_ gr\_d\_\_t\_\_n c\_p." H\_  
\_dd\_d: "F\_r t\_\_ l\_ng \_n th\_s c\_\_ntry, st\_d\_nts h\_v\_  
b\_\_n t\_ld th\_t th\_y m\_st t\_k\_ th\_ \_c\_d\_m\_c p\_th t\_  
d\_ w\_ll \_nd t\_ b\_ r\_sp\_ct\_d. Th\_ wh\_l\_ sch\_\_l syst\_m  
h\_s b\_\_n b\_\_lt \_r\_\_nd \_t, \_nd th\_t h\_s l\_t d\_wn  
y\_\_ng p\_\_pl\_ s\_\_k\_ng t\_chn\_c\_l q\_\_l\_f\_c\_t\_\_ns."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the united kingdom has a new prime minister and he is determined to overhaul britains education system andy burnham 56 came to power on july the 16th one of his key priorities is to increase access to technical training for youngsters he wants schoolchildren as young as 14 to start acquiring the skills they need for the workplace this is to address the problem of unemployed youth britain has more than one million young people not in education employment or training they have been dubbed the lost generation mr burnham said fixing the youth unemployment crisis in britain will require a major shakeup in how we do things and thats what this government will do

prime minister burnhams aim is to reset traditional views on white and bluecollar work he wants young people to believe that a career as a plumber carpenter or bricklayer is just as valuable as working as a lawyer or doctor he said i want an education system based on parity between academic and technical which gives all young people a clear path in life from today britain will value the hard hat every bit as much as the graduation cap he added for too long in this country 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 seeking technical qualifications

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

TheUnitedKingdomhasanewprimeminister,andheisdeterminedtooverhaulBritain'seducationsystem.AndyBurnham,56,cametopoweronJulythe16th.Oneofhiskeyprioritiesistoincreaseaccesstotechnicaltrainingforyoungsters.Hewantsschoolchildrenasyoungas14tostartacquiringtheskillstheyneedfortheworkplace.Thisistoaddresstheproblemofunemployedyouth.Britainhasmorethanonemillionyoungpeoplenotineducation,employmentortraining.Theyhavebeendubbed"thelostgeneration".MrBurnhamsaid:"FixingtheyouthunemploymentcrisisinBritainwillrequireamajorshake-upinhowwedothings,andthat'swhattthisgovernmentwilldo."PrimeMinisterBurnham'saimistoresettraditionalviewsonwhite-andblue-collarwork.Hewantsyoungpeopletobelievethatacareerasaplumber,carpenter,orbricklayerisjustasvaluableasworkingasalawyerordoctor.Hesaid:"Iwantaneducationsystembasedonparitybetweenacademicandtechnical,whichgivesallyoungpeopleclearpathinlife.Fromtoday,Britainwillvaluethehardhateverybitasmuchasthegraduationcap."Headed:"Fortoolonginthiscountry,studentshavebeentoldthattheymusttaketheacademicpathtodowellandtoberespected.Thewholeschoolsystemhasbeenbuiltaroundit,andthat'sletdownyoungpeopleseekingtechnicalqualifications."

## FREE WRITING

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

Write about **technical education** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]



# ACADEMIC WRITING

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

Blue-collar work should be valued as highly as white-collar work. Discuss.

[illegible]

# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. TECHNICAL EDUCATION:** Make a poster about technical education. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. PARITY:** Write a magazine article about making the salaries of lawyers and doctors the same as plumbers and carpenters. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on technical education. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e    2. a    3. d    4. c    5. b    6. g    7. f  
8. i    9. n    10. l    11. m    12. j    13. h    14. k

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 T    2 F    3 T    4 F    5 F    6 T    7 T    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. e | 2. i | 3. g | 4. a | 5. c  |
| 6. j | 7. d | 8. b | 9. h | 10. f |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Overhaul it
- Technical training
- Workplace skills
- More than one million
- A major shake-up
- Those on white- and blue-collar work
- Academic and technical
- A graduation cap
- The academic path
- Young people (seeking technical qualifications)

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- He is determined to overhaul Britain's education system.
- One of his priorities is to increase access.
- Start acquiring skills they need for the workplace.
- This will address the problem of unemployed youth.
- They have been dubbed the lost generation.
- Reset traditional views on white- and blue-collar work.
- I want an education system based on parity.
- They take the academic path to do well.
- The school system has been built around it.
- Let down young people seeking technical qualifications.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)