

UNIVERSITE PARIS 1 PANTHEON-SORBONNE
UFR 06 / SGEL
LICENCE DE GESTION ET ECONOMIE D'ENTREPRISE
PARTIEL D'ANGLAIS APPLIQUE A LA GESTION, Semestre 2

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Maître de Conférences

11th May 2011
Duration:2 hours

Instructions: No documents allowed. Write your answers on the official sheets provided.

Part one

Read the text below and address the ensuing comprehension questions and vocabulary exercises.

Trade Unions in Britain

Trade unions obtained legal recognition in 1871 after long and bitter struggles. The fight for the right of workers to organize themselves originated in the trade guilds of the fourteenth century and later in social clubs which were formed to give their members protection against sickness and unemployment.

The modern trade unions are associated (if no longer closely) with the Labour Party and campaign for better pay, working and health conditions for their members. The trade union movement is highly organized, with a membership of 7.4 million people in 2003. But this is a fall from 12 million in 1978 and only 27 percent of all individuals in employment.

Today there are some 243 trade unions and professional associations of workers, which vary considerably in size and influence. They represent not only skilled and unskilled workers in industry, but also white-collar workers in a range of businesses, companies and local and central government. Other professional associations like the Law Society, the Police Federation and the British Medical Association carry out similar representation roles for their members.

Members of trade unions pay annual subscriptions to their unions and frequently to the Labour Party, unless they elect not to pay this latter amount. The funding provides for union activities and services such as legal, monetary and professional help. The richer unions give strike pay to members who are taking part in "official strikes", which are those legally sanctioned by members. Trade unions vary in their wealth and in their political orientation, ranging from the left to the right wing of the political spectrum.

Some unions admit as members only those people who work in a specific job, such as miners or teachers. Other unions comprise workers who are employed in different areas of industry or commerce, such as the Transport and General Workers' Union. Some unions have joined with others in similar fields to form new unions, such as Unison (public service workers) which is now the largest in Britain with 1.3 million members. Workers may choose, without victimization, whether they want to belong to a particular union or none at all.

Many trade unions are affiliated to the TUC, which was founded in 1868, serves as an umbrella organization to coordinate trade union interests and tries to promote worker cooperation. It can exert some pressure on government (although this has now decreased) and seeks to extend its contacts in industry and commerce and with employers as well as workers.

The influence of the TUC and trade unions (as well as their membership) has declined. This is due to unemployment; changing attitudes to trade unions by workers; the reduction and restructuring of industry; a deregulated economy; a more mobile workforce; and Conservative legislation. Laws were passed to enforce secret voting by union members before strikes can legally be called and for the election of union officials. The number of pickets (union strikers) outside business premises has been reduced, secondary action by other unionists is banned and unions may be fined by courts if they transgress legislation. Such Conservative laws (which the Labour government accept) and the economic climate have forced trade unions to be realistic in their wage demands. But pay claims are escalating again and there is increasing (if sporadic) militancy among some union leaders. There are also arrangements for legal recognition of unions in those workplaces where a majority of workers want them and for consultation with workers in matters like redundancy.

John Oakland, *British Civilisation*, London, Routledge, 2006

A. Reading Comprehension (5 points)

State if the following sentences are **True (T)** or **False (F)**. You must justify your choice with a quotation from the text. Give the quote AND the paragraph/line number.

1. Trade unions represent workers across a broad spectrum of the workforce. **T/F**
2. Unions systematically back their members by giving them strike pay. **T/F**
3. TUC is an organization, which is primarily intended for blue-collar workers. **T/F**
4. It is not mandatory for union members to pay into the Labour Party. **T/F**
5. Secret ballots must be taken in order for industrial action to occur legally. **T/F**
6. Union membership has declined since the late 1970's. **T/F**
7. Unions not involved in a strike cannot support striking unionists. **T/F**
8. Redundancy is not one of the reasons why TUC membership has fallen. **T/F**
9. Unions are usually associated with Conservative politics. **T/F**
10. The TUC is Britain's largest union. **T/F**

B. Vocabulary (5 points)

Find one synonym for each of the following terms in the reading text. Give the paragraph/line number.

1. authorized industrial actions _____
2. dues _____
3. lay-offs _____
4. wage demands _____
5. sympathy action _____
6. strike allowances _____
7. labour force _____
8. joblessness _____
9. ballots _____
10. office workers _____

Part Two: Grammar

A. Make sentences using “*have something done*”. Use the correct tense of the verb. The verb is underlined; the subject is in *italics*. (2.5 points)

1. *They* / last week / wage demands / adjust / a / by / lawyer / their
2. up to now / never / computer / the / repair / *The CEO*
3. *employees* / housing benefits / next week / a new claim for / examine
4. check / *the government* / figures / those / accuracy / for / again / yesterday
5. process / unemployment benefits / an / employee / now / by / *He*

B. Re-write the following sentences using the structure “*have something done*”. (2.5 points)

1. Someone has excluded the RPI statistics from the final proposal.
We _____
2. Someone must revise the deal before Monday afternoon.
You _____
3. Someone cleans the office twice a week while we’re meeting with the board.
They _____
4. Someone is setting up the housing benefits program for the government.
The government _____
5. Someone has examined the fraudulent claims for management.
Management _____

Part Three: Written Expression (5 points)

Read the following citation from an article concerning social security benefits in the U.K:

“Work expresses human dignity and also increases it. Some people have said that forcing the unemployed to pick up litter and erase graffiti is demeaning. But where is the dignity in sitting at home, dependent on the state, caught in the poverty trap?”

Now write a short essay of 100 (minimum) to 120 words (maximum) explaining if you agree with the author’s thinking. Justify your position by talking about social security/benefits in the U.K.

Key to answers and guidelines for marking

Part one

A. Reading comprehension (5 points)

Answers

1. **True.** “They represent not only skilled and unskilled workers in industry, but also white-collar workers in a range of businesses, companies and local and central government.” (*Paragraph 3, lines 2-4*)
2. **False.** Only “richer unions give strike pay to members who are taking part in “official strikes”. (*Paragraph 4, lines 3 – 4*)
3. **False.** It “serves as an umbrella organization to coordinate trade union interests and tries to promote worker cooperation”. (*Paragraph 6, lines 1-3*)
4. **True.** Union members may elect not to pay annual subscriptions to the Labour Party. (*see paragraph 4, lines 1 – 2*)
5. **True.** “Laws were passed to enforce secret voting by union members before strikes can legally be called “. (*Last paragraph 7, lines 4-5*)
6. **True.** “Their membership has declined;” (*last paragraph, line 1*)
7. **True.** “secondary action by other unionists is banned” (*last paragraph, line 6*)
8. **False.** Redundancy as a result of “the reduction and restructuring of industry” is one of the reasons behind the decline in TUC and trade union membership and influence. (*last paragraph, lines 1 – 4*)
9. **False.** “Trade unions are associated (if no longer closely) with the Labour Party. (*paragraph 2, line 1*)
10. **False.** It is the organization to which trade unions are affiliated. (*paragraph 6, line 1*)

Marking

0.25 point for each correct **True** or **False**. Another **0.25 point** for each correct justification. The justification is not to be marked if the first part of the answer **T/F** is not correct.

B. Vocabulary (5 points)

Answers

1. official strikes (*paragraph 4, line 4*)
2. subscriptions (*paragraph 4, line 2*)
3. redundancy (*last paragraph 7, last line*)
4. pay claims (*paragraph 7, line 9*)
5. secondary action (*paragraph 7, line 6*)
6. strike pay (*paragraph 4, line 4*)
7. Workforce (*paragraph 7, line 3*)
8. Unemployment (*paragraph 7, line 2*)
9. voting (*paragraph 7, line 4*)
10. white collar workers (*paragraph 3, line 3*)

Marking

0.5 points for a good answer. Nothing to be awarded otherwise.

Part two: Grammar (5 points)

Answers

A.

1. They had their wage demands adjusted by a lawyer last week.
2. Up to now the CEO has never had the computer repaired.
3. Employees will have a new claim for housing benefits examined next week.
4. The government had those figures checked again for accuracy yesterday.
5. He is having the unemployment benefits processed by an employee now.

B.

1. We have had the RPI statistic excluded from the final proposal.
2. You must have the deal revised before Monday afternoon.
3. They have the office cleaned twice a week while we're meeting with the board.
4. The government is having the housing benefits program set up.
5. Management had the fraudulent claims examined.

Marking

0.5 point for each correct answer. Nothing to be awarded otherwise.

Part three: Writing (a total of 5 points)

Marking

- **1 point** to be systematically awarded for adequate length (100 words minimum, 120 words maximum as counted by the student. Count yourself, if in doubt).
- **Nothing (0)** to be awarded if the essay is longer or shorter than required.
- **0.5 point** for any attempt by the student to introduce his/her essay.
- **0.5 point** for any argument(s) for.
- **0.5 point** for any argument(s) against.
- **0.5 point** for any attempt by the student to conclude his/her essay.
- **Up to 0.5 point** for satisfactory sentence construction.
- **Up to 0.5 point** for satisfactory lexical choices.
- **Up to 0.5 point** for a satisfactory use of link words.
- **Up to 0.5 point** for writing coherently.