

LESSON G

Pre-lesson task, Student's worksheet


1. Discuss the following questions in pairs:

- What do you plan to do when you finish school? Would you like to go to university? What would you like to study?
- What are some of the problems university students might face?

2. Read the article:

STUDENT LOAN CRISIS

The majority of UK students will still be repaying loans taken out while at university when they are in their forties and fifties, a study has found. According to a BBC report, nearly three-quarters of graduates from English universities will never clear their debt and will have to have at least some of their loan written off. The situation has been blamed on recent increases in course fees, plus the fact that more students from less advantaged homes are entering higher



education. This is the case for Timothy Spiller, twenty-one, an accountancy student at London Metropolitan University. Timothy comes from a low-income family and will need to borrow the maximum amount available in order to complete his degree. Despite the prospect of huge debts, Timothy remains confident he will graduate, find well-paid work and pay off his loans in full. It is, he says, a very strong motivator to work hard.

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3. Why are students upset? What is the student loan crisis?

4. Read the article again and decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Then underline where you found the information in the text.

- A) Most students will have paid off their student loans by the time they are in their forties and fifties T / F
- B) Almost 75% of students will never pay off all their student loan T / F
- C) Tuition fees have recently increased T / F
- D) Less students from low-income families are going to university T / F
- E) Timothy Spiller is worried about getting into debt T / F
5. How can UK students avoid getting into debt? In small groups try and think of at least five ideas to help students save money.
6. Ask your teacher about their experience going to university and how they think it has changed. Then, research university education in your country. Find out the following information:

- The percentage of secondary school students who attend university
- How much it costs to study at university
- Financial support available for students
- The percentage of graduates that find a job related to their degree
- What options are available for those who don't want to go to university

Make notes about what you find out. During the *Live Class* you will be sharing some of this information with a school from another country.
