

## The Challenges of Seasonal Migrant Workers in the UK

When 26-year-old Ben\* (name changed) boarded a flight in Uzbekistan in June, he expected more than just a summer job picking fruits and vegetables on a British farm. “I wanted to explore new places, cities I’ve never visited before,” he said. “I wanted to make friends, share ideas, and make new memories.”

However, Ben faced challenges with the owners of the Scottish farm where he worked, as they were demanding and unresponsive to worker concerns. When it was time for him to receive his pay, Ben claims he was not paid for all the work he did. “I was surprised because the employer pays you what they want, even if that is different from your contract,” he said. “They make various excuses.”

Ben is one of many migrant workers who report not being paid after their employer linked their wages to the amount of crops picked rather than the hours worked. Last year, around 45,000 workers came from abroad to work temporarily in UK agriculture on a seasonal worker visa, a program introduced in 2019 to address labor shortages related to Brexit.

The Worker Support Centre (WSC), a Scotland-based NGO that helps seasonal workers across the UK, stated that of the 99 workers who contacted them with payment issues last year, over half reported non-payment due to the measurement of product picked. This practice led to significant periods of time—such as time spent moving between workstations or in team meetings—being unaccounted for and unpaid.

The WSC, along with the TUC, Anti-Slavery International, and others, has written to the Low Pay Commission requesting an HMRC investigation into the issue. Philippa Stroud, chair of the Low Pay Commission, expressed concern about the evidence presented by the WSC. “You work in the fields during harvest season, and it’s no secret that not all fields are located near

the farm,” Ben told the Observer. “Some fields take hours to reach—but the employer doesn’t pay for that time.”

While all seasonal workers must receive at least the national living wage in England or the agricultural minimum wage in Scotland, the WSC indicated that the use of targets—and the complex payslips produced—made it hard for workers to understand their hourly pay. Many believed they would be paid an hourly rate when accepting the job, only to be informed of picking targets upon arrival. Some who documented their hours found differences between the amounts on their payslips and their actual working time.

The WSC reviewed 38 payslips from 18 workers on 11 farms across Scotland and England. Only two included payments for in-work travel, and just one for breaks. The majority - 34 - did not include any payment for team meetings or time spent receiving instructions and equipment at the beginning of each day.

Payslips reviewed by the Observer displayed long and complicated lists of products categorized by type and weight, with payment seemingly calculated based on the quantity picked for each. “From our analysis, it appears that these workers were not compensated for the entire time they spent at work,” said Valeria Ragni, WSC operations manager.

Ragni noted that in some cases, even employers admitted to the WSC that they struggled to understand the payslips. “Some payslips are so confusing that they make it impossible for workers to enforce their rights. We need payslips to clearly document the hours and times worked, and to explain employers’ methods for calculating them so workers can accurately assess whether they’re being compensated for the work they have done.”

Ragni suggested that the extent of the issue is likely much larger because seasonal workers often fear raising concerns due to their insecure status.

TUC general secretary Paul Nowak stated, “Everyone should be paid fairly for the job they do. It’s time to act against bad employers who exploit and underpay seasonal migrant workers below the legal national minimum wage.” Stroud expressed a desire to gain a deeper understanding of seasonal workers’ experiences. “Various evidence suggests that migrant workers are more vulnerable to underpayment and less likely to report it when it occurs,” she said.

A government spokesperson mentioned that they would work closely with scheme operators “responsible for ensuring the welfare of migrant workers.” They added, “We will always take decisive action when we believe abusive practices are happening.”

*More information has surfaced:*

This narrative presents two contrasting perspectives in rural areas. One was prominently featured on Saturday by broadcasters as farmers held demonstrations throughout the UK against inheritance tax plans they believe will harm family farms. A smaller protest held a day earlier outside the Home Office received minimal attention. A small group of fruit and vegetable pickers, primarily from Latin America, highlighted their struggle against what they describe as the exploitation of migrant workers.

These two actions emerged from opposite ends of the political spectrum. The migrant worker protest was supported by the Landworkers’ Alliance and Unite, with all union banners and loudspeakers. Protesters gathered at a farm near Heathrow airport, preparing to drive a tractor convoy past Windsor Castle to Maidenhead, were joined by Tory MPs and guided by a friendly leader dressed in a tweed cap and red trousers.

However, this is not merely a tale of opposing sides. There was substantial common ground between the two groups, with both acknowledging that they were bearing the burden of Britain’s low-cost food.

Outside the Home Office on Friday afternoon, Julia\* (name changed) led the proceedings, explaining through a translator that she and others in the seasonal worker program had been treated “like animals.” Employment tribunal hearings are scheduled to begin this week to address their claims for unlawful wage deductions, unfair dismissal, discrimination, and harassment against Haygrove, a company that operates five farms in the UK growing strawberries, cherries, and other berries. The business employs over 1,000 individuals to pick fruit and utilizes the seasonal worker scheme, a visa program introduced post-Brexit when fruit was left rotting in the fields due to labor shortages. Haygrove disputes the claims.

Some of the Spanish-speaking pickers reported discrimination from supervisors from Eastern Europe, according to Catherine McAndrew of the Landworkers’ Alliance. “They were promised decent wages and working conditions, and an opportunity that could change their lives, but they found

nothing of the sort,” she said. “They were denied work, bullied by their supervisors, and assigned to the worst fields because of their race.”

McAndrew stated that there is significant evidence of “widespread exploitation” among those on the seasonal worker visa. Part of the reason is that growers face immense pressure from supermarkets to reduce prices, and seasonal workers are often hired through third-party agencies. Research conducted by the Landworkers’ Alliance into the fruit supply chain revealed that for a £2.30 punnet of strawberries, the farm receives 50p, of which only 5p is profit, while workers receive just 18p after deductions for taxes, visas, and accommodation.

## Questions: The Challenges of Seasonal Migrant Workers in the UK (1)

1. What is the general theme of this topic? Can you personally relate to the issue?
2. How can it be related to Belgium? Is there a similar issue?
3. What do you understand by “exploitation”? Is this limited to agricultural work?
4. Can better education and/ or better pay help to avoid such issues?
5. Specific details:
  - What sort of jobs do workers do?
  - Give at least one reason why Ben says he’s being exploited?
  - What information can be gathered from the payslips?
  - Which landmarks will the tractor convoy pass?

## The Productivity Myth: Why ‘Doing More’ Isn’t Always Better

When we think of the term ‘*productivity*’, what are the first things that come to our mind? To-Do lists with loads of tasks, then accomplishing all of them - that’s textbook being ‘productive’. But what if I told you that this practice actually reduces the effectiveness of your productivity?

Multitasking reduces productivity by about 40%. But much of that later - first things first, *what actually is productivity?*

Productivity has a different set of definitions in different contexts. But since the context we are referring to is *psychological*, ‘productivity’ can be defined as an **ability of an individual, or a group of people to work efficiently with the input** (this may be anything that you put in it, for example, time, money, effort etc.) **within a given time period, to maximise or get the full potential of the output.**

Using no jargon at all, picture it like this: You’re aware that TikTok and Pinterest exist, but instead of just sitting and scrolling, you’re do your chemistry homework, putting in your brain cells, and energy, and getting the most out of it. This could be getting the straight A that’s been on your vision board for a while, or getting into the good books of your teacher, so they can give you those golden words for your college application.

That’s productivity, in the simplest of terms. But then, where do most people go wrong with it and why? What is the source of that *procrastination*, and *burnout*? Have we grown up with the wrong notion about being productive?

So we are resorting to boosters like coffee to get through the day, and take-away coffee is becoming more and more to go-to solution. A relatively new chain of shops is taking over.

**Has Blank Street Beaten Starbucks to Become Gen Z's Favorite Coffee Chain?**

A decade ago, if you'd stopped someone on the street and asked what they thought the most popular coffee shop was, chances are their answer would be Starbucks. However, in recent years, the tides have changed. Now, there's a strong chance their answer wouldn't be Starbucks—it'd be Blank Street.

Despite only emerging in 2020, Blank Street stores have quickly become widespread in cities across both the United States and Britain. It's become increasingly normal to see young people walking around with sage green Blank Street cups, instead of the iconic white and green Starbucks cups.

### **So why has Blank Street sky-rocketed in popularity?**

#### 1. More Affordable Prices

Blank Street is by no means the cheapest coffee shop on the high street. However, its prices are better than Starbucks's—something its owners are [keenly aware of](#). Vinay Menda, one of the company's co-founders, noted that "we're about 25% to 35% cheaper than Starbucks on espresso." He added that the company wants "to be Starbucks for the next generation" but with "better quality, lower prices." Part of the reason Blank Street is able to lower its prices is that its stores are small and therefore cheaper to rent. While this means there's no room for customers to sit around with their drinks, it *does* mean they're walking away with cheaper drinks.

#### 2. Convenience

While Blank Street's queues are often long, the drinks themselves are swiftly concocted. This is down to the automatic machines Blank Street uses. Amongst their menu, matcha is produced from a pre-made formula instead of whisked in front of you, and their cold brew is made at a central facility, rather than in-store as is the norm in coffee shops like Starbucks. While some coffee fans argue that this leads to lower-quality drinks, it's undeniably convenient for people in a rush who want a dose of caffeine before heading into a long day of work or school.

#### 3. Trendiness

In recent years, drinking Starbucks has become increasingly less fashionable. It's widely associated with people's cringy pre-teen phase when, alongside a unicorn onesie, they'd clutch a bright Starbucks frappuccino.

In contrast, Blank Street is seen as Gen Z's cool girl coffee brand. It's no coincidence that the brand has risen in popularity at the same time as matcha. Unsurprisingly,

matcha is one of their best-selling drinks. The company plays to its popularity and releases new, creative flavours seasonally.

For example, UK Blank Street is currently offering two spring drinks: strawberry shortcake and rhubarb and custard. These drinks are doing the rounds on social media, with influencers conducting reviews that are getting thousands of views and creating hype for the company.

#### 4. Aesthetic

Alongside the launch of these seasonal drinks, Blank Street released ads carefully designed to appeal to their Gen Z audience. Their [strawberry shortcake ad](#) played on nostalgic girlhood spring days. It featured girls sitting around a picnic mat at the park. A Britney Spears song played in the background, while pink jewelled phones and lip glosses were scattered around the drinks.

Unsurprisingly, the ad was well-received. Comments included 'oh, your marketing needs a raise' and 'they know their target audience'.

Aside from seasonal campaigns, the stores themselves are designed to attract young people. Their logo is a trendy sage green featuring the words Blank Street in white block letters. The stores are likewise minimalistic and fit the 'clean girl' aesthetic that is

highly popular amongst Gen Z.

#### **Which Company is Worth it?**

Of course, just because Blank Street appears more popular amongst young people, doesn't mean it's necessarily better.

The company has its controversies. As mentioned, some take issue with the fact the company does not handmake its drinks. Also, while the drinks are cheaper than those found at Starbucks, this isn't to say that they're *cheap*. Likely, if you visited a handful of independent coffee shops, you'd find at least one offering cheaper drinks than Blank Street.

Still, Blank Street is undeniably popular among young people. While it has nowhere near as many stores as Starbucks does worldwide, this may change in the future. It's fair to that goth chains have a green logo, Starbucks's emerald can be compared to Blank Street's sage green.

## Text Dependent Questions: The Productivity Myth: Why 'Doing More' Isn't Always Better (2)

1. Comprehension: According to the text, how does the author define productivity in a psychological context? What elements contribute to this definition?
2. Comprehension: What are some reasons mentioned in the text for the growing popularity of Blank Street over Starbucks among young people?
3. Vocabulary: What does the term "procrastination" mean in the context of the text? How does it relate to the overall discussion of productivity?
4. Comprehension: How does the author illustrate the concept of productivity using the example of doing chemistry homework? What is the significance of this example?
5. Vocabulary: What does "aesthetic" refer to in the text, and how does it relate to Blank Street's marketing strategies aimed at Gen Z?

### Answer Key:

1. Productivity is defined as the ability of an individual or group to work efficiently with various inputs to maximize output within a given time period.
2. The text mentions more affordable prices, convenience, trendiness, and a specific aesthetic that appeals to young people as reasons for Blank Street's popularity.
3. Procrastination refers to the act of delaying or postponing tasks, which is linked to the idea that many have a misguided notion about productivity.
4. The author uses the example of doing chemistry homework to show that productivity involves

putting in effort and resources to achieve desired outcomes, such as better grades.

5. "Aesthetic" refers to the visual appeal and style of Blank Street's branding and marketing, which

is strategically designed to attract a young audience.

FURTHER; very interesting questions: the text deals with 'productivity' and doing more and link it to efficiency in general, this leads sometimes to pressure and some cases of 'burnout'. To cope or reduce these situations, people boost their productivity /efficiency by resorting to coffee. It doesn't matter whether it's true or not.

1. Do you agree with the idea that doing more doesn't always mean being more productive? Why or why not? (general opinion question)
2. Do you feel pressured to always be busy or doing something "useful"? Where do you think that pressure comes from? (Personal experience question)
3. How do you personally define a "productive" day? Is it about output, impact, or something else? (personal experience question)
4. How do you think society measures success, and do you think that's changing? (cultural and social impact question)
5. What habits or strategies help you balance productivity and well-being? (solutions & alternatives)
6. Do you yourself have coffee habits? If so, how does it affect your day? (personal experience question)
7. Do some people close to you have coffee habits to boost their day? Where do they get it f c. Strawberry shortcake  
d. Caramel macchiato

## From IBM to OpenAI: 50 Years of Successes (and Failures) at Microsoft

Microsoft is celebrating its 50th anniversary. This article was created using Microsoft Word on a computer running Microsoft Windows. It will likely be published on platforms hosted by Microsoft Azure, including LinkedIn, which is a Microsoft subsidiary with over one billion users. In 2024, the company made a net profit of \$88 billion from total sales of \$245 billion. Its stock market value is around \$3 trillion, making it the second-most valuable company in the world after Apple and almost equal to NVidia. Since 2002, Microsoft's cumulative profits are nearing \$640 billion.

However, 50 years ago, Microsoft was just a small computer company founded in Albuquerque, New Mexico by two former Harvard students, Bill Gates and Paul Allen, who were 19 and 22 years old at the time. The journey that allowed Microsoft to become one of the most powerful companies in the world can be divided into four distinct periods.

### **First Era: Bill Gates Rides on IBM's Shoulders**

By the late 1970s, IBM was the leading computer company. It soon recognized that microcomputers created by young entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, like the Apple II, would eventually surpass IBM's mainframes. Therefore, IBM launched the PC project. However, it became clear that IBM's complex internal processes would stop it from delivering a microcomputer on time. They decided to outsource various parts of the machine to external suppliers.

Several specialized companies were approached to provide the operating system, but they all declined, viewing IBM as a competitor to be defeated, representing centralized and bureaucratic computing. Mary Maxwell Gates, who was on the board of a nonprofit organization alongside the IBM

chairman, recommended her son William, known as Bill, who had just started Microsoft. This led to their first contact in 1980.

The issue was that Microsoft was focused on a programming language called BASIC and was not specialized in operating systems. However, Bill Gates, showing great confidence, agreed to a deal with IBM to provide an operating system that he didn't actually have. Gates then bought the QDOS system from Seattle Computer Products and developed MS-DOS (where MS stands for Microsoft).

Gates, whose father was a founding partner of a major Seattle law firm, made his next strategic move. He offered IBM a non-exclusive contract for MS-DOS, allowing him to sell it to other computer companies. IBM, not accustomed to subcontracting, did not suspect anything: this contract brought great wealth to Microsoft and hardship to IBM when companies like Compaq, Olivetti, and Hewlett-Packard quickly developed IBM PC clones, creating an entire new industry.

Microsoft found success. It not only benefited from IBM's solid reputation, which attracted businesses, but also earned royalties on every PC sold. In 1986, Microsoft went public. Bill Gates, Paul Allen, and two of their early employees became billionaires, and 12,000 additional Microsoft employees became millionaires.

### **Second Era: Windows, the Golden Goose (Thanks to Xerox)**

In the mid-1980s, microcomputers were not very user-friendly; their operating systems, including Microsoft's MS-DOS, relied on difficult command lines, such as C:/. This changed in 1984 with the Apple Macintosh, which featured a graphical interface (icons, drop-down menus, fonts, a mouse, etc.). This groundbreaking technology was developed in Xerox's research lab, though Xerox failed to see its potential. Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO, was inspired by it: to ensure the Macintosh computer's success, he asked Microsoft to create a customized version of its office suite, especially its Excel spreadsheet. Microsoft adopted the graphical interface concept and launched Windows 1 in 1985, followed by the Office suite (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint).

Over the years, Windows improved significantly, reaching its peak with Windows 95, launched in 1995, backed by an advertising campaign costing

over \$200 million, which included the rights to The Rolling Stones' "Start Me Up." At that time, Microsoft held more than 70% of the global operating system market share, a figure that has not changed much since.

In 1997, Microsoft even rescued Apple from bankruptcy by investing \$150 million in non-voting shares, which were sold back three years later. During one of his famous keynote speeches, Steve Jobs thanked Bill Gates, saying, "Bill, thank you. The world's a better place." This investment also ended a lawsuit Apple had against Microsoft, accusing it of copying its graphical interface when designing Windows.

### **Third Era: Bureaucratization, Internal Conflicts, and a Failed Diversification Strategy**

In the mid-1990s, computing experienced a major transformation with the rise of the World Wide Web. Microsoft, which specialized in standalone PCs and sold boxed software, was unprepared for these new global networks. Its first response was to create Internet Explorer, a browser developed from acquiring the Mosaic browser made by Spyglass, similar to how MS-DOS was created. Internet Explorer eventually became part of Windows, leading to a lawsuit against Microsoft for abusing its dominant position, which nearly resulted in the company being broken up. New competitors, like Google with its Chrome browser, capitalized on these developments to attract users.

In 2000, Bill Gates stepped down as Microsoft CEO, handing the role to Steve Ballmer, one of his former Harvard classmates. Ballmer aimed to transform Microsoft into an electronics and services company. Over fifteen years, he launched several initiatives to diversify the company, including video games (Flight Simulator), CD encyclopedias (Encarta), hardware (mice, keyboards), MP3 players (Zune), online web hosting (Azure), game consoles (Xbox), phones (Windows Phone), tablets, and computers (Surface).

While some of these products succeeded (notably Azure and Xbox), others failed miserably. Encarta was quickly overshadowed by Wikipedia, and Zune couldn't compete with Apple's iPod. The Windows Phone remains one of Microsoft's largest strategic blunders. To secure its place in mobile telephony and compete with the iPhone, Microsoft acquired Nokia's cell phone division for \$5.4 billion in September 2013. The integration was a

disaster: Steve Ballmer wanted Microsoft's phones to run on a version of Windows 10, making them slow and impractical. Less than two years later, Microsoft ended its mobile phone operations, losing \$7.6 billion. Nokia was sold for only \$350 million.

Microsoft's numerous business ventures led to a surge in employees, growing from 61,000 in 2005 to 228,000 in 2024. Many internal conflicts arose between different business units, which sometimes refused to cooperate.

These turf battles, along with excessive bureaucratization and easy profitability (computer manufacturers pay around \$50 for each Windows installation, while the marginal cost of the license is almost zero), hindered Microsoft's ability to innovate. Its software, including Internet Explorer 6 and Windows Vista, was often ridiculed for its flaws, which were frequently patched by updates. As some users pointed out, Windows has a "safe" mode, suggesting that its normal mode is "failure."

#### **Fourth Era: Is Microsoft the New Cool (Thanks to the Cloud and OpenAI)?**

In 2014, Satya Nadella took over as Microsoft's CEO from Steve Ballmer. Coming from the online services division, Nadella aimed to shift Microsoft's strategy toward online services, particularly by developing the Azure cloud hosting business. By 2024, Azure became the second-largest cloud service globally, behind Amazon Web Services, with over 56% of Microsoft's revenue coming from online services. Nadella changed the business model: instead of selling software, Microsoft now offers subscriptions for products like Office 365 and Xbox Live.

Along the way, Microsoft acquired the online game Minecraft and the professional social network LinkedIn in 2016 for \$26.2 billion (its largest acquisition to date), followed by the online development platform GitHub in 2018 for \$7.5 billion.

Between 2023 and 2025, Microsoft invested over \$14 billion in OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, positioning itself favorably in the artificial intelligence revolution. ChatGPT's models also contribute to Microsoft's in-house AI, Copilot.

Over the last 50 years, through bold moves, timely acquisitions, and failed diversification strategies, Microsoft has changed dramatically in its reach, competitive advantage, and business model. Once stifled by excess and internal conflicts, the company appears to have regained its attractiveness, especially to young graduates. Who can say for sure if Microsoft will still be around in 50 years? Bill Gates himself suggests otherwise, but he may be bluffing.

## Text Dependent Questions for "From IBM to OpenAI: 50 Years of Successes (and Failures) at Microsoft" (3):

1. What significant change occurred in the mid-1980s that made microcomputers more user-friendly? How did
2. this change impact Microsoft?
3. In the context of Microsoft's relationship with IBM, what does the term "non-exclusive contract" mean, and how did it benefit Microsoft?
4. Identify two products or initiatives launched by Microsoft under Steve Ballmer's leadership. Which of these were successful, and which were failures? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.
5. The article mentions that Microsoft faced a lawsuit for abusing its dominant position with Internet Explorer.
6. What does the term "dominant position" imply in a business context, and how can it affect competition in the market?
7. How did Satya Nadella's approach to Microsoft's business model differ from that of his predecessor, Steve Ballmer? What were the key outcomes of this new strategy?

### Answer Key:

1. The significant change was the introduction of a graphical interface with the Apple Macintosh in 1984, which made microcomputers more user-friendly. This change allowed Microsoft to develop Windows, leading to increased market share and popularity for the company.
2. A "non-exclusive contract" means that Microsoft could sell the MS-DOS operating system to other companies, not just IBM. This benefited Microsoft by allowing it to earn royalties from multiple PC manufacturers, thereby increasing its revenue.
3. Two initiatives launched by Microsoft under Steve Ballmer were Xbox and Azure. Xbox was successful, while Encarta was overshadowed by Wikipedia, and Zune failed to compete with Apple's iPod.
4. "Dominant position" in a business context suggests that a company has a significant market share, which can lead to less competition. This can result in legal challenges if the company is perceived as abusing its power to stifle competitors.

5. Satya Nadella shifted Microsoft's focus from selling software to offering subscriptions for online services, such as Office 365 and Xbox Live. This strategy significantly increased Microsoft's revenue from online services, making Azure the second-largest cloud service globally.

## Extreme heat is breaking global records: Why this isn't 'just summer,' and what climate change has to do with it

A month into summer 2024, the vast majority of the U.S. population had already experienced at least one extreme heat wave, and millions of people were under [heat alerts](#), with [forecasts warning of more ahead](#).

Death Valley hit 125 degrees Fahrenheit (51.7 Celsius) or higher for [nine consecutive days](#) in early July. Las Vegas [broke its all-time heat record](#) at 120 F (48.9 C). Days of 100-degree heat dried out the California landscapes, [fueling wildfires there and in the Northwest](#). Oregon reported several [suspected heat deaths](#).

Globally, the [planet had its hottest day](#) in at least eight decades of recordkeeping on July 21 – and then broke the record again on July 22, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

The extreme heat is part of a longer trend: Each of the past 13 months has been the [hottest on record for that month](#) globally, including the hottest June, the EU service reported in early July. It also found that the average temperature for the previous 12 months had been at least 1.5 C (2.7 F) warmer than the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.

The 1.5 C warming threshold can be confusing, so let's take a closer look at what that means. In the [Paris climate agreement](#), countries worldwide agreed to work to keep global warming under 1.5 C, however that refers to the temperature change averaged over a 30-year period. A 30-year average is used to limit the influence of [natural year-to-year fluctuations](#).

So far, the Earth has only crossed that threshold for a single year. However, it is still extremely concerning. We study [weather patterns involving heat](#). The world appears to be on track to cross the 30-year average threshold of 1.5 C [within 10 years](#).

## Heat is becoming a global problem

Several countries have experienced record heat across the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia in 2024. In Mexico and Central America, weeks of persistent heat starting in spring 2024 combined with prolonged drought led to severe water shortages and dozens of deaths.

Extreme heat turned into tragedy in Saudi Arabia, as over 1,000 people on the Hajj, a Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, collapsed and died. Temperatures reached 125 F (51.8 C) at the Grand Mosque in Mecca on June 17.



*Muslim pilgrims spent hours in extreme temperatures and humidity during the Hajj in June 2024 in Saudi Arabia. Over 1,000 people died in the heat.*

Hospitals in Karachi, Pakistan, were overwhelmed amid weeks of high heat, frequent power outages, and water shortages in some areas.

Neighboring India faced temperatures around 120 F (48.9 C) for several days in April and May that affected millions of people, many of them without air conditioning.

Japan issued [heatstroke alerts](#) in Tokyo and more than half of its prefectures as temperatures rose to [record highs in early July](#).

Large parts of Europe were suffering through a long-running heat wave as the [2024 Summer Olympics prepared to open](#) in Paris in late July.

### **The climate connection: This isn't 'just summer'**

Although heat waves are a natural part of the climate, the severity and extent of the heat waves so far in 2024 are not “just summer.”

A scientific assessment of the fierce heat wave in the eastern U.S. in June 2024 estimates that heat so severe and long-lasting was [two to four times more likely](#) to occur today because of human-caused climate change than it would have been without it. This conclusion is consistent with [the rapid increase](#) over the past several decades in the number of U.S. heat waves and their occurrence outside the peak of summer.

These record heat waves are happening in a climate that's globally more than 2.2 F (1.2 C) warmer – when looking at the 30-year average – than it was before the industrial revolution, when humans began releasing large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions that warm the climate.

While a temperature difference of a degree or two when you walk into a different room might not even be noticeable, even fractions of a degree make a large difference in the global climate.

At the peak of the last ice age, some 20,000 years ago, when the Northeast U.S. was under thousands of feet of ice, the globally averaged temperature was only about 11 F (6 C) cooler than now. So, it is not surprising that 2.2 F (1.2 C) of warming so far is already rapidly changing the climate.

### **If you thought this was hot**

While this summer is likely be one of the hottest on record, it is important to realize that it may also be one of the coldest summers of the future.

For populations that are especially vulnerable to heat, including young children, older adults and outdoor workers, the risks are even higher. People in [lower-income neighborhoods](#) where air conditioning may be

unaffordable and renters who often don't have the same protections for cooling as heating will face increasingly dangerous conditions.

Extreme heat can also affect economies. It can buckle railroad tracks and cause wires to sag, leading to transit delays and disruptions. It can also overload electric systems with high demand and lead to blackouts just when people have the greatest need for cooling.

### **The good news: There are solutions**

Yes, the future in a warming world is daunting. However, while countries aren't on pace to meet their Paris Agreement goals, they have made progress.

In the U.S., the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act has the potential to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by nearly half by 2035.

Switching from air conditioners to heat pumps and network geothermal systems can not only reduce fossil fuel emissions but also provide cooling at a lower cost. The cost of renewable energy continues to plummet, and many countries are increasing policy support and incentives.

There is much that humanity can do to limit future warming if countries, companies and people everywhere act with urgency. Rapidly reducing fossil fuel emissions can help avoid a warmer future with even worse heat waves and droughts, while also providing other benefits, including improving public health, creating jobs and reducing risks to ecosystems.

## Text Dependent Questions: Extreme heat is breaking global records: Why this isn't 'just summer,' and what climate change has to do with it (4)

1. What evidence does the text provide to support the claim that the summer of 2024 experienced extreme heat?
2. Explain the significance of the 1.5 C warming threshold mentioned in the text. How does it relate to the Paris climate agreement?
3. Identify and define two academic words from the text that relate to climate change and extreme weather. How do these words enhance the reader's understanding of the topic?
4. What factors contributed to the severe heat experienced in countries like Mexico and Saudi Arabia, as described in the text? Discuss the implications of these conditions.
5. How does the author illustrate the connection between human activities and climate change? Provide specific examples from the text to support your answer.

### Answer Key:

1. The text states that the vast majority of the U.S. population experienced extreme heat waves, with specific temperatures and records mentioned, such as Death Valley reaching 125 degrees Fahrenheit for nine consecutive days and Las Vegas breaking its all-time heat record.
2. The 1.5 C warming threshold is significant because it is the target set by countries in the Paris climate agreement to limit global warming. It refers to the average temperature change over a 30-year period, which helps account for natural fluctuations in climate.
3. Two academic words are "threshold" (the level at which something begins to happen) and "emissions" (substances discharged into the air, often referring to greenhouse gases). These terms help clarify the discussion of climate change and its impacts.
4. The severe heat in Mexico and Saudi Arabia was exacerbated by prolonged periods of high temperatures and drought, leading to water shortages and deaths. The implications include health risks and strain on resources.
5. The author illustrates the connection by stating that human-caused climate change has increased the likelihood of extreme heat events.

Specific examples include the mention of greenhouse gas emissions since the industrial revolution and the assessment of heat waves being two to four times more likely now.

## Major Labels Sue AI Firms Suno and Udio for Alleged Copyright Infringement

The three major music companies filed lawsuits against AI music firms Suno and Udio on Monday, alleging the widespread infringement of copyrighted sound recordings “at an almost unimaginable scale.” The lawsuits, spearheaded by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), arrive four days after *Billboard* first reported the news that the labels were seriously considering legal action against the two start-ups.

Filed by plaintiffs that include Sony Music, Warner Music Group and Universal Music Group, the lawsuits allege that Suno and Udio have unlawfully copied the labels’ sound recordings to train their AI models to generate music that could “saturate the market with machine-generated content that will directly compete with, cheapen and ultimately drown out the genuine sound recordings on which [the services were] built.”

“Building and operating [these services] requires at the outset copying and ingesting massive amounts of data to ‘train’ a software ‘model’ to generate outputs,” the lawyers for the major labels explain. “For [these services], this process involved copying decades worth of the world’s most popular sound recordings and then ingesting those copies [to] generate outputs that imitate the qualities of genuine human sound recordings.”

### **Trending on Billboard**

“Since the day it launched, Udio has flouted the rights of copyright owners in the music industry as part of a mad dash to become the dominant AI music generation service,” the lawsuit against Udio reads. “Neither Udio, nor any other generative AI company, can be allowed to advance toward this goal by trampling the rights of copyright owners.”

The lawsuit is seeking both an injunction to bar the companies from continuing to train on the copyrighted songs, as well as damages from the infringements that have already taken place. Udio did not respond to *Billboard's* request for comment on Monday.

Suno's CEO, **Mikey Shulman**, responded to news of the lawsuit in a statement, saying: "Suno's mission is to make it possible for everyone to make music. Our technology is transformative; it is designed to generate completely new outputs, not to memorize and regurgitate pre-existing content. That is why we don't allow user prompts that reference specific artists. We would have been happy to explain this to the corporate record labels that filed this lawsuit (and in fact, we tried to do so), but instead of entertaining a good faith discussion, they've reverted to their old lawyer-led playbook. Suno is built for new music, new uses, and new musicians. We prize originality."

Suno and Udio have quickly become two of the most advanced and important players in the emerging field of generative AI music. While many competitors only create instrumentals or lyrics or vocals, Suno and Udio can generate all three in the click of a button with shocking precision. Udio has already produced what could be considered the first AI-generated hit song with the Drake diss track "BBL Drizzy," which was generated on the platform by comedian **King Willonius** and popularized by a **Metro Boomin** remix. Suno has also achieved early success since its December 2023 launch, raising **\$125 million in funding** from investors like Lightspeed Venture Partners, Matrix, **Nat Friedman** and **Daniel Gross**.

Both companies have declined to comment on whether or not unlicensed copyrights were part of their datasets. In a previous interview with *Billboard*, Udio co-founder David Ding said simply that the company trained on "good music." However, in a series of articles for *Music Business Worldwide*, founder of AI music safety nonprofit Fairly Trained, **Ed Newton-Rex**, found that he was able to generate music from Suno and Udio that "bears a striking resemblance to copyrighted music. This is true across melody, chords, style and lyrics," he wrote.

The complaints against the two companies also make the case that copyrighted material was used to train these models. Some of the circumstantial evidence cited in the lawsuits include generated songs by

Suno and Udio that sound just like the voices of Bruce Springsteen, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Michael Jackson and ABBA; outputs that parrot the producer tags of Cash Money AP and Jason Derulo; and outputs that sound nearly identical to Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You," The Beach Boys' "I Get Around," ABBA's "Dancing Queen," The Temptations' "My Girl," Green Day's "American Idiot," and more.

In a recent *Rolling Stone* profile of Suno, investor **Antonio Rodriguez** admitted that the start-up does not have licenses for whatever music it has trained on but added that it was not a concern to him. Knowing that labels and publishers could sue was just "the risk we had to underwrite when we invested in the company, because we're the fat wallet that will get sued right behind these guys... Honestly, if we had deals with labels when this company got started, I probably wouldn't have invested in it. I think that they needed to make this product without the constraints."

Many AI companies argue that training is protected by copyright's fair use doctrine — an important rule that allows people to reuse protected works without breaking the law. Though fair use has historically allowed for things like news reporting and parody, AI firms say it applies equally to the "intermediate" use of millions of works to build a machine that spits out entirely new creations.

Anticipating that defense from Suno and Udio, the lawyers for the major labels argue that "[Suno and Udio] cannot avoid liability for [their] willful copyright infringement by claiming fair use. The doctrine of fair use promotes human expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyrighted works in certain, limited circumstances, but [the services] offe[r] imitative machine-generated music—not human creativity or expression."

News of the complaints filed against Suno and Udio follow up a [previous lawsuit](#) that also concerned the use of copyrighted materials to train models without a license. Filed by UMG, Concord and ABKCO in October against Anthropic, a major AI company, that case focused more specifically on copied lyrics.

In a statement about the lawsuits, RIAA CEO and chairman **Mitch Glazier** says, "The music community has embraced AI and we are already partnering and collaborating with responsible developers to build

sustainable AI tools centered on human creativity that put artists and songwriters in charge. But we can only succeed if developers are willing to work together with us. Unlicensed services like Suno and Udio that claim it's 'fair' to copy an artist's life's work and exploit it for their own profit without consent or pay set back the promise of genuinely innovative AI for us all."

RIAA Chief Legal Officer **Ken Dorosh** adds, "These are straightforward cases of copyright infringement involving unlicensed copying of sound recordings on a massive scale. Suno and Udio are attempting to hide the full scope of their infringement rather than putting their services on a sound and lawful footing. These lawsuits are necessary to reinforce the most basic rules of the road for the responsible, ethical, and lawful development of generative AI systems and to bring Suno's and Udio's blatant infringement to an end."

## Text Dependent Questions: Major Labels Sue AI Firms Suno and Udio for Alleged Copyright Infringement (5)

1. What are the main allegations made by the major music companies against the AI music firms Suno and Udio?
1. Provide specific examples from the text to support your answer.
2. How do Suno's and Udio's claims about their music generation technology differ from the accusations made against them? Cite evidence from the text to illustrate these differences.
3. Identify and explain the significance of the term "fair use" as mentioned in the context of the lawsuits. How do the AI firms justify their actions in relation to this concept?
4. What evidence is presented in the lawsuits to support the claim that Suno and Udio have infringed on copyrighted music? Describe at least two specific examples from the text.
5. In what ways do the statements from RIAA CEO Mitch Glazier and Chief Legal Officer Ken Doroshow highlight the concerns of the music industry regarding AI-generated music?

### Answer Key:

1. The major music companies allege that Suno and Udio unlawfully copied their sound recordings to train AI models, which could flood the market with machine-generated content that competes with genuine recordings.
2. Suno claims its technology is designed to create new music rather than replicate existing content, which contrasts with the accusations of copyright infringement aimed at them.
3. "Fair use" allows limited reuse of copyrighted material without permission, and AI firms argue this applies to their training processes.
4. Evidence includes generated songs that resemble the voices of well-known artists and outputs that imitate famous songs.
5. Their statements express a commitment to protecting artists' rights and emphasize the need for responsible development of AI tools, underscoring the music industry's concerns about unlicensed services

## Impact of Social Media on Youth

Question: What impacts has social media had on youth? Both positive and negative. What can we do to reduce negative impacts?

Answer: First, when we are talking about “social media,” remember that it is not one-size-fits-all! Social media platforms differ in their design; whether you’re looking to share pictures from your daily life, chat in groups, or participate in trending videos, each platform offers a unique experience. Everyone responds to social media differently, so the pros and cons we describe below are going to vary from teen to teen. The most important thing is reflecting on what types of positive or negative influences social media has on you.

Positive experiences on social media include access to communities, social support, and learning new information:

- **Social Connection:** Teens frequently say that social media helps keep them connected to friends and family.
- **Identity, Self-Expression, and Self-Affirmation:** Social media platforms can allow you to share your interests and activities, through text, videos, and images. This type of personal sharing on social media, especially as an authentic form of self-expression, can help teens better understand who they are. An experimental study provided evidence that young adults who view their social media profile to self-affirm note that their profiles help them understand more of who they are, which subsequently increases their self-esteem.
- **Affirmation of Gender or Sexuality:** For young people who are gender and sexually diverse, social media can be used as a safe space to be your authentic self without stigma and as a medium for gaining social support. Being able to express your true self online also helps you

to learn through each other's stories and find validation through shared experiences.

- Interest-Driven Exploration: As you develop more independence, social media can be a space to discover new ideas and knowledge. This is particularly helpful for finding health-related information you may not otherwise have access to.
- Empowerment and Civic engagement: In a 2018 survey, about two-thirds of teens said they used social media to learn about different points of view or show their support for causes. Social media is a way for you to engage in activism around topics of interest to you, from climate change to gun violence prevention, and connect with an online community.

Negative experiences on social media usually involve comparing oneself to others, seeing negative content, unwanted contact and harassment, or displacing other experiences:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: The connection between social media and mental health is complicated. The relationship can go both ways: some symptoms of poor mental health, like feelings of sadness or isolation, might drive you to use social media more, which in turn shapes how you engage with content online. Also, it may not affect you the same way it affects others using social media: some people report that their daily social media use correlates with worse well-being, while others don't share that same takeaway. Finally, social media's effects on well-being will depend on the balance of negative and positive interactions and content that you experience on these platforms, as described below.
- Cyberbullying: Almost half of adolescents have experienced cyberbullying, harassment, or aggressive behavior online. Studies have reported that being a target of cyberbullying is associated with negative outcomes such as an increase in substance use, as well as worsened mental health symptoms, school performance and life satisfaction. Teens with LGBTQ+ and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Color) identities are more likely to be bullied or harassed online.

- Body Image and Disordered Eating: Social comparison, or determining your own worth based on how you believe you compare to others, is common on social media, especially on image-based platforms. Profiles that focus on disordered eating, “thinspiration,” fitness, or plastic surgery can be recommended to users and influence norms and values around beauty. Editing selfies using filters, cropping, or editing one’s appearance is associated with negative self-esteem and how teens like you might think about your appearance.
- Harmful Content such as pornography, child sexual abuse material, self-harm depictions, violence, or accounts selling illegal substances can be found on social media, despite platforms’ best efforts to remove these posts.
- Unwanted Contact from strangers, marketers, or trolls has been reported by teens, more commonly females than males.
- Sleep can be negatively impacted if you postpone bedtime so that you can continue to use social media for entertainment. Phone use may also lead to psychological, emotional, or physiological arousal; activities that demand a person’s full attention, whether digital or not, can increase heart rate, delay sleep onset, and decrease REM sleep. Experts have analyzed and reported social motivations that teens believe affect their bedtime digital media use: these include fear of missing out, feeling social accountability to engage in groups & conversations regardless of the time of day, and feeling guilty when not following the norm of responding to messages immediately.
- Digital Stress is a term used to describe stress resulting from frequent use of digital information technology, which is caused by constant access to a wide array of social content, fear of missing out, and anxiety about approval. Teens report feeling pressure to always be available to another person via technology and respond quickly to messages, and therefore not getting time for solitude.

What you can do:

1. Pay attention to when and how you are using social media, how it makes you feel, and what it might be crowding out.

2. Curate your feed so that it gives you more positive experiences. This includes changing who you follow, muting users who are stressing you out, and blocking users who are toxic, fake, or rude. Report any content that you find harmful.
3. Work with your friend group to create boundaries around when you'll be on social media, and when you won't (such as overnight).
4. Talk to other people you trust about your social media experiences. This allows you to share the good stuff you are seeing, and problem-solve when social media is feeling more negative.
5. Join movements that advocate for healthy social media designs that try to maximize the positives and minimize the negatives.

## Questions : Impact of Social Media on Youth (6)

1. What are the benefits of social media for young people?
2. What are the risks of excessive social media use?
3. How does social media affect youth mental health?
4. What can parents do to help reduce the negative effects?
5. Why is social media especially beneficial for LGBTQ+ youth?
6. What are the five suggestions referring to and what is your opinion of them?

### Answer Keys:

1. Social media helps teens stay connected with friends and family, express themselves, find supportive communities (especially for LGBTQ+ youth), explore new interests, and engage with civic or social causes.
2. Risks include cyberbullying, negative body image due to unrealistic content, increased feelings of anxiety and depression, and disrupted sleep patterns.
3. High use is linked to increased loneliness, anxiety, and depression, especially when teens face harmful content or constant comparison to others.
4. They can set screen-free times (e.g., during meals or before bed), encourage mindful use, help teens follow positive content, and keep open communication about online experiences.
5. It offers a safe space for self-expression, access to affirming role models, and communities where they can feel understood and supported.
6. End of text – stress reduction

## What you need to know about global citizenship education

For centuries, common aspirations for mutual respect, peace, and understanding were reflected in traditional concepts across cultures and civilizations – from 'ubuntu' (I am because of who we all are) in African philosophy to 'sumak kawsay' (harmony within communities, ourselves and nature) in Quechua. Although the term "global citizenship education" (GCED) was only coined in 2011, the values it represents have been central to UNESCO's mission since its founding in 1947.

By building peace through education and reminding humanity of our common ties, UNESCO has long championed the ideas now formalized as GCED. As our world grows increasingly interdependent, GCED is more vital than ever for international solidarity and inspiring learners of all ages to positively contribute to their local and global communities. But what exactly does global citizenship education entail, why it matters today, and how UNESCO is driving this movement?

### **What's the idea behind global citizenship?**

Unlike citizenship – special rights, privileges and responsibilities related to "belonging" to a particular nation/state, the global citizenship concept is based on the idea we are connected not just with one country but with a broader global community. So, by positively contributing to it, we can also influence change on regional, national and local levels. Global citizens don't have a special passport or official title, nor do they need to travel to other countries or speak different languages to become one. It's more about the mindset and actual actions that a person takes daily. A global citizen understands how the world works, values differences in people, and works with others to find solutions to challenges too big for any one nation.

Citizenship and global citizenship do not exclude each other. Instead, these two concepts are mutually reinforcing.

### **What is global citizenship education about?**

Economically, environmentally, socially and politically, we are linked to other people on the planet as never before. With the transformations that the world has gone through in the past decades – expansion of digital technology, international travel and migration, economic crises, conflicts, and environmental degradation – how we work, teach and learn has to change, too. UNESCO promotes global citizenship education to help learners understand the world around them and work together to fix the big problems that affect everyone, no matter where they're from.

GCED is about teaching and learning to become these global citizens who live together peacefully on one planet. What does it entail?

- Adjusting curricula and content of the lessons to provide knowledge about the world and the interconnected nature of contemporary challenges and threats. Among other things, a deep understanding of human rights, geography, the environment, systems of inequalities, and historical events that underpinned current developments;
- Nurturing cognitive, social and other skills to put the knowledge into practice and make it relevant to learners' realities. For example, thinking critically and asking questions about what's equitable and just, taking and understanding other perspectives and opinions, resolving conflicts constructively, working in teams, and interacting with people of different backgrounds, origins, cultures and perspectives;
- Instilling values that reflect the vision of the world and provide purpose, such as respect for diversity, empathy, open-mindedness, justice and fairness for everyone;
- Adopting behaviours to act on their values and beliefs: participating actively in the society to solve global, national and local challenges and strive for the collective good.

## What UNESCO does in global citizenship education

UNESCO works with countries to improve and rewire their education systems so that they support creativity, innovation and commitment to peace, human rights and sustainable development.

- **Provides a big-picture vision** for an education that learners of all ages need to survive and thrive in the 21st century. Adopted in 2023, the [UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace and Human Rights, International Understanding, Cooperation, Fundamental Freedoms, Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development](#) is a global standard-setting instrument that lays out how education should be used to bring about lasting peace and foster human development.
- **Supports** the development of curricula and learning materials on global citizenship themes tailored for diverse cultural contexts. Among many examples are the [general guidance document on teaching and learning objectives of global citizenship education](#) or recommendations on integrating social and emotional learning principles (SEL) in the education process.
- Studies the positive impact of learning across subjects and **builds linkages between sectors and spheres**. One of the key focus areas is the [Framework on Culture and Arts Education](#), in which UNESCO highlights the positive impact learning of the arts and through the arts has on academic performance, acquisition of different skills and greater well-being, as well as broadening of the horizons.
- **Collaborates with partners** across UNESCO programmes and the broader UN system to address contemporary threats to human rights and peace and infuse the principles of understanding, non-discrimination and respect for human dignity in education. Among others, UNESCO leads the global education efforts to [counter hate speech](#) online and offline, address [antisemitism](#), fight [racism](#), prevent [violent extremism](#), enable [cultural dialogue](#), educate about human rights violations and violent pasts.

- **Monitors** how the core values of global citizenship education are reflected in and supported by education policy and the curriculum to deliver it effectively. For example, by collecting global data on this indicator every four years through a survey questionnaire designed for the Recommendation.
- **Promotes international collaboration** in education through [UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs](#), and [UNESCO Associated Schools Network](#), connecting over 12,000 educational institutions worldwide.

### **Why does UNESCO prioritize global citizenship education?**

Quality education is among 17 Sustainable Development Goals put forth by the United Nations, where GCED is mentioned as one of the topic areas that countries must promote. While leading the global efforts to achieve this goal, UNESCO sees education as the main driver of human development that can accelerate progress in bringing about social justice, gender equality, inclusion, and other Goals.

UNESCO believes that only an education that provides a global outlook with a deep appreciation of local perspectives can address the cross-cutting challenges of today and tomorrow. This vision is reaffirmed in the [Incheon Declaration made in 2015](#) at the World Education Forum and further reflected in UNESCO's [Futures of Education](#) report.

Based on the evidence that UNESCO has accumulated on GCED impact, learners who benefit from such education from early stages become less prone to conflicts and are more open to resolving them peacefully while respecting each other's differences. It has also proven successful in post-conflict transformation. For example, discussing the root causes of human rights violations that occurred in the past helps to detect alarming tendencies and avoid them in the future.

### **How is GCED implemented?**

GCED is not a single subject with a set curriculum but rather a framework, a prism through which education is seen. It can be delivered as an integral

part of existing subjects – from geography to social studies – or independently. UNESCO supports the dissemination of GCED on different levels and in multiple areas of life beyond the classroom.

- **On a policy level:** Governments can develop national strategies and frameworks that recognize the importance of understanding local issues from a broader global perspective and prioritize education programmes that reflect this vision.
- **In the classroom:** Teachers can incorporate content and materials that build awareness of global issues and intercultural understanding. For instance, in Geography, pupils can learn about climate change and the distribution of resources. In Social Sciences, they find out how environmental degradation impacts children's rights worldwide. In Science, they discover how trees soak up carbon from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and can help tackle climate change. Teachers can also assign students a group project where they will have to devise a campaign to address climate change in their local community.
- **Out of school:** Museums and cultural institutions can design exhibits and educational materials that inspire global citizenship. Exchange programs allow young people to broaden their horizons by visiting other communities and countries.

## Questions: What you need to know about global citizenship education (7)

1. What is the primary goal of Global Citizenship Education (GCED)?
2. What are the key components or domains of learning in GCED?
2. How does GCED relate to other educational initiatives like Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)?
3. How does UNESCO support the implementation of GCED?
4. How can GCED be integrated into educational settings?
5. extension question: can one ever be a truly GLOBAL citizen?

### Answers:

1. GCED aims to empower learners of all ages to become ethical, empathetic, and respectful individuals who can adapt to a rapidly changing world. It seeks to cultivate tolerance, respect, and a shared sense of belonging to one global community, with the ultimate goal of ensuring human rights and peace.

2. GCED encompasses three interrelated domains:

- Cognitive: Developing knowledge and understanding of global issues and the interconnectedness of different

countries and populations.

- Socio-emotional: Fostering a sense of belonging to a common humanity, sharing values and responsibilities,

and developing attitudes of empathy and respect for diversity.

- Behavioral: Encouraging learners to act effectively and responsibly at local, national, and global levels for a

more peaceful and sustainable world.

3. GCED and ESD share a common vision of empowering learners to contribute proactively to a more just, peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, and sustainable world. Both emphasize not only the content and outcomes of learning but also the processes and environments in which learning occurs. They focus on action, change, and transformation, highlighting the

importance of acquiring values and attitudes relevant to addressing global challenges. Wikipedia

4. UNESCO supports the implementation of Global Citizenship Education (GCED) through a multi-level approach that includes policy guidance, educator training, curriculum development, research, and international collaboration.

Here are the key points:

- Providing guidance on integrating GCED into curricula across different educational levels.
- Developing resources and training materials for educators.
- Collaborating with governments and institutions to formulate policies that support GCED.
- Monitoring and evaluating the impact of GCED initiatives globally.

5. GCED is not confined to a single subject but can be infused across various disciplines. For example:

- In Social Studies: Discussing human rights, governance, and global interdependence.
- In Science: Exploring environmental issues and sustainable development.
- In Language Arts: Analysing literature from diverse cultures to foster empathy and cultural awareness.

Additionally, extracurricular activities, community projects, and school policies can reflect GCED principles, creating a holistic educational environment that promotes global citizenship.

7. Students will answer the question referring to the text (e.g. we are economically linked; various inequalities...)

but also giving their own views

## Underdogs: The Truth About Britain's White Working Class review – a complicated class portrait

On 13 November 1968, a 35-year-old Labour politician got to his feet in the House of Commons and had a go at the ranks of Conservative members who faced him. Six or so months after Enoch Powell had delivered his infamously racist “rivers of blood” speech in Birmingham, David Winnick – who was then the MP for Croydon South – had decided to attack the Tory fashion for bemoaning immigration to the UK from such countries as India and Pakistan and expressing faux sympathy with deprived communities in British cities. “Many of those who act as the champions of the white person against immigrants,” he said, “have not in the past gone out of their way to defend the interests of the white working class.”

As the *Economist* journalist Joel Budd points out in this nuanced, enlightening book about the people and places Winnick was referring to, this was the first time “white working class” had been used to describe a certain kind of Briton. And in that sense, that small parliamentary moment was a prescient glimpse of a subject that would explode half a century later, when hostility to immigration fed into the result of the 2016 referendum on Brexit. At that point, the term “white working class” became more ubiquitous than ever, and an insurgent political right made up of Powell’s political heirs – split between Tory Brexiters and the forces led by Nigel Farage – affected to speak for a kind of voter they claimed had been neglected and betrayed.

*Underdogs* is based on a powerful argument: that as those political changes happened, the media’s understanding of whole swaths of the UK – and England in particular – was warped. In places that had backed Brexit, microphones tended to be pointed at irate older men who probably did not

have that much to moan about, while younger, less angry, more economically precarious people were overlooked.

The book's best material is about the messy and often fitful ways that society progresses

"The white working-class Britons with the problems," Budd points out, "are not the white working-class Britons with the complaints." More specifically, "a young woman living in a poor coastal town... who is now working in a shop and trying to raise a child without much help from her sickly mother or her erratically employed ex-boyfriend... has very severe problems. A retired miner who is in a stable marriage, who owns his house and two cars, has many fewer problems."

To get nearer the truth, Budd tends to concentrate on such elemental themes as place, housing and work: his is the kind of journalism that works as accessible sociology. Early on in the book, he divides largely working-class communities into three broad categories. "Heartlands" are old industrial centres, often seemingly locked into decline. An "enclave" is the kind of place – sometimes on the periphery of a big city – "that was once overwhelmingly white and working class but is becoming less so". Most interesting, perhaps, are what he terms "colonies", to which people have moved from other places. Some are archetypal new towns, but Budd explores Thetford in Norfolk, "one of the oddest and [most wonderful places](#) in Britain" where local factories drew families from east London half a century ago, and many latter-day clichés quickly fall apart. When he talks to the locals, he finds that "awareness of their own history as migrants takes the edge off xenophobic instincts .....I have never heard anyone complain that immigrants are failing to assimilate".

The book's best material is like this, all about the messy and often fitful ways that society progresses, and written in elegant, understated prose that acts as the proverbial window pane. The New Parks estate in Leicester, Budd says, was once kept largely white thanks to the reluctance of black and Asian people to try moving there, and plentiful instances of local young men committing shocking acts of racist violence. Now, by contrast, its population is increasingly diverse, and white residents offer level-headed opinions that would gladden liberal hearts: "It's not good for Leicester to be split into whites, blacks, Asians, Chinese or whatever."

Up close, even people with apparently reactionary instincts can turn out to have more nuanced thoughts, something highlighted by a retired resident of the same city whom Budd calls John. “There’s two sides now,” John says. “There’s the immigrants, and there’s families that were born here.” But only a breath or two later, he offers the opinion that “Britain’s always been a racist country... the English working class thought they were a cut above the Irish, then above the Windrush [sic], then above the Asians.”



*Picture credits: Wythenshawe in Manchester, where a community centre was flooded with donations ‘when word got around that newly arrived Afghan families needed them’. Photograph: Christopher Thomond/The Guardian*

Everyday life, moreover, contains plenty of evidence of the quiet solidarity and small kindnesses people who live outside working-class communities barely see. In the south Mancunian neighbourhood of [Wythenshawe](#), some people “speak sharply about asylum seekers”, but a community centre “was flooded with pushchairs and other donations when word got around that newly arrived Afghan families needed them”. At one point, Budd wonders if the nastiness that defines some well-heeled rightwing politicians is often projected on to places where it runs a lot less deep, meaning that “the prejudices of the suburban golf club are imputed to the council-estate boxing club... a kind of ventriloquised xenophobia.”

There’s an occasional sense that these insights should have been developed further: when the narrative flow is disrupted by apparent reprises

of Budd's past journalism about the rise and fall of armed robbery and the cult of so-called highly modified cars, it feels as if he is wasting space on things that barely touch his key themes. He also ends up making a series of half-cocked political points that sometimes verge on the risible: "Britain does not need lots more social housing", for example, is a claim that would probably cause most of the people he encounters to loudly guffaw. But most of *Underdogs* vividly illustrates the point it was written to make: that in a political era as overheated and mendacious as ours, the plain truths of everyday life need to be heard and understood. In that sense, this book is not just well-timed but admirably powerful.

## Text Dependent Questions: Underdogs: The Truth About Britain's White Working Class review – a complicated class portrait (8)

1. Comprehension: What was David Winnick's main argument regarding the Conservative members' views on immigration, and how did he challenge their perspective?
2. Vocabulary: In the phrase "the champions of the white person against immigrants," what does the term "champions" imply about the role these individuals believe they play in society?
3. Comprehension: How does the author describe the evolution of the term "white working class" from Winnick's speech to its implications during the Brexit referendum?
4. Vocabulary: What does the word "nuanced" suggest about the author's view on the discussions surrounding immigration and the working class?
5. Comprehension: According to Budd, how do the experiences of different members of the white working class vary, particularly between a young woman and a retired miner?

### Answer Key:

1. David Winnick argued that Conservative members who criticized immigration did not genuinely support the interests of the white working class, despite claiming to be their champions.
2. The term "champions" implies that these individuals see themselves as defenders or advocates for the interests of white people against immigrants.
3. The term "white working class" shifted from its initial use in Winnick's speech to becoming more widespread during the Brexit referendum, highlighting a growing political discourse about these voters.
4. The word "nuanced" suggests that the author believes discussions about immigration and the working class are complex and require careful consideration rather than simplistic views.
5. Budd indicates that the young woman faces severe challenges while the retired miner, despite being part of the

white working class, has a more stable and less problematic life, highlighting the differences in their situations.

## The Green Energy Paradox: Are Renewable Solutions Truly Sustainable?

There are many solutions to climate change. One of them is to simply reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. This can also be done through a number of ways but some of the more well-known options is to use renewable energy sources to provide electricity. On the face of it, using renewable energy sounds like a great idea. The energy sector accounts for 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions and lowering those emissions would be a good way to limit the impacts of climate change and prevent excessive deaths from pollution.

However, it is not that simple. Renewable energy has its own impacts on the environment. Dams clog up rivers and destroy habitats. Solar panels and wind turbines both use up rare metals that need to be extracted from the ground which produces pollution. So, the question is: are renewable energy sources worth it? Are they really the solution the world needs?

### **Solar Power**

One of the more widespread renewable energy sources is solar power. Instead of using the power of the wind, moving water, or the static electricity of rain drops, solar power uses energy coming directly from the sun. However, to effectively absorb that energy and turn it into electricity, solar panels do need various components some of which are hazardous.

Some of these materials include hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, hydrogen fluoride, and heavy metals. These substances can become a problem when the solar panel needs to be replaced. Usually, they are just thrown into a landfill even though they can technically be recycled.

Does this mean that solar panels should not be used? The answer is no. The hazardous materials in solar panels only make up a small portion of

the panel itself and they are well contained so they rarely have an impact on the surrounding environment.

For example, zinc, which can be found in solar panels, produces around 3 tonnes of carbon dioxide for each tonne extracted not including other pollutants. Another material found in solar panels is silicon. However, even though silicon is the second most common element on the earth's crust, it is rarely in a pure form and therefore has to be separated from its usual quartz form.

This makes the process of refining silicon an emissions heavy process. For each solar panel, the 660 grams of silicon in it on average emitted around 6 kilograms of carbon dioxide during the purifying process.

All in all, the production of solar panels emits around 53 tonnes of carbon dioxide for each gigawatt-hour of electricity generation. However, over their lifetime solar panels easily make up for the emissions produced as a result of their construction by preventing the emissions that would otherwise be emitted by burning fossil fuels.

## **Hydroelectric Dams**

When a dam is built blocking a river it threatens the native aquatic fauna, especially the migratory species. It also changes the flow of the river along with the water temperature, the water chemistry, and the nutrient levels in front of the dam and further downstream.

All these changes seriously disrupt the river and too many dams on one river can help cause the extinction of many native species and the collapse of the entire river ecosystem. This has happened before. Dams on rivers also decimate local migratory fish populations.

More than 58,000 dams have been built in most of the world's rivers and since 1970 there has been a 76% decline in migratory fish stocks. While those fish have been affected by other factors such as overfishing and pollution, dams have certainly played a part.

Dams also block nutrients coming from upriver to places downriver. That means animals and plants further downriver do not get enough nutrients and the biodiversity of a river ecosystem is decreased. However, as the

nutrients build up in the reservoir behind the dam, bacteria start eating the sediment buildup and they emit greenhouse gases as a byproduct of this process. In fact, the bacteria living in the reservoirs of dams are actually responsible 1.3% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

However, not all dams are built to produce energy. For example, in the US most dams were built for other purposes such as flood control, water supply, and irrigation water. Many of those dams do have hydroelectric generators to produce energy from the water they let through but only a small number were built specifically for that purpose. Maybe dams are not the most environmentally friendly renewable energy source but the question of whether dams should be built so that people can access the water is a whole other problem.

## **Wind Turbines**

Another well-known renewable energy source is the wind and wind turbines are built worldwide to harness that power, on land and at sea. Overall, wind turbines do have a lower impact on the environment when compared to other energy sources. They do not take up as much land as solar farms do and they do not harm as much wildlife as dams do.

Wind turbines do contain rare earth metals such as neodymium, dysprosium, and terbium, and quite a lot of them in fact. A 2-megawatt wind turbine can have up to 800 pounds of neodymium in it and 130 pounds of dysprosium. All three of those elements do have to be extracted from the ground which does cause damage to the environment, especially terbium and neodymium. Luckily, those elements can be recycled and reused in another turbine but just like the materials in solar panels they are not recycled very often.

However, there is another problem with wind turbines. They actually have a direct warming effect on the atmosphere. This is because they take energy from the wind slowing it down while also mixing air from near the surface to higher levels. However, when looking at longer timescales, wind turbines are absolutely worth it to have as a solution against climate change.

Another issue with wind turbines that critics bring up is their interactions with local wildlife. Wind turbines do kill birds and bats if they fly into the turbine while it is spinning.. However, the number of deaths caused by

other threats to these animals far outweighs that of the turbines themselves. Cats kill over 2 billion birds in the US each year alone. Are They Worth It?

The fact is, there is no energy solution that has no negative impact on the environment. When compared to fossil fuels, though, the impacts that renewable energy sources have pales in utter comparison to the absolute destruction that fossil fuels wreck upon the world. It is estimated that more than 8 million people die from the pollution created by the burning of fossil fuels worldwide[18].

If you are still concerned about the environmental impact of renewable energy sources, especially hydroelectric dams, there are many solutions to each of the problems these sources cause. For hydroelectric dams, there is another option for creating energy called run-of-river hydropower where it only uses a small portion of the river and lets the rest of it flow by.

For solar panels, there have been huge technological advancement such as the creation of solar paint and solar-powered clothing including see-through solar panels which can be used as windows. There have also been advancements in wind turbine technology making them more efficient and less costly.

## Text Dependent Questions on Climate Change Solutions (9)

1. What percentage of global greenhouse gas emissions does the energy sector account for, and why is reducing these emissions important in the context of climate change?
2. Identify and explain two environmental impacts associated with the construction of solar panels, as discussed in the text.
3. How do hydroelectric dams affect migratory fish populations, and what are the broader implications for river ecosystems?
4. What are some of the hazardous materials found in solar panels, and why is it significant that they are well-contained?
5. In what ways do wind turbines contribute to climate change solutions, and what are some of the criticisms associated with their use?

### Answer Key:

1. The energy sector accounts for 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing these emissions is important to limit the impacts of climate change and prevent excessive deaths from pollution.
2. Two environmental impacts associated with solar panel construction include the use of hazardous materials, such as hydrochloric acid and heavy metals, and the emissions produced during the refining process of silicon, which contributes to carbon dioxide emissions.
3. Hydroelectric dams threaten migratory fish populations by blocking their pathways and affecting their breeding. This disruption can lead to a decline in fish stocks and the collapse of river ecosystems.
4. Hazardous materials found in solar panels include hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, and heavy metals. It is significant that they are well-contained because this minimizes their impact on the surrounding environment.
5. Wind turbines contribute to climate change solutions by harnessing wind energy, which has a lower environmental impact than fossil fuels. Criticisms include their potential to harm local wildlife, particularly birds and bats, and their direct warming effect on the atmosphere.

### content:

1. What is the main idea or message of the article "The Green Energy Paradox"?

2. Does the article offer any suggestions for making renewable energy more truly sustainable? If so, what are they?
3. Is there an energy source that has no negative impact on the environment? If yes, which one? If, no what is it?
4. Describe the energy sources (T: choose) – wind, hydro-electric, solar?

Opinion :

1. 1.Do you think renewable energy is the best path forward for the planet, even with its drawbacks? Why or why not? 2.In your opinion, should governments and companies invest more in improving renewable

## Is Europe misunderstanding Trump's position on Ukraine?

The new administration appears to be taking a position that Ukrainian and European leaders aren't hearing – or are trying to alter

A high-stakes transatlantic miscommunication is unfolding, with the potential to produce far worse consequences than the Oval Office contretemps between Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In the past month, the Trump administration has delivered several strong and sometimes conflicting messages to America's allies and partners in Europe. Discerning the signal in the noise isn't easy, but amid the zigs, zags and bombast, the new administration appears to be taking a position that Ukrainian and European leaders aren't hearing – or are trying to alter.

The crux of the message seems to be this: the US will either broker an end to the war in Ukraine in short order or remove itself from the conflict, unless perhaps it deems Russia to have obstructed a ceasefire. (As Trump told Zelenskyy on Friday: "You're either going to make a deal or we're out.") Washington will also refuse to make any commitment to Ukraine's postwar security, such as Nato membership, that would run a major risk of drawing the US into direct war with Russia — "world war three," as Trump sees it – if Russia invades Ukraine again.

The US has the sovereign right to adopt this stance, for the sake of its own interests, which include limiting the costs and risks the US is bearing for European defense. So Europe cannot dissuade the US, but it can work with Washington to achieve US goals while finding the best possible arrangement to protect Ukraine, secure Europe, and preserve Nato.

European leaders, however, are hearing a different message – or two, to be precise. One version is maximally pessimistic: Europeans fear that Trump is aligning with Vladimir Putin and preparing to abandon Ukraine and perhaps several more countries besides. Such an outcome remains

possible. So far, however, it has not come to pass. An initial meeting to reopen diplomatic relations with Russia, and a disturbingly staunch unwillingness to condemn Putin's aggression in Ukraine, are significant moves but are a long way from effectuating a grand geopolitical shift.

The other version is far more optimistic: European leaders still hope to convince Trump to make a major US security guarantee to Ukraine. This effort drove British, French, and Ukrainian leaders to visit the White House last week. In public remarks, all three attempted to sell Trump on providing a US "backstop" for a European military force, involving perhaps some 30,000 troops, to be placed in Ukraine once the fighting stops. Trump did not rule out some sort of US support for a European military contingent, but he indicated little willingness to put much American muscle behind it. "I'm not going to make security guarantees beyond very much," Trump said. "We're going to have Europe do that."

On Friday, in the Oval Office, Zelenskyy contested Trump's stance. The Ukrainian president stated flatly: "We will never accept just [a] ceasefire. It will not work without security guarantees." Zelenskyy maintained that strong security guarantees had to come from the US, not just Europe. A European military force, he said, would not work unless the US provided a significant backstop: "They need USA."

In short, Zelenskyy insisted he would not agree to a ceasefire, because Russia would not honor it, unless the US provided precisely what Trump had seemingly already ruled out. As the conversation devolved, Trump eventually threatened to withdraw US aid to Ukraine altogether if Zelenskyy's position did not change.

Since then, Zelenskyy hasn't budged. To the contrary, he doubled down. "If we cannot be accepted to Nato," Zelenskyy wrote in a statement, "we need some clear structure of security guarantees from our allies in the US." Only after such guarantees were on offer would Ukraine proceed with diplomacy to settle the war.

European leaders promptly affirmed Zelenskyy's view. Following a meeting of 18 leaders on Sunday, Keir Starmer announced that a European "coalition of the willing" was prepared to station a military force in Ukraine to guarantee the peace. He pledged to put British "boots on the ground and

planes in the air” – on one condition: “this effort must have strong US backing”.

For years now, officials and experts across the Atlantic have debated the merits of providing security guarantees to Ukraine. But the practical reality is that the Trump administration is not inclined to do so, not if it would obligate, de jure or de facto, the US to go to war on Ukraine’s behalf in the future. That this is the position of the President of the United States should be understandable.

None of Trump’s predecessors ever made a commitment to fight for Ukraine. Joe Biden explicitly ruled out sending US troops when he saw Russia’s full-scale invasion coming. Nor have any Nato allies come to Ukraine’s direct defense. The reason is obvious: it would mean war with Russia, a prospect that Nato allies can still deter regardless of what happens in Ukraine.

If Ukraine and Europe continue to push for strong US security guarantees, they have a small chance of succeeding and a larger chance of creating a permanent rupture with Trump. The president could conclude that his allies refuse to listen and, worse, keep trying to entrap him. Throwing up his hands, he could take the very actions that Ukraine and Europe most want to avoid: cutting off all US support for Ukraine and making a dirty deal with Putin. The damage could extend throughout Europe if Trump removes US military forces and assets from the region.

Can this worst-case scenario be avoided? A route is still available. The sooner Ukraine and Europe stop fixating on a US security guarantee, the sooner they can coalesce – with the United States – around a viable plan that contains two main provisions.

First, postwar Ukraine would maintain a large and technologically advanced military, trained and supplied by its western partners. Second, the US and Europe would commit to arm Ukraine heavily if Russia invaded again. Because they are doing so now, this commitment would be highly credible, unlike a heroic pledge to wage war on Ukraine’s behalf. Nato allies could also sign a legally binding document and stockpile specific weapons systems that could be surged to Ukraine in case of a renewed attack.

This formula may fall short of what Ukrainians want, but it may provide what they need. After all, Ukraine's own forces have protected the country in the current conflict, preserving 80% of Ukrainian territory and forcing Russia into a costly war of attrition. If those forces remain strong, it would hardly be a foregone conclusion that Putin or his successor will make another attempt – not because the Kremlin can be trusted to keep its word but because it would suffer enormous losses for little gain.

Ukraine, Europe and the US must use their leverage at the negotiating table to get Russia to stop fighting without requiring Ukraine to disarm. Russia might acquiesce, having kept Ukraine out of Nato and Nato, and its members' forces, out of Ukraine. To reach a deal, however, the transatlantic community should come together, post haste, and throw its weight behind a common demand.

To do otherwise is to court disaster not only for Ukraine but for European security as a whole.

## Text Dependent Questions: Is Europe misunderstanding Trump's position on Ukraine? (10)

1. What conflicting messages has the Trump administration communicated to its allies in Europe regarding the situation in Ukraine?  
*Support your answer with specific examples from the text.*
2. How do European leaders interpret the Trump administration's stance on security guarantees for Ukraine?  
*Identify the two versions of their interpretation mentioned in the text.*
3. What reasons does Zelenskyy provide for needing strong security guarantees from the US?  
*Use evidence from the text to support your response.*
4. What are the potential consequences for Europe if the US withdraws military support from Ukraine?  
*Cite specific phrases or sentences from the text that illustrate these potential outcomes.*
5. What does the text suggest is necessary for Ukraine and Europe to achieve a viable plan for peace?  
*Discuss the two main provisions mentioned and explain their significance.*

### Answer Key:

1. The Trump administration has communicated several strong and sometimes conflicting messages regarding its position on Ukraine and Europe, including a willingness to broker peace or to remove itself from the conflict entirely.
2. European leaders have two interpretations: one is pessimistic, fearing Trump is aligning with Putin and may abandon Ukraine; the other is optimistic, believing they can convince Trump to offer security guarantees.
3. Zelenskyy insists that strong security guarantees must come from the US, arguing that without them, a ceasefire will not work, as Russia would not honor it.
4. If the US withdraws military support, it could lead to a permanent rupture with Trump, loss of US influence, and potentially embolden Russia to continue aggression, affecting European security.

5. The text suggests that Ukraine and Europe should focus on maintaining a strong military presence and a credible commitment to arm Ukraine heavily if Russia invades again, rather than fixating on a US security guarantee.