

Completing the pre-lesson task will help students with background ideas and vocabulary for the main lesson. While it's optional – **it's highly recommended**.

The pre-lesson task should take approximately 1-hour to complete. However, activity 6 (the research activity) could be set for homework.


1. Have the students discuss the questions in pairs or small groups. After approximately 5 minutes have students share their ideas and hold an open-class discussion about their future plans.

Answer key: students' own answers.

2. Allow students 5 minutes to read the article below and clarify any new or difficult vocabulary.

STUDENT LOAN CRISIS

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



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

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3. Once they've finished reading, have them answer the question to check they've understood the general gist of the article.

Answer key: the students are upset about the high cost of attending university in the UK and the fact they'll be paying off their student loans for many years to come.

LESSON G

Pre-lesson task, Teacher's note

4. Have students read the article again and answer the true or false questions. Encourage them to underline where they found the information in the article.

Answer key:

- A) F – they will still be repaying loans when they are in their forties and fifties**
- B) T**
- C) T**
- D) F – more students from less advantaged homes are entering higher education**
- E) F – Timothy remains confident he will graduate, find well-paid work and pay off his loans in full**

5. Give students time to discuss the question in small groups and make notes. Then get feedback as a group and write their ideas on the board.

Answer key: students' own answers

6. Tell students about your experience going to university. What did you study and where did you go? Was it a positive or negative experience? How did you afford it? Did you receive support from the government or your parents. How has the university system changed since you graduated?

Then, either in class or for homework, have students find the information to the questions and write a short report. This information will be useful during the *Live Class* when they speak to a school from another country.

Answer key: students' own answers