Lesson 1: Introduction

Date: 7th April 2021

**Occupational Health and Safety Technician**

Occupational health and safety technicians collect data on the safety and health conditions of the workplace. Technicians work with occupational health and safety specialists in conducting tests and measuring hazards to help prevent harm to workers, property, the environment and the general public.

**Duties**

Occupational health and safety technicians typically do the following:

* Inspect, test, and evaluate workplace environments, equipment, and practices to ensure they follow safety standards and government regulations.
* Collect samples of potentially toxic materials.
* Work with occupational health and safety specialists to fix hazardous and potentially hazardous conditions or equipment.
* Evaluate programs on workplace safety and health.
* Educate employers and workers about workplace safety.
* Demonstrate the correct use of safety equipment.
* Investigate incidents and accidents to identify what caused them and how they might be prevented in the future.

(…) Occupational health and safety technicians work in a variety of settings, including offices, factories, and mines.

(…) Their jobs often involve considerable fieldwork and travel. In addition, occupational health and safety technicians may be exposed to strenuous, dangerous, or stressful conditions. Injuries are minimized by the use of gloves, helmets, and other safety equipment.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2014–2015 Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh>. Available online at <https://www.truity.com/career-profile/occupational-health-and-safety-technician>

**ACTIVITIES**

1. (skimming): Read the title and the first paragraph. What is the text about?
2. (scanning): Answer the following questions. (You can underline in the text)

**2.1.** Why do OHS technicians collaborate with OHS specialists?

**2.2.** What are typical workplaces for OHS technicians?

**3.3.** What are the disadvantages of OHS technicians?

1. (intensive reading): Are the sentences T (true) or F (false)? Correct the false sentences.
2. OHS technicians only examine workplace equipment and workers.
3. OHS train employers and workers on job safety and health.
4. OHS technicians teach employers how to use some equipment correctly.
5. OHS technicians work in an office.

Vocabulary:

1. Infer the meaning from the context: What’s the meaning of ‘conducting tests’?

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1. Find the words that match the definitions:
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: (noun) the room, building etc. where people work.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: (noun) a building, a piece of land, or both together.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: (noun) information or facts.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: (verb) to judge how good, useful, or successful something is. SYNONYM: to *assess*.
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: (adjective) not protected from attack. SYNONYM: *vulnerable*.