

Modern Work Connection Answer Key

Example Responses:

1. *Summary:* Portugal's government pushed ahead with a major reform of its labour laws, changing over 100 articles of the labour code. The reforms allow easier dismissals with "just-cause" and permit "individual time banks" for extra hours. Unions strongly oppose the changes, saying they undermine worker rights and could trigger strikes. The government says the reforms are needed to boost competitiveness and update outdated rules.
2. *Affected groups:* Employees in Portugal, especially those in small- and medium-sized businesses; trade unions; and potentially workers whose job security or hours may shift.
3. *Benefits/protections at stake:* Job security, protections against unfair dismissal, limits on extra working hours, collective bargaining strength.
4. *Impact on everyday workers:* Workers might face longer hours, less job stability, or have fewer protections if let go. These changes may affect morale, income consistency, and fairness in the workplace.
5. *Connection to Labor Day:* Labor Day honors the history of workers fighting for rights and fairness. This issue shows that those fights continue-protecting workers' conditions is still important, so the spirit of Labor Day remains relevant today.

Teacher's Guide

- **Purpose:** Helps students connect current events to historical and social themes of Labor Day, while practicing summarizing and analytical writing.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - *Grades 9-10:* Provide the suggested article and guide them through how to identify the key points for summarizing.
 - *Grades 11-12:* Encourage students to find a different article, compare two articles, or evaluate the implications of the issue.
 - *Grades below 9 (if adapted):* Use a shorter or simpler article, and focus on summarizing one main point and one connection to Labor Day.