

Human Capital and the Labor Market

Why is it important to develop your human capital?

Speaking of Economics

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers:

labor force	wage gap
offshoring	affirmative action
equilibrium wage	collective bargaining
fringe benefits	right-to-work law

READING NOTES

Section 2

1. Create a brochure for teenagers titled, “What YOU Need to Know About Today’s Labor Market!” In your brochure, identify and summarize the five labor-market trends discussed in the section. Design your summaries to appeal to a teen audience.
2. Explain which labor-market trend you think will have the greatest impact on your future.

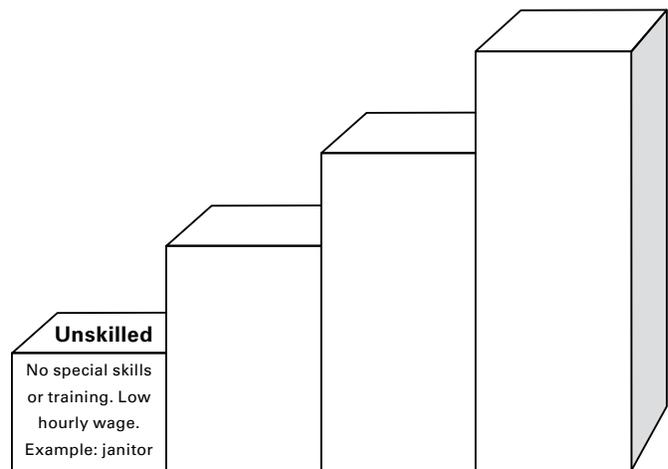
PREVIEW

Review *Notebook Handout*. Then answer these questions:

- What interesting details do you notice about the job lists?
- Why is each list different? Which list appeals to you the most? What other factors will influence the type of job or career you pursue?
- Why would someone create a set of lists like this? Why is it important to think about your career options now?
- Choose the job that most interests you from the lists. What actions could you take to increase your chances of having that job one day?

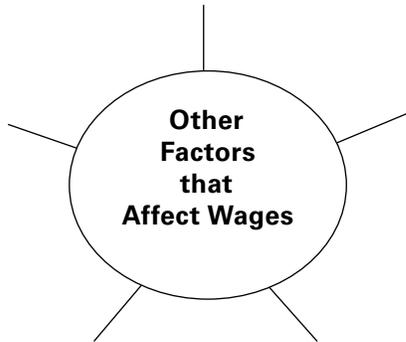
Section 3

1. Copy the diagram below. From left to right, label the steps with the four skill levels of jobs defined in this section. In each step, describe that skill level and give examples of jobs. The first step is completed for you.



2. Explain how the demand for labor and the supply of labor lead to an equilibrium wage.

3. Copy the spoke diagram below. On each spoke, describe one of the factors that affect wages other than the demand and supply of labor. Give an example of each factor.



4. Define *wage gap*. Explain why economists think discrimination in the workplace will decrease over time. What are some ways the U.S. government has addressed discrimination in the workplace?

Section 4

Create a simple cartoon with five panels to show how a fictional character might build his or her human capital. In the first panel, introduce your character and show his or her aptitudes, interests, and aspirations. In each of the four remaining panels, make a sketch and write a caption that explains actions the character can take to build his or her human capital. Each panel should connect to one of the methods of building human capital discussed in the section.

Section 5

Complete this matrix in your notebook.

	Origins of the Union Movement	Golden Age of Labor Unions	Modern Union Movement
Time Period			
Union Actions and Successes			
Union Setbacks			

P R O C E S S I N G

Suppose you want to apply for the job that interested you in the Preview. Describe two actions you can take today and two actions you can take in the next ten years to develop your human capital to become qualified for this job. For each action you describe, identify which of the methods of developing human capital you would be investing in.