**Stepping into the Business World**

Business Studies is a popular choice for students who are choosing a degree course in the UK. After graduating, some go on to further study, but most of them take up employment. Many large companies offer graduate training schemes, (1) **d** which are a kind of apprenticeship.

We went to meet twenty-two-year-old Ricky Miles, who is about to graduate in the subject.

1. *How long have you been studying Business* *Studies, Ricky?*

It’s a four-year course, including two periods of work experience. Each one lasted six months, (2) **b** but they weren’t in the same year.

1. *What exactly have you studied over those four years?*

Quite a lot! Maths, of course, Accounting, Finance and Economics. Oh yes, **Marketing** and Sales, too. I also did acourse in Management, which is about **recruiting** and managing staff, and howto deal with conflict, and a course in Advertising. We all had to do IT, too, because computer skills are essential.

1. *What did you most enjoy about the degree?*

The work experience, definitely. I learnt so much, both times, (4) and of course it looks great on my curriculum vitae. One of the companies offered me paid work last summer, so I managed to get even more experience that way. Also, I wouldn’t have had much money last year if I hadn’t had that job!

1. *What kind of company was that, and what did you do there?*

 It was a company that provides financial products – savings and **pensions**, mostly. At first, I just ‘shadowed’ different people, (5) watching what they were doing. Then I did quite a lot of checking for them – you know, checking their calculations. When I went back in the summer, I was in the sales department. My job was to follow up **web enquiries**, (6) and send out further information to possible clients. I enjoyed it, and I wouldn't have had that opportunity if I hadn't done the work experience first.



1. *What are you planning to do next?*

I’ve just applied for a job with a bank. I have the right qualifications, but I know there will be a lot of other applicants. I’ll just have to wait and see if I get an

interview. If I do, (7) I’ll have to prepare really carefully.

10 Read the text again and answer the questions.

**1** What is the name of Ricky’s degree?

**2** How did he spend a quarter of his timeas a student?

**3** What kind of company did he work forlast summer, and what was his job?

**4** What is he waiting to find out?

**5** Would you like to do the same kind ofdegree course as Ricky? Why/Why not? Write two or three sentences.



**Vocabulary**

11 Match the words in **bold** in the text with their meanings.

**1** money you save over your lifetime topay for your old age:

**2** online questions:

**3** maths; work with numbers:

30experience that way. Also, I wouldn't have had much money last year if I hadn't had that job!