

Read the text about small firms that want help to create new jobs, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1-6. Put a cross (☒) in the correct box on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Small Businesses Programme for Growth

SMALL businesses in Milton Keynes and North Bucks have called on the government to help them employ more people as the public sector sheds an estimated 490,000 jobs.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) urged the Government to create a Small Business Programme for Growth that would include an extension to the National Insurance Contributions holiday to firms with up to four members of staff.

The FSB also wants to see a cut in VAT to five per cent in the construction sector, more support for micro businesses and a National Mentoring Service to be created through the Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs to match mentors with businesses with backing from the banking industry.

Allan Banks, chairman of Milton Keynes and North Bucks Branch of the FSB said: "We all know we are living in an age of austerity and that these cuts will affect us all. But our members understand that to reduce the public sector deficit, these cuts had to be made. The small business community continues to have a vital part to play in driving a credible recovery and taking on new members of staff to help tackle unemployment particularly here in Buckinghamshire where small businesses form such a large part of our economy. It is now vital the Government puts a Small Business Programme for Growth into action immediately.

"Small firms are at tipping point and lack the confidence to take on the 500,000 people that will be made redundant as a result of these cuts. So it is up to the Government to incentivise the small business community throughout the country by for example – extending the National Insurance Contribution holiday to existing firms and cutting VAT to five per cent in the construction sector – to promote growth and help small firms take on new staff."

The FSB welcomed measures to increase the number of adult apprenticeships by 50 per cent to 75,000 new apprentices a year. Also welcomed were the measures in moving towards a low carbon economy and the commitment to improve the infrastructure of the country.

The £530 million directed from the Government and the BBC to put in place superfast broadband pilots is something small businesses were calling for. The investment in the Post Office Network is applauded.

However, the FSB believes the missing link in the Government's deficit programme is the need to create growth – increasing the tax base, creating more businesses and incentivising small firms to grow and innovate.

A Programme for Growth is even more important given that latest FSB research shows that 10.4 per cent of firms expect to decrease employment over the next three months as business confidence in future prospects and revenue growth weakened over the July to September period.

A Programme for Growth aimed at small firms will be very relevant given that more than 80 per cent of jobs in the EU were generated by small businesses between 2002 and 2007.

0 **The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)**

- A is trying to increase the number of jobs in the public sector.
- B wants longer holidays for workers in Buckinghamshire.
- C thinks that more redundancies should be made.
- D wants the Government to set up a new programme for growth.

1 **The FSB thinks it would be helpful if**

- A all taxes were lowered.
- B micro businesses saw a cut in VAT.
- C there were advisers for small businesses.
- D the government supported the banking industry.

2 **Small businesses understand that**

- A job losses were necessary due to the public debts.
- B there is a need for workers in the public sector.
- C the Government wants fewer jobs in Buckinghamshire.
- D Allan Banks approves of job cuts.

3 **In Buckinghamshire small businesses**

- A want to cut labour costs.
- B cannot employ many people.
- C play a very important role.
- D face the biggest problems.

4 **The Government has already**

- A extended insurance coverage.
- B increased the possibilities for job training.
- C cut down unemployment figures.
- D created more office jobs.

5 **Small businesses wanted**

- A better telecommunications infrastructure.
- B investment in the construction sector.
- C improved roads and motorways.
- D faster employment services.

6 **Small businesses are important for the economy because they**

- A pay a big part of all taxes.
- B create a large number of jobs.
- C export to EU countries.
- D have growing revenues.

Small Businesses Programme for Growth

0	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>

Von der
Lehrperson
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richtig falsch

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