More work versus more free time (adapted from *Scientific American*, 1994)

During the industrial revolution, increased productivity led to reductions in working hours. People who had been working 12-hour days, six days a _____WEEK_____, found their time on the job decreasing to 10 hours _____DAILY_____, then, eventually, to eight hours, five days a week. Only a generation ago sociologists worried about what people would do with all this free time.

Although the output per hour of work has more than doubled _____SINCE_____ 1945, free time seems reserved mainly for the unemployed and underemployed. Those who work full-time spend as much time on the job _____AS_____ they did at the end of World War II. Bookstores are now _____FULL_____ of manuals describing how to manage time and cope with stress.

There are several _____REASONS_____ for this. Since 1979, companies _____HAVE_____ improved the business climate by having employees work overtime rather than employing extra personnel. The way salaries and benefits are organized makes it _____LESS_____ costly to ask 40 employees to work an extra hour than to employ one more worker to _____DO____ the same 40-hour job.

Even though employees complain about long _____HOURS_____, they also have reasons for working more. People _____WHO_____ work less do not benefit in their careers because companies consider this to be a negative attitude. _____HOWEVER_____, studies today show that part-time workers make better use of the time they have and are ____NOT_____ as stressed. Positive experiences with reduced hours have begun to change the "more-work-is-better" cultures at some companies. Larger firms, in particular, want to experiment with flexible working arrangements.

The US market up to now has aimed at full-time, two-career households. For example, automobile makers no longer produce cheap models, and larger homes are replacing the _____SMALLER_____ post-war constructions. Thus, this situation indicates a curious inversion: US goods are _____SUITABLE_____ only for full-time workers on high incomes.

as, daily, do, for, full, have, hours, however, less, not, reasons, since, smaller, suitable, than, week, who, year