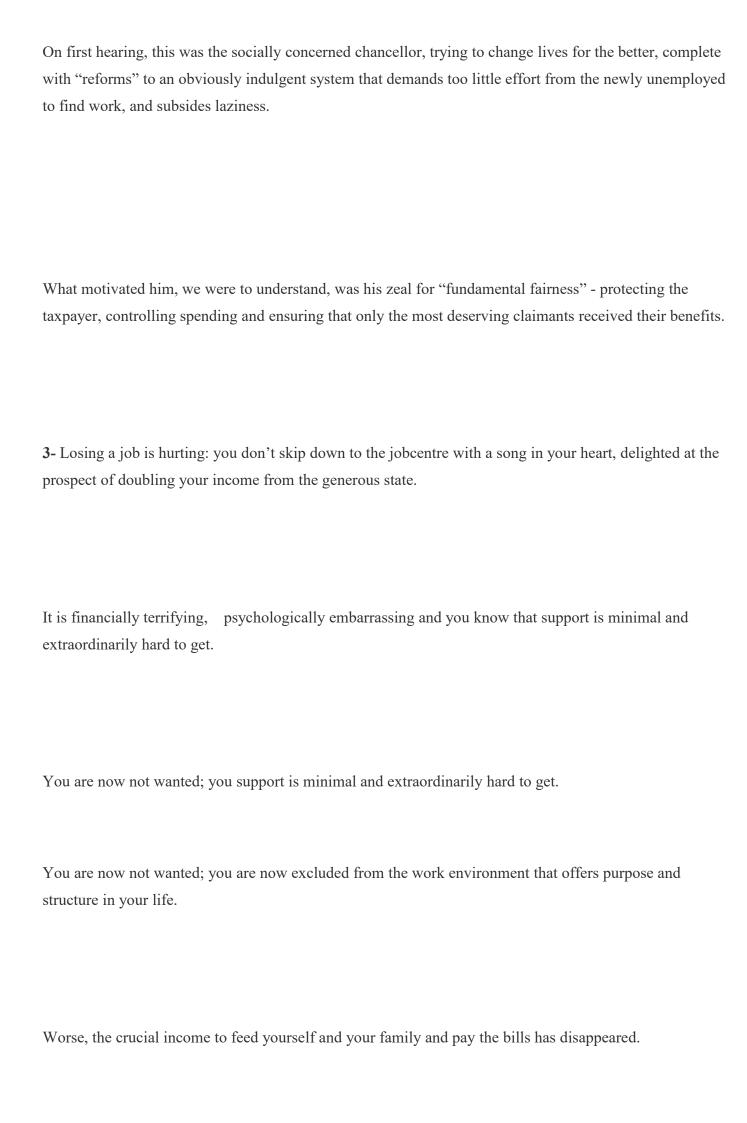
2014-1 Text 1

1- In order to "change lives for the better" and reduce "dependency," George Osbome, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced the "upfront work search" scheme.
Only if the jobless arrive at the job centre with a CV register for online job search, and start looking for work will they be eligible for benefit-and then they should report weekly rather than fortnightly.
What could be more reasonable?
2- More apparent reasonableness followed.
There will now be a seven-day wait for the jobseeker's allowance.
"Those first few days should be spent looking for work, not looking to sign on." he claimed.
"We're doing these things because we know they help people say off benefits and help those on benefits get into work faster."
Help? Really?



Ask anyone newly unemployed what they want and the answer is always: a job.
4- But in Osborneland, your first instinct is to fall into dependency - permanent dependency if you can get it - supported by a state only too ready to indulge your falsehood.
It is as though 20 years of ever- tougher reforms of the job search and benefit administration system never happened.
The principle of British welfare is no longer that you can insure yourself against the risk of unemployment and receive unconditional payments if the disaster happens.
Even the very phrase "jobseeker's allowance" - invented in 1996 - is about redefining the unemployed as a "jobseeker" who had no mandatory right to a benefit he or she has earned through making national insurance contributions.
Instead, the claimant receives a time-limited "allowance," conditional on actively seeking a job; no entitlement and no insurance, at £71.70 a week, one of the least generous in the EU.

21. George Osborne's scheme was intended to
[A] provide the unemployed with easier access to benefits.
[B] encourage jobseekers' active engagement in job seeking.
[C] motivate the unemployed to report voluntarily.
[D] guarantee jobseekers' legitimate right to benefits.
22. The phrase "to sign on" (Line 3,Para.2) most probably means
[A] to check on the availability of jobs at the jobcentre.
[B] to accept the government's restrictions on the allowance.
[C] to register for an allowance from the government.
[D] to attend a governmental job-training program.
23. What promoted the chancellor to develop his scheme?
[A] A desire to secure a better life for all.
[B] An eagerness to protect the unemployed.
[C] An urge to be generous to the claimants.
[D] A passion to ensure fairness for taxpayers.
24. According to Paragraph 3, being unemployed makes one feel
[A] uneasy.
[B] enraged.
[C] insulted.
[D] guilty.
25. To which of the following would the author most probably agree?
[A] The British welfare system indulges jobseekers' laziness.
[B] Osborne's reforms will reduce the risk of unemployment.
[C] The jobseekers' allowance has met their actual needs.

[D] Unemployment benefits should not be made conditional.