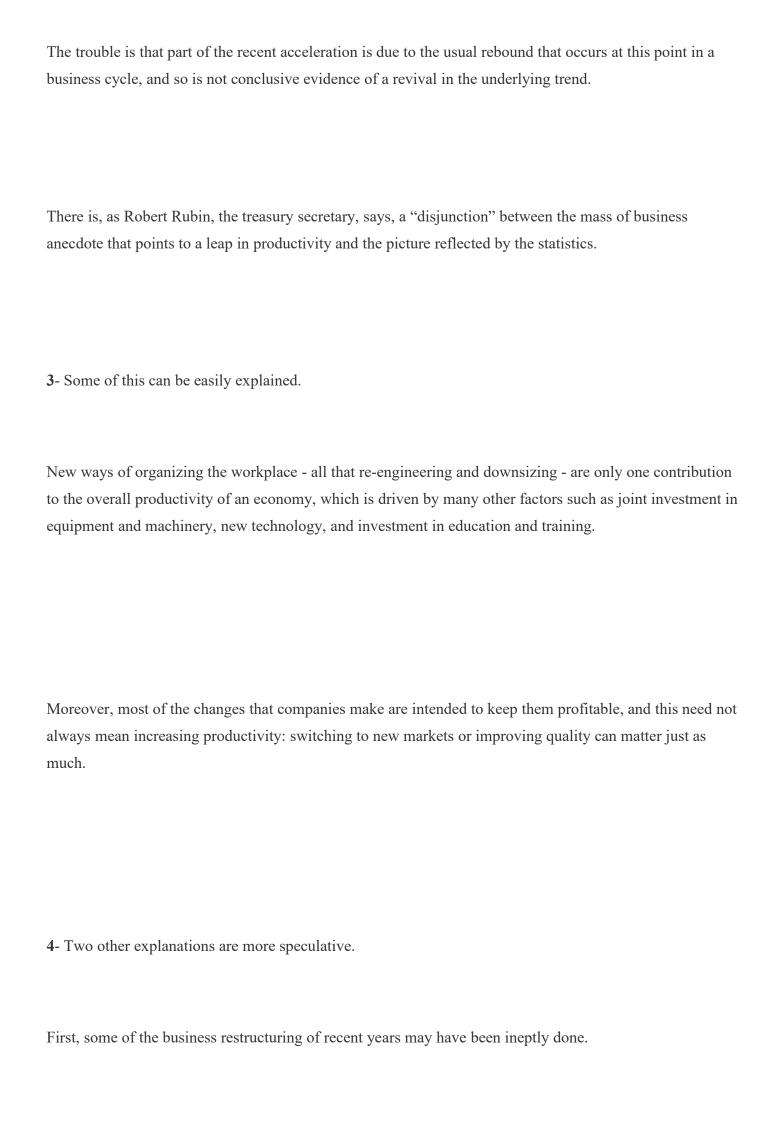
1998-1 Text 2

1- Well, no gain without pain, they say.
But what about pain without gain?
Everywhere you go in America, you hear tales of corporate revival.
What is harder to establish is whether the productivity revolution that businessmen assume they are presiding over is for real.
2- The official statistics are mildly discouraging.
They show that, if you lump manufacturing and services together, productivity has grown on average by 1.2% since 1987.
That is somewhat faster than the average during the previous decade.
And since 1991, productivity has increased by about 2% a year, which is more than twice the 1978-198 average.



Second, even if it was well done, it may have spread much less widely than people suppose.
5- Leonard Schlesinger, a Harvard academic and former chief executive of Au Bong Pain, a rapidly growing chain of bakery cafes, says that much "re-engineering" has been crude.
In many cases, he believes, the loss of revenue has been greater than the reductions in cost.
His colleague, Michael Beer, says that far too many companies have applied re-engineering in a mechanistic fashion, chopping out costs without giving sufficient thought to long-term profitability.
BBDO's Al Rosenshine is blunter.
He dismisses a lot of the work of re-engineering consultants as mere rubbish - "the worst sort of ambulance chasing."
15. According to the author, the American economic situation is
[A] not as good as it seems
[B] at its turning point
[C] much better than it seems
[D] near to complete recovery

16. The official statistics on productivity growth
[A] exclude the usual rebound in a business cycle
[B] fall short of businessmen's anticipation
[C] meet the expectation of business people
[D] fail to reflect the true state of economy
17. The author raises the question "what about pain without gain?" because
[A] he questions the truth of "no gain without pain"
[B] he does not think the productivity revolution works
[C] he wonders if the official statistics are misleading
[D] he has conclusive evidence for the revival of businesses
18. Which of the following statements is NOT mentioned in the passage?
[A] Radical reforms are essential for the increase of productivity.
[B] New ways of organizing workplaces may help to increase productivity.
[C] The reduction of costs is not a sure way to gain long-term profitability.
[D] The consultants are a bunch of good-for-nothings.