**TS1 Compensation Assignment**

The first assignment deals with the negative impacts of using office spaces, showing us both social as well as environmental impacts associated with physical workspaces. The assignment outlines the hardships that come with having office spaces. Namely, they mention how office spaces can lead, in the social end, to an increased risk for the population, as well as time inefficiencies. Despite mentioning these, it’s still quite unclear to me what they mean or how office spaces are a direct cause of these impacts. On the environmental side it’s a bit more cut and dry as they mention energy usage and increased urbanization as problems. The person also mentions positive impacts, including social cohesion, and once again mentions other issues that stem directly from working from an office, such as having to commute there, and larger housing prices. The proposed digitalization solution is to work from home to minimize a need for office spaces. This will have a myriad of effects such as decreased traffic and transport usage in general, faster transport of information (through digital means), and lower real estate costs. They also mention some indirect impacts of digitalization such as an increased reliance on technology. Many of the claims made in this assignment were not argued for or elaborated on so it was hard to understand what exactly were the risks associated in some cases.

The second assignment regards the clothing industry, and namely the concept of “fast fashion”. This is where low cost, low quality clothes are mass produced in underdeveloped countries to be sold in the western market. While the social effects are obvious, as exploitation of workers is prevalent in this industry, there are lesser known environmental impacts as fashion is one of the biggest polluting industries in the world. The assignment doesn’t further elaborate on what kind of pollution the industry causes (other than chemical/agricultural pollution) or why fashion is such a polluting industry, however I assume they will be elaborating on it during their take home exam. The proposed solution is so shift from a linear economy to a circular one with technology. It is unclear to me how exactly technology directly fits into this (I can think of several ways, am curious which way this student will choose).

The third assignment is about heating. This is an interesting assignment for me to look at as I will also be writing my home exam on the sustainability of heating. This person talks about the prevalence of inefficient heating systems and how that causes energy waste and increased carbon emissions. In terms of social inequality they mention increased energy costs for households and businesses. I find it interesting that they don’t directly address how the lower end of the population will be suffering from these issues, and especially the side impacts that by itself may have (for example, burning items to keep themselves warm, which in turn causes further emissions). Their solution to the problem is a monitoring system for energy usage and efficiency which will hopefully minimize energy waste. While this is a useful step, I’m unsure of whether that would be sufficient to cause the domino effect necessary to tackle the issues described.