**WRITING TASK 2**

*You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.*

*Write about the following topic:*

**The working week should be shorter and workers should have a longer weekend.**

**Do you agree or disagree?**

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience

Write at least 250 words.

In recent years, there **has been growing** debate about whether the traditional five-day working week **should be shortened** so as to allow for an extended weekend. Although some **argue** that maintaining a full workweek **is** essential for productivity, **I am convinced** that a shorter working week **offers** substantial and far-reaching benefits to both employees and employers.

Firstly, the reduction in the working week **can** profoundly **improve** employees' work-life balance, which **serves** as a cornerstone of long-term well-being and productivity. When individuals **have** more time **to pursue** personal interests, engage in family life, and relax, they **are likely to experience** increased motivation and resilience against chronic stress. This not only **prevents** long-term fatigue but also **enhances** their effectiveness during working hours. For example, individuals in high-stress professions, such as healthcare and technology, often **face** burnout due to intense schedules, negatively **affecting** both morale and efficiency. As a consequence, a reduction in working hours **can mitigate** these issues, **cultivating** a sustainable work environment that **minimizes** employee turnover rates and **enhances** overall productivity.

Nevertheless, there **is** a perspective that fewer workdays **could** potentially **threaten** business efficiency due to a perceived reduction in output. For instance, in industries like automotive manufacturing, where operations **rely** on continuous processes to **meet** high demand, **reducing** workdays **could** theoretically **disrupt** schedules significantly and **result in** costly production delays. **In such cases, minor disruptions may ripple through the production chain, weakening overall performance and challenging the industry's ability to remain competitive.** However, if companies **adopted** flexibility through automation, remote work, staggered shifts, and technologies like AI and robotics, they **would** likely **maintain**, if not enhance, production levels despite fewer workdays. These flexible arrangements, as a result, not only **boost** efficiency more effectively than rigid schedules but also **support** both operational goals and employee well-being.

In conclusion, while a shorter workweek **poses** some challenges, the advantages to workers' well-being and overall performance far **outweigh** the drawbacks. Should businesses **adopt** a more flexible approach, they **can foster** a highly engaged and resilient workforce that consistently **contributes** to long-term organizational growth. Therefore, I firmly **support** the idea of a shorter workweek. (349 words)