



Microsoft and McKinsey Discuss Remote Work Changes Following Amazon's 5-Day Return to Office Requirement

Description

Amazon recently made headlines with its announcement requiring employees to return to the office full-time starting in January. This decision, made by CEO Andy Jassy, has sparked conversations among other major companies about their own future work arrangements. While some firms are considering following in Amazon's footsteps, others are maintaining their current policies regarding remote work.

One such company reevaluating its flexibility around remote work is the management consulting firm McKinsey & Co. Senior partners at the firm have hinted at the possibility of employees being expected to return to the office more frequently in the near future. According to Eric Kutcher, chair of North America at McKinsey, there are numerous benefits to in-person collaboration, including enhanced apprenticeship, stronger client impact, increased innovation, and a more cohesive social environment.

On the other hand, Microsoft has revealed that it has no immediate plans to alter its hybrid work policy, contingent on employees maintaining productivity levels. Despite reports of increased office attendance in some cities, research from the WFH Research group suggests that work-from-home practices have remained relatively stable. This indicates that while some companies may be rethinking their office arrangements, the shift to remote work is still prevalent in many workplaces.

Overall, the debate surrounding remote work and office attendance continues to evolve, with CEOs considering the most effective strategies for their organizations. The decision by Amazon to bring employees back to the office full-time has prompted discussions among other major players in the industry, with each firm weighing the benefits and drawbacks of different work arrangements. As the landscape of work continues to change, companies must adapt their policies to meet the evolving needs of their employees and the demands of a rapidly changing business environment.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Collaboration** /kə,læbə'reɪʃən/ (noun): The action of working with someone to produce or create something.
2. **Productivity** /prɒdʌk'tɪvɪti/ (noun): The effectiveness of productive effort especially in industry.
3. **Prevalent** /'preɪvələnt/ (adjective): Widespread in a particular area at a particular time.
4. **Reevaluating** /,ri:ɪ'væl.ju:etɪŋ/ (verb): Assessing or estimating the value or worth of something again.
5. **Cohesive** /kəʊ'hi:sɪv/ (adjective): Characterized by or causing cohesion; united or formed into a whole.
6. **Agility** /ə'dʒɪləti/ (noun): The ability to move quickly and easily; nimbleness.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Which company recently announced a full-time return to the office starting in January?
Option: A. Google
Option: B. Amazon
Option: C. Microsoft
Option: D. McKinsey & Co.
2. Who made the decision for employees to return to the office at Amazon?
Option: A. Satya Nadella
Option: B. Jeff Bezos
Option: C. Andy Jassy
Option: D. Eric Kutcher
3. Which consulting firm is reevaluating its remote work flexibility?
Option: A. Deloitte
Option: B. McKinsey & Co.
Option: C. Accenture
Option: D. Bain & Company
4. According to Eric Kutcher, what are the benefits of in-person collaboration at McKinsey & Co.?
Option: A. Reduced client impact
Option: B. Decreased innovation
Option: C. Enhanced apprenticeship
Option: D. Weaker social environment
5. Which company has not planned to change its hybrid work policy?
Option: A. Amazon
Option: B. Google
Option: C. Microsoft
Option: D. McKinsey & Co.
6. What does research from the WFH Research group suggest about work-from-home practices?
Option: A. Declining popularity



- Option: B. Remaining stable
- Option: C. Becoming obsolete
- Option: D. Increasing drastically

True-False

7. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy made the decision to bring employees back to the office full-time.
8. McKinsey & Co. is maintaining its current policy on remote work.
9. Microsoft has specified immediate plans to change its hybrid work policy.
10. Research indicates a significant decline in work-from-home practices.
11. The shift to remote work is prevalent in many workplaces.
12. CEOs are not considering different work arrangements for their organizations.

Gap-Fill

13. Amazon recently announced a full-time return to the office starting in _____.
14. According to Eric Kutcher, in-person collaboration at McKinsey & Co. can lead to enhanced _____.
15. Microsoft has confirmed no imminent alteration to its hybrid work _____.
16. Research suggests that work-from-home practices have remained relatively _____.
17. Companies must adapt their policies to meet the evolving needs of their _____.
18. The decision by Amazon to bring employees back to the office full-time has prompted discussions among other major players in the _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. B. Amazon 2. C. Andy Jassy 3. B. McKinsey & Co. 4. C. Enhanced apprenticeship 5. C. Microsoft



6. B. Remaining stable

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. January 14. apprenticeship 15. policy 16. stable 17. employees 18. industry

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term best describes a topic that is likely to cause disagreement or argument?

Option: Revitalization

Option: Proactive

Option: Contentious

Option: Resilience

2. Which word means causing great damage or harm?

Option: Nonchalant

Option: Devastating

Option: Compulsion

Option: Collaboration

3. What term is used to describe something based on conjecture rather than knowledge?

Option: Derision

Option: Speculative

Option: Agility

Option: Productivity

4. A _____ is an event causing great and often sudden damage or distress.

Option: Revitalization

Option: Derision

Option: Calamity

Option: Compulsion

5. Which term refers to the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties?

Option: Erosion

Option: Congested

Option: Resilience

Option: Collaborative

6. If something is _____ it suggests that something bad is going to happen.

Option: Proactive

Option: Congested



- Option: Acerbic
- Option: Ominous

7. What term refers to the ability to move quickly and easily?

- Option: Evacuation
- Option: Inherent
- Option: Agility
- Option: Prevalent

8. Which word means the action of working with someone to produce something?

- Option: Adulation
- Option: Collaboration
- Option: Precipitate
- Option: Delineates

9. A _____ is a strong usually irresistible impulse to perform an act.

- Option: Congregated
- Option: Ramifications
- Option: Capricious
- Option: Compulsion

10. Which term refers to the action of imbuing something with new life and vitality?

- Option: Erosion
- Option: Revitalization
- Option: Nonchalant
- Option: Reevaluating

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ is the process of eroding or being eroded by wind water or other natural agents.

12. _____ in urban areas is often caused by high population density and a high number of vehicles.

13. The hotel can _____ up to 200 guests during the peak season.

14. Stress-related illnesses are becoming more _____ in today's fast-paced world.



15. His ideas were met with _____ and ridicule by his peers.
16. The actor received widespread _____ for his outstanding performance in the movie.
17. His _____ behavior made it difficult for his friends to predict his actions.
18. She was surprisingly _____ about the news of her promotion not showing much excitement.
19. The fallen tree limb _____ the path making it difficult for hikers to pass through.
20. A _____ approach often involves anticipating and preventing problems before they occur.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Investing in high-risk ventures without thorough research is considered irresponsible and .
22. During the religious festival thousands of people in the town square to witness the procession.
23. His rash decision to quit his job without a backup plan a period of uncertainty and financial instability.
24. Successful projects often result from effective and communication among team members.
25. The government's initiative to promote the of the downtown area led to new businesses opening up.
26. Athletes need to maintain their physical to excel in fast-paced sports like soccer or basketball.
27. The decision to cut funding for education had far-reaching on the quality of schooling.
28. The fallen debris continued to traffic flow on the highway causing long delays.
29. Her to check her phone every few minutes was a habit she found hard to break.
30. The seamless between the design and engineering teams resulted in a groundbreaking product.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Contentious 2. Devastating 3. Speculative 4. Calamity 5. Resilience 6. Ominous 7. Agility 8. Collaboration



9. Compulsion 10. Revitalization

Gap-Fill: 11. Erosion 12. Congestion 13. accommodate 14. prevalent 15. derision 16. adulation 17. capricious
18. nonchalant 19. obstruct 20. proactive

Matching sentence: 1. speculative 2. congregated 3. precipitate 4. collaboration 5. revitalization 6. agility
7. ramifications 8. obstruct 9. compulsion 10. collaboration

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

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