

English Aural Comprehension

Video 4 – BBC News report on gold miners in South Africa (2'45")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-ZKtnmfdwI>

1. Where is the journalist reporting from?

- a. The Eastern suburbs of Cape Town
- b. Eastern Cape
- c. Johannesburg
- d. Pretoria

2. A series of portraits of sick miners is on display

- a. In a gold mine near Johannesburg in commemoration for deceased miners
- b. At a Johannesburg health convention on the dangers of gold dust inhalation
- c. At the gold mining company's HQ in the capital of South Africa
- d. At an event drawing attention to the plight of miners in the gold mine industry

3. What is the main complaint of the miners?

- a. Many of them never received the financial compensation to which they were entitled in light of their poor health
- b. The mining companies should have been were not aware of the health risks
- c. They contracted work-related chronic lung disease before being subsequently laid-off by their employer without compensation
- d. The gold industry is trying to cover up the reported cases of silicosis to mitigate bad press

4. Based on the information provided in the report, which of the following statements is TRUE

- a. The link between working in gold mines and silicosis has been scientifically proven
- b. For the time being, only circumstantial evidence between dust inhalation and silicosis exists
- c. Silicosis is caused by long term exposure to breathing in particulates
- d. There is not enough evidence to prove that the mining companies are responsible for the miners illness

5. What is a 'class action' in this context?

- a. When the working class protest against the upper class
- b. A group of parties in a law suit pooling resources to sue a single company or entity
- c. the photo exhibition of gold miners organised by a class of school children
- d. A positive action carried out by a person or group of persons

6. When most miners are forced to stop working because of poor health...

- a. They are unable to provide financial support for their family
- b. They are able to focus more time on their families who are often neglected
- c. They receive an early retirement bonus
- d. They move to rural areas to work on farms

7. Watu Dala :

- a. Has a lot of community backing now he has returned home
- b. Is afraid that he is powerless against the mining corporations
- c. Is concerned for his own family in years to come
- d. Feels the injustice of having given his life to a company that doesn't compensate his sacrifice

8. Nosipho Dala... (several answers possible)

- a. Is certain the mining companies will pay compensation for the loss of her husband
- b. Feels great anguish for the loss of her husband
- c. Wishes her husband were still alive
- d. Is optimistic about the outcome of the court case

9. Given the information provided in the video, which sentence best describes the case taken before the courts?

- a. A decision in favour of the miners will mark a watershed moment for industrial relations in South African gold mining
- b. Is an almost impossible case to win
- c. The mining industry would rather go through a 10 year-long trial than pay millions of dollars in compensation
- d. Similar cases have been heard before other courts in South Africa, however this time the outcome should be different

10. Which of the following statements are true (several answers possible) :

- a. Gold prices around the world are on a downward trend
- b. Striking South African miners are responsible for a market downturn
- c. Human rights organisations are concerned about a return of apartheid-era politics
- d. The overlapping effects of the on-going health scandal and bleak market backdrop are putting pressure on the South African gold industry