

Panel debate: New service jobs on a EUR 450 basis – curse or blessing?

Exercise:

Prepare for a panel debate according to your role card on the topic of “New service jobs on a EUR 450 basis – curse or blessing?”. The teacher will select six pupils for this purpose and moderate the debate.

Role cards:

Mr Fritsche	You are the head of a fast food chain and are looking for new employees. Since the profit margins in your industry are very small, you can only pay low wages.
Ms Behnke	You and your husband run a bakery. You have two full-time employees who you pay above tariff. You are annoyed that store chains in particular are hiring “450-Euro-Jobbers” to minimise wages, taxes and social security contributions.
Mr Paff	You are a trade union secretary and find it outrageous that an increasing number of companies are now only offering low-wage jobs that people will no longer be able to make a decent living from.
Ms Penzke	You are a more neo-liberal economist and believe that the free play of supply and demand governs everything, including the labour market. High wages cannot be paid for simple jobs. But if employers need more workers, wages will inevitably rise again.
Mr Schön	You are an employee in a fast food chain. You are not exactly happy about your salary, working hours and unpaid overtime. On the other hand, you have not found another job, as you have unfortunately failed to complete a qualified secondary school leaving certificate.
Ms Zierl	You are an employee in a job centre; every day you experience that more and more people come to you who have a job but can no longer live off it. Not to mention saving for retirement.