Unit 8 — Science and Society — Teacher copy

Track E · Klasse 10 · Niveau E

Niveau E

1. Vocabulary

Match each item to its meaning or use it in a sentence.

Term	Your note
hypothesis	
variable	
control group	
sample size	
peer review	
replication	
statistical significance	
confidence interval	
limitation	
scaling	
generalisability	

2. Reading

Read the text and use it for the activities below.

Reading — *Four Days, Five Lessons*

A two-year trial of a four-day school week in a small Belgian district found test scores unchanged, pupil well-being scores higher, and modest cost savings. The trial included 14 schools, with a matched control group of 14 nearby schools. The results were peer-reviewed and published in 2027. The study notes one important limitation: many families struggled to arrange childcare for the extra Friday, and the burden fell unevenly on lower-income parents. The authors caution against scaling up before this is solved.

Vocabulary — scientific reasoning

hypothesis, variable, control group, sample size, peer review, replication, statistical significance, confidence interval, limitation, scaling, generalisability.

3. Practise

Niveau E — controlled

1. Match: control group → comparison; peer review → expert check; replication → re-running. (T / F)
2. T or F from text: 14 trial schools, 14 control schools, peer-reviewed, no limitations.

Niveau E — productive

3. Build 4 sentences using science-of-evidence vocabulary about the four-day school week trial.

4. Your turn

Reflection, 220 words. Take a position on whether you would support a four-day school week trial in your area. Use 4 scientific-reasoning terms + 2 hedges + 1 *despite* / *given that*.

Sample

A two-year trial of a four-day school week in a small Belgian district found test scores unchanged, well-being higher, and modest cost savings. The trial included 14 schools and a matched control group. The results, peer-reviewed in 2027, are encouraging but specific to that context. The study notes one limitation that I take seriously: many families struggled to arrange childcare for the extra Friday, and the burden fell unevenly on lower-income parents. Given that the well-being gains depend on what happens on Friday, and not only on what happens Monday-to-Thursday, scaling up before this is solved would risk turning a class-blind reform into a class-biased one. Despite my interest in the model, I would not support a trial in my area until two things are in place: a publicly-funded Friday childcare option, and a generalisability check — a second trial in a context closer to ours. The authors' caution is the right one. Replication and policy-design need to come together; otherwise we risk borrowing the result without the conditions that produced it.

5. Further reading / listening

- BBC Science Focus — accessible articles.
- Nature — *News & Views* short-form.

6. Teacher answer key

Controlled. 1. all true.

2. T, T, T, F (the study notes the childcare limitation).

Productive. 3. Open.