Buffer Lessons: Unit Overview

GLC2O, Career Studies, Grade 10 (Open), Buffer Lessons. Five stand-alone 75-minute lessons for flex days, assembly-shortened weeks, the day before a holiday, catch-up days or a supply teacher.

The big question

How can one class period still build real career and life skills?

Each lesson works on its own at any point in the course, needs no earlier lesson and uses only the materials included. Together they touch all three strands: skills, strategies and habits for success (A), exploring and preparing for the world of work (B), and planning and financial management (C). Every person, business, employer and pay stub is invented. Lesson 3's current rates were checked in November 2026.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**The Career Cup**	1	What do I already know about careers, work and money?	A1.1, A2.1; B1.1, B1.2; C2.1, C2.3	Five-round team challenge (resilience, goals, skills, rights, money) with points for reasons; final wager; personal review plan
2	**Problem Solved**	1	How do I solve problems at school, at home and at work?	A1.1; B1.2, B1.3	Original FIXIT routine; blame versus problem statements; six problem cards; mine, ours or up the chain; a problem-solving evidence sentence
3	**Your First Paycheque**	1	Was I paid correctly, and where did the money go?	B1.1; C2.1, C2.3	2026 Ontario and federal rates; two worked pay stubs; find four mistakes; speaking up about pay; filing a first tax return
4	**The Startup Pitch**	1	Can our team turn a real problem into a business?	B1.2, B1.3; C1.3	Team roles by transferable skill; start-up costs, profit and break-even; 90-second pitches to a classmate investor panel
5	**Career Detours**	1	What happens when a plan changes?	A1.1; B1.2, B2.2	Three original profiles (an apprenticeship, a college switch, a community living path); four questions; an advice letter; runs from the handout alone

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Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Team Answer Sheets, Problem Lab, Find the Mistakes, Startup Planner and investor scorecards, Career Detours questions and letters
Assessment as learning	Self-checks on success criteria, My Review Plan, My Problem-Solving Story, My First Paycheque Plan and skills reflections
Assessment of learning	None: these lessons are formative and flexible. Students can file their pages in the Career Portfolio.

Materials

Included:

- **Original content:** every question, scenario, profile, business, employer and pay stub was written for this package; no published test, inventory or text is reproduced
- **Current figures (Lesson 3):** Ontario's minimum wages from October 1, 2026, and the 2026 CPP, EI and basic personal amounts, with a reminder to check ontario.ca and canada.ca for updates before teaching
- **Supplies:** calculators for Lessons 1, 3 and 4 and a timer; no student devices are needed for any lesson

Lesson 5 is written so a supply teacher can run it from the handout alone, with a script in the slide notes and a full answer key in the teacher plan. Lesson 4 mentions Ontario's Summer Company program for student businesses; check its current details before teaching.

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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