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EXPLAIN RIGOROUSLY THE PRODUCTION/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS SITUATION

### 1. WORK FROM HOME

Coronavirus is spreading like wildfire and every day we see several cases rising at an alarming speed which does not give room for production and services to continue all because everyone has to stay home to keep safe in order to allow the virus from spreading. This has affected a lot of people, companies in which they don't have the ability to move out to do their daily job, which brings about an opportunity that can be used by every entrepreneur/producer/worker in order not to allow the pandemic affect jobs.

This leads us to one opportunity which is called WORKING FROM HOME.

A cellist, entrepreneur and scientist all have one thing in common

They are using the lockdown as a time to tap into their creativity to seek opportunities or solutions to projects they were working on before the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

Like millions of workers worldwide, Liz Hanks, a UK-based professional cellist who usually tours Europe, saw her work dry up as the outbreak spread. But she recognises that it has given her an opportunity to do something different: "The time right now is so unique in our lives. We have some time to think. Everything has slowed down."

Now she not only teaches online and records music at home in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, but has also founded a project where solo musicians perform in their own gardens for free so that people can still hear live music. "I thought let's do gigs so someone has something to look forward to," she says. So far, she has heard a banjo player, accordionist and electric guitarist taking part in "gigs in gardens" as well as playing the cello herself. "There's nothing quite like it — just hearing clapping, some from a long way away. It's quite magical and we are giving people some joy."

Boredom is one of the most creative forces — there are benefits to doing nothing. You start thinking in novel and productive ways," she says. "Get through the pain barrier and discover your creativity that is waiting to emerge."

Lockdown could turn out to be one of the most creative times for humankind, says Ms Mann, author of *The Science of Boredom*. After all, William Shakespeare allegedly wrote *King Lear* during a plague, Sir Isaac Newton reportedly formulated the theory of gravity in quarantine in the 17th century, while Alexander Pushkin wrote some of his greatest works under lockdown in 1830.

The world is in "a great big scientific experiment" where despite the distress caused by the outbreak, people will try to look on the positive side. "The backdrop of illness is that as humans look for positivity, they channel creativity," Ms Mann says.

"Allow yourself to be bored and see it as something good. Embrace boredom and your mind will occupy itself. You could end up painting — or writing — a masterpiece."

Some people, such as freelancers, may be able to tap into creativity more readily than others because they are used to seeking out opportunities as part of their normal work routine.

"I've always had to be creative to keep things going and find new business opportunities," says Balvinder Powar, a Madrid-based leadership trainer and entrepreneur who has worked as a freelancer for about 10 years. "But now is the time to push what was on the backburner to the front

and open up new income lines.”

He has used his confinement in Spain to focus on pursuing new projects, such as helping IE business school students in Madrid develop a way of producing food. “This is a time to keep trust going with your business relationships,” adds Mr Powar, who is writing a proposal for a book on leadership, as well as broadening his own training by taking a course on neuroscience.

“It’s also a time to prepare yourself for what’s coming next. Set aside one or two hours a day to research and think about what you are good at and train yourself up,” he says.

However, Erin Westgate, assistant professor in the department of psychology at the University of Florida, who is researching how people in the US are spending their time during lockdown, warns that we should not feel under pressure to do something new.

While doing interesting things is fun, and helps us learn new skills and knowledge that can pay off later, she says “people shouldn’t feel bad either if they’re too tired . . . Sometimes what we need is to rest now, so we can be ready for those interesting things down the road.”

Still, lockdown is a chance to have the time to think more deeply, a sentiment that Professor Paul Freemont of Imperial College London agrees with.

The co-director of SynbiCITE, the UK Innovation and Knowledge Centre for Synthetic Biology, says this is the scientists’ time to contribute to helping in the national emergency. “We are seeing a classic response to an emergency by scientists rallying round and harnessing their energy to think creatively.”

Other scientists in his group, meanwhile, are using the time to look at new research projects as well as writing reviews or cases for funding. “This will at least get people thinking about new research opportunities which should feed into funding opportunities through grants,” he says.

One challenging aspect of our current working life, though, is the lack of contact with others due to social distancing — and this can affect creativity.

Both Prof Freemont and Ms Westgate find the flow of discussion can be inhibited by remote meetings where only one person can speak at a time. “Conversations can weave in a room” but the limits of technology “can interrupt the flow of ideas”, Prof Freemont says.

“Thinking is social too and that’s been harder with the lockdown. I can’t wander down the hallway to chat with colleagues and think aloud together with them when an idea pops into my head. I miss that,” Ms Westgate says.

## ESSENTIAL SERVICES RENDERED DURING THE LOCKDOWN

### THIS INCLUDES:

1. Electricity - stable power supply with no loadshedding
2. Public and private organisations, their staff and service providers essential to the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity will need to continue to operate. This includes municipalities, and the suppliers of logistics, feedstock and maintenance will be required to continue to operate and provide security of electricity supply.
3. Water supply, sewerage and sanitation
4. Public and private organisations, their staff and service providers essential to the security of supply of bulk and potable water and sanitation must continue to operate and provide vital water and sanitation services. This includes municipalities and those involved in the supply of materials,

chemicals and related equipment.

5. ICT – datacentres, fibre optic infrastructure, towers and antennae

6. . The ICT sector including data centres, fibre optic providers, towers and antennae will need to operate at high capacity to ensure connectivity will remain stable during this period.

CRITICAL BUSINESS CONTINUITY SERVICES THIS INCLUDES:

1. Food & essential products – related manufacturing and processing, and distribution

2. The following operations will continue:

- \* Manufacturing of health related products, supplies, devices, equipment, and medicines, including complementary health products; food and essential products, as well as essential inputs thereto.

- \* Agricultural and food supply related operations, including farming, veterinary and phyto-sanitary provider services, pest control services, and chemical and fertiliser providers.

- \* Fishing operations

- \* Forestry and sawmills will remain in production for disposable health and hygiene products, including toilet paper; as well as for the production of packaging for essential health and food supply chains.

- \* Food, beverages and essential products manufacturing and processing facilities

- \* Warehousing, transport and logistics for food & essential products, and health related goods

- \* The ports, road and rail networks will remain open in order to facilitate the import and export of essential products.

- \* Food outlets – retail, wholesale, spaza shops and malls for food and essential products (toilet paper, cleaners, sanitisers and disinfectants, personal hygiene products, bedding and clothing, and essential supplies for those taking care of the sick and in order for people to remain healthy.

3. Enabling services

4. To assist in the Covid-19 response, the following services are required to continue operations:

- \* All healthcare related services be they public or private.

- \* Call centres providing life and health; energy, food and water supply, social, transactional, communications, law and order and international critical business continuity services.

- \* Professional and artisan services, to the extent that they are providing support in the Covid19 response, essential and critical business continuity services.

- \* Cleaning, laundry and hospitality services supporting the Covid-19 response and essential and critical business continuity services.

- \* Hotels, airlines, stadiums, car rental services, to the extent that they are supporting or repurposed for essential or critical business continuity services.

- \* Financial and insurance services and health funders required to finance and support essential and critical business continuity services in the Covid-19 response, and provide short term bridging finance to people and businesses during this period.

- \* Anti-poaching and wildlife conservation services.

- \* Communication and media services on screen, TV, radio, print, broadcast and online.

- \* Safety and security services protecting people and property.