

BTS Comptabilité et Gestion		SESSION 2021
Langue vivante étrangère : Anglais Epreuve orale obligatoire E12	Durée : 20 minutes de préparation, 20 minutes d'épreuve	Page 1/1

Sujet n°28

Half the population still faces barriers in the workplace

Women have made great strides¹ in the employment market over the past 50 years. But many still feel that their progress is being obstructed and, to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8th, two new books by feminist writers tackle the issues.

- 5 In "The Fix" Michelle King, director of inclusion at Netflix, a video-streaming giant, observes that women are constantly told they need to change themselves--be more assertive, work longer hours and so on. Instead, she argues, working practices should change to accommodate the needs of half the adult population. In "The Home Stretch" Sally Howard, a journalist, suggests that a big reason why women are held back is that
- 10 even those who work full-time are still expected to do the bulk of² the housework.

Sometimes the excuse for the lack of female progress in certain professions is that women and men naturally choose to pursue different career paths. Yet those outcomes may simply be the result of formal or informal barriers against female success. At the end of the 19th century, when only 4-5% of American doctors were women, some men

15 no doubt put this down to a lack of aptitude. Many medical schools, perhaps sharing that preconception, did not admit female candidates; Harvard's began accepting women only after the second world war. In Britain women were not allowed to become practicing lawyers until they were admitted to the Law Society in 1922.

In both professions the playing field was eventually levelled. The result? In 2017 more

20 women were admitted to American medical schools than men for the first time. By 2018 half of British solicitors³ were female.

Adapted from The Economist Saturday, March 7, 2020

1. *strides: progress*

2. *the bulk of: most of*

3. *solicitors: lawyers*