

Chapter 3

Careers and Career choices

Compiled by J Damonse

Unit 1 - self knowledge for career choices

Step 1: Knowing your own interests, abilities, talents and strengths

The first step in choosing a career is to think about the following:

- **What are your interests?**

what do you like to spend your time doing?

- **What are your abilities?**

What are the things you can do well?

- **What are your strengths?**

The things you are always good at.

- **What are your weaknesses?**

What are you not good at?

- **What are your talents?**

The natural abilities you were born with.

Personality types

Personality type	Interest, strengths and abilities
Realistic	prefers technical, mechanical, physical or athletic work Enjoy working with your hands, fixing things and working outside my have trouble expressing yourself and telling others how you feel
Investigative	like to learn, know and analyse enjoys science and scientific activities good at understanding and solving maths and science problems
Artistic	likes using your imagination and creativity does not like following rules
Social	concerned about others and their needs helpful and friendly likes to educate and inform, gets on well with people
Enterprising	enjoys influencing and leading others communicates well and is self-confident prefers work that rewards your ability to sell, persuade and motivate others
Conventional	likes routine and rules prefers to follow rather than lead, prefers to work in an office environment pays attention to detail

Step 2: Know more about jobs, occupations, careers and career fields

The second step in choosing your career is to decide what you would like to do after you have finished school. Note the following definitions:

Jobs

If you have a job, you are employed and you get paid for working. You may need only some basic training for a job.

Occupations

The work that you do. It requires special education, training or skill.

Career

An occupation that you have for a large part of your life. It gives you opportunities to progress. You get promoted and a raise in salary.

Career fields

A grouping of occupations. The occupations have common skills, knowledge and work skills. People who are employed in a career field have similar interests and talents.

Step 3: Know the requirements for the National Curriculum Statement (NCS): Choose the right subjects

Requirements for the NCS

The NCS is the policy on curriculum and assessment at school. It explains what knowledge, skills and values you should learn. It provides access to higher education and helps with the move from school to work.

Subjects and career options

The NCS guides you on how to make subject choices. It uses the organising fields of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), so it's easier to decide on the subjects you need for a career field.

From Grades 10 - 12 there are compulsory subjects you have to study and the others you can choose to suit your chosen career field. To get a National Senior Certificate (NSC), you have to have four compulsory subjects and three optional subjects.

Step 3: Know the requirements for the National Curriculum Statement (NCS): Choose the right subjects

You have to study these seven subjects from Grades 10 - 12

- Two official languages: one must be on Home language level and the other must either be on Home or First additional level.
- Mathematics or Mathematical literacy
- Life Orientation
- Plus three other subjects

Unit 2 - Life Domains: a domain means an area of life

Knowing more about your life domain will help you choose a career that is right for you.

You are in a period of life called adolescence (being a teenager). Adolescent development is a process that all young people experience as they move toward adulthood. There are specific developmental tasks that all young people need to accomplish in order to enter adulthood well-prepared. The tasks of adolescence could be divided into different domains (or parts) of life - namely:

Being, Belonging and Becoming

Domain number 1 = Being

This refers to "defining who I am" (physical, psychological/mental, spiritual) and includes personal values, attitudes, knowledge and behaviors. These developmental tasks revolve around defining a clear sense of identity, a positive sense of self-worth and control over one's life.

Domain number 2 = Belonging

This refers to "finding my place in the world" and recognizes a young person's fit with their environment (physical, social, community). These developmental tasks focus on the ability to form healthy relationships with others, using available support systems, finding a valued place in their world and finding ways to be useful to others.

Domain number 3 = Becoming

This refers to "achieving my personal goals, hopes and aspirations." These developmental tasks involve practical, leisure and growth tasks. For example, mastering social skills, developing lifelong learning habits, developing a sense of curiosity and exploration.

Unit 3 - Socio - economic factors in study and career choices

Studying at a higher education institution, such as a university or a private college, can be expensive. If you or your family cannot afford the tuition fees, you may need to find out about getting financial assistance. The following is available:

- Bursary - an amount of money that a student is given to help pay for college or university study; you do not have to pay back a bursary and it may be awarded because you do not have the funds or because you performed well in academics or sports.
- Student loan - money borrowed from a bank which you would have to pay back with interest once you have finished your studies.
- Scholarship - awarded by businesses, companies or organisations if you have done very well in your academics or sport.
- Learnership - allows you to earn while you learn. You will study the theory at a college and practice what you have learnt in a real job. You will get paid for the work you do, and you get a qualification at the end.

Accessibility

One of the socio - economic factors that could affect your choice of career is accessibility to further education. You need to ask yourself the following:

- Is there somewhere close to where you live where you can study for this career?
- If you have to travel far, can you afford the transport costs and/ or the costs of accommodation?
- Can you study for this course through a distance education college or university?

Impact of income tax

income tax is tax that all individuals and companies must pay on what they have earned and profits they have made.

- The government uses tax to run the country.
- Tax is collected by the South African Revenue Services (SARS)
- Everyone who is employed has to register to pay tax.
- There are different ways to pay tax.

1. SITE

Standard Income Tax on Employees is paid by employees who earn less than R12 000 a year.

2. PAYE

Most people who earn a salary of more than R10 000 have the tax taken off their salary every month in the form of Pay As You Earn.

3. Provisional Tax

You would pay income tax twice a year on what you have earned if:

- you do not earn the same amount every month
- you work for more than one employer
- you earn your money from winnings eg. playing a sport