

Name _____

Date _____

Is it a Match?

Directions: List the career choice that you researched and then answer the following questions about the choice. Are they compatible or do you need revise your career choice to be more aligned with your interests, aptitudes and abilities?

Career choice: _____

A. PREFERRED WORK ENVIRONMENT

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primarily outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Primarily indoors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private working space | <input type="checkbox"/> Shared working space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little or no travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Frequent or considerable travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moving around | <input type="checkbox"/> Sitting still |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lively place | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet place |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical work/activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Little or no physical work/activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business dress | <input type="checkbox"/> Casual dress/uniform/safety |

Does your preferred work environment match the work environment for your career choice? If not, are there related careers that might better match your preferred environment? Or do you think you might be able to adjust your work environment preferences to conform with those required by your career choice?

B. EDUCATION/TRAINING GOAL

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelors degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Masters degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate | <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate (1 year) program | <input type="checkbox"/> On-the-job training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | |

Does your education/training goal match the education required for your career choice? If not, are there related careers that might better match your education preference? Or do you think you might be able to change your education preferences to meet the requirements for your career choice?

C. DESIRED WORKER BENEFITS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set work schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> Flexible work schedule |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid vacation | <input type="checkbox"/> No paid vacation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health/dental insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> No health/dental insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employer-provided retirement plan | <input type="checkbox"/> No provided retirement plan |

Does your career choice provide the desired worker benefits? Are there other ways that you might obtain these benefits?

D. COMPENSATION PREFERENCES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High paying occupation | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle or low paying occupation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonuses/commissions | <input type="checkbox"/> No bonuses/commissions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chance to advance rapidly (including increased salary) | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow or no advancement opportunities |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Predictable promotions/advancements |

Will your career choice provide the desired salary and advancement opportunities? Will you need to supplement your salary with a second job or other income, at least in the beginning of your career?

E. OTHER PREFERENCES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work alone/independently | <input type="checkbox"/> Work with others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supervise other | <input type="checkbox"/> Be supervised |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work in large organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Work in small business/organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not use computers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Routine task | <input type="checkbox"/> Varied/challenging tasks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job/occupation security | <input type="checkbox"/> No job/occupation security |

Do your other work preferences match your career choice? If not, are there related occupations that might more closely match your other preferences? Are these other preferences something that might change as you advance in your job and acquire more skills and training?

Is it a Match?

1. Overall, do you feel your career choice and work preferences match pretty well?
2. Have you considered other things in your career choice, such as working in a small town versus a large, metropolitan area?
3. Does your choice provide a career ladder?
4. Do you have the necessary entry-level skills for your career choice? If not, will you be able to learn on the job?
5. If the career choice requires specialized training or education, do you know where you can acquire this?
6. Have you looked at labor market data for your choice?
7. If your choice provides down times or layoffs (for instance, seasonal work) can you budget well enough to live without changing your life style?
8. Does your occupation require certification or licensing?
9. Is this occupation something you could learn in the armed forces, thus reducing your education costs?
10. What other things do you think you need to consider regarding your career choice?