

Careers matter

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AFRICA'S BEST READ

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What should you study?

Choosing a career for life is a daunting task when you're still in school. Many of the careers that

will be available in 10 years' time haven't even been invented yet. And most people will change jobs and even

career directions a few times during their lives. So how do you decide on a direction to get started in?

Careers Matter helps high school pupils choose subjects that will help them get qualifications and, in the long run, jobs that suit them. It offers easy-to-read mindmaps and information about universities, colleges, top jobs and scarce skills. **LOOK INSIDE!**

Think realistically about who you are, what you want your life to be like, and the route you need to take to achieve it — this will help you choose your school subjects and tertiary study direction.

Ask yourself:

Who am I?

- Do I think creatively or logically/mathematically? Or both?
- What are my favourite subjects?
- Do I have a technical mind?
- Am I good at creating things?
- Do I prefer to work in a team or alone? Am I a people person?
- What do I want to achieve from my work?
- What things interest me most? What do I do really well?

What do I want out of life?

- How much money do I want to earn? How hard am I prepared to work?
- Do I want a spouse, children and my own home one day?
- Do I prefer a secure routine or a series of new challenges?
- What sort of environment do I see myself working in?
- How do I picture my life in 10 years?
- At what age do I want to retire — if ever?

What sort of job is it?

- How many employers are looking to hire people in the career I am considering?
- Do the job ads in this line of work look exciting and rewarding?
- Does this job pay the sort of salary I hope to earn?

- Does this career sound fulfilling, with lots of opportunities to get promoted?
- Can I job shadow someone to get an idea of what it's like?
- Where can I find out more about this job?

How do I get there?

- What qualifications are available in this field?
- Who offers these qualifications — should I study through a university, university of technology, Further Education and Training (FET) college, learnership or apprenticeship?
- What are the admissions requirements for this field of study?
- What subjects should I choose in grade 9 for grades 10, 11 and 12?
- Are my marks in those subjects likely to be good enough to enter that field?
- What level of education do I want?

What will it cost?

- How much will my studies cost? And are there hidden costs?
- Where will I live while I am studying?
- Are bursaries available in this field?
- Will I need financial support while carrying out a practical component of the studies?
- Can I get other financial aid?

