Career Aspirations

As a junior form student, you may not have heard of Career Aspirations. Yet, it is essential for us to know more about it. As you grow and start to think about your future and your career, you will find this term more and more familiar.

When you are being asked about your career aspiration, you would be expected to think of something related to your long-term and short-term career goals, as well as objectives, based on your career path planning. It is very important for one to plan ahead. Hence, it is time for you to start thinking about your career aspirations and set up your career road-map.
People’s Career Aspirations can be divided in the following categories:

1) **Career success**
   - You would like to make use of your professional skills to achieve advancement
   - You seek for a job that provides chances for you to be promoted

2) **Security**
   - You look for a job that provides you with a stable income
   - You prefer to work at places that offer a long-term secured position

3) **Expertise**
   - You seek for jobs that offer technical or professional enhancement and interest to you.
   - You want to become experts in a professional area

4) **Freedom**
   - You enjoy freedom
   - You are motivated by values such as freedom and independence.

5) **Balance**
   - You perceive your job to be equally or less important than other non-work values such as family, religion, health and relaxation
   - You prefer jobs that you are interested in

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**How to find your career aspiration?**

A lack of clear career aspiration may result in frustration and disorganization, causing aimless wandering and a feeling of malaise.

Therefore, finding your career aspiration is very important. To find out your career aspiration, you can try to follow the steps below:

1. Make clear note of your strengths and weaknesses.
2. Ask yourself questions like 'Where would I like to be in 10 or 20 years?'.
3. Consider financial needs, family and personal development as well as other interests.
4. List the possible difficulties you may face and think of some corresponding solutions.
5. Find out your career aspiration which you are interested in and is possible to carry out.
6. Take an aptitude test so you can know more about yourself.
Aptitude Test

An aptitude test is a test which is designed to predict the test-taker’s future success. Rather than testing knowledge, aptitude tests are designed to test innate skills and the capacity for learning and acquiring new skills. These tests are used in a wide variety of settings, from schools to employment placement agencies. They can also be designed to reveal the test-taker’s suitability for a particular profession. Employment placement agencies, guidance counselors, and some employers use these types of aptitude tests to place people in careers where they will fit in.

Below is a sample of an aptitude test:

Instructions:
1. There are 25 questions in total. Answer all questions seriously and honestly.
2. Each question is divided into five columns of agreements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
3. You can refer to [http://www.careerexplorer.net/aptitude.asp](http://www.careerexplorer.net/aptitude.asp) for answers.

1) I would like working for the same company for many years
2) I’d prefer a job that requires less than 2 years training.
3) I like helping other people solve their problems.
4) I like to teach people new things.
5) I like taking risks.
6) I am good at communicating with others.
7) I like working on a computer.
8) I am willing to work weekend and holidays.
9) I enjoy math.
10) I would enjoy traveling for my job
11) I want to be very comfortable financially.
12) I don’t mind working with blood.
13) I work well with other people.
14) I work well under stress.
15) I enjoy debating with other people.
16) I enjoy being creative.
17) I like working outside.
18) I would enjoy physically demanding job.
19) I like working with my hands.
20) I believe that rules are important and should be followed.
21) I enjoy working with children.
22) I appreciate receiving feedback on how I am doing, even if it is negative.
23) I enjoy creative problem solving.
24) I like working in a fast-paced environment.
25) I am detail oriented.

Here are some more links for other official aptitude tests:

http://www.careertest.net/types/descriptions/index.htm
http://www.3smartcubes.com/pages/tests/aptcomplete/aptcomplete_instructions.asp

Hope you can get some insights from the websites above!

After reading this Careers Newsletter, are you more familiar with Careers Aspiration? Have you recognized which areas you are particularly interested in or have you had your career goal yet? Have you understood more about your character after the Aptitude Test? Indeed, career aspiration is essential in the path of our life and it helps us to plan better ahead! Hope you will find your career aspiration soon and begin to work towards it!

References

http://www.ehow.com/m/how_2194766_set-career-goals.html

~The End~