Exercise 1: CAREER INTERESTS

This activity helps you match your interests with types of careers. For each of the 86 items below, circle the letter of the activity you would rather do. It doesn’t matter if you like both of them a lot or dislike both of them a lot; just pick the one you would rather do, and circle that letter.

1. A. Operate a printing press
   B. Study the causes of earthquakes
2. C. Plant and harvest crops
   R. Replace car window and fender
3. E. Measure and grade logs
   F. Run a machine
4. G. Work in an office
   H. Answer customer questions
5. D. Write reports
   J. Help someone just out of prison find a job
6. L. Design a freeway
   M. Plan educational lessons
7. N. Balance a checkbook
   O. Take an x-ray
8. P. Write a computer program
   Q. Train animals
9. C. Be in charge of replanting forests
   A. Act in television and movies
10. D. Solve a burglary
    F. Check products to make sure they were made right
11. E. Build an airport
    G. Keep business records for a company
12. F. Put small tools together
    P. Design a website
13. M. Tutor students
    Q. Work at a zoo
14. J. Take care of children
    O. Plan special diets
15. A. Choreograph a dance
    K. Lobby for a cause
16. H. Sell clothes
    E. Work with hands
17. I. Work at an amusement park
    N. Broker Insurance
18. I. Learn about ethnic groups
    P. Manage an information system
19. N. Appraise the value of a house
    M. File books at the library
20. E. Make three-dimensional items
    D. Analyze handwriting
21. B. Design sprinkler systems for new building
    F. Run a factory sewing machine
22. G. Develop personnel policies
    Q. Train racehorses
23. D. Work as a security guard
    H. Work in a department store
24. A. Write for a newspaper
    G. Use a calculator
25. O. Help people at a mental health clinic
    L. Remodel old houses
26. M. Care for young children
    D. Locate a missing person
27. N. Plan estate disbursement
    P. Enter data
28. A. Design a book cover
    E. Assemble toys following written instructions
29. B. Figure out why someone is sick
    R. Fly an airplane
30. C. Learn how things grow and stay alive
    H. Sell cars
31. I. Work as a restaurant host or hostess
    D. Fight fires
32. G. Keep payroll records for a company
    J. Work in a nursing home
33. G. Hire new staff
    O. Operate ventilators - help people breathe
34. R. Drive a taxi
    A. Be a news broadcaster
35. K. Work for the IRS
    B. Sort and date dinosaur bones
36. O. Give shots
    C. Design landscaping
37. P. Provide technical support for computer users
    D. Work in a courtroom
38. Q. Care for injured animals
    I. Serve meals to customers
39. L. Build kitchen cabinets
    N. Refinance a mortgage
40. A. Sing in a concert
    R. Direct the take off / landing of planes
41. G. Operate a cash register
    B. Collect rocks
42. G. Start own business
    L. Draft a blueprint
Assessing Interests

CAREER INTERESTS (cont.)

43. M. Assess student progress
   L. Design an airplane
44. O. Wrap a sprained ankle
   I. Guide a tour group out of the country
45. P. Work on solving technical problems
   J. Be a minister
46. Q. Manage a veterinary clinic
   K. Lead others
47. E. Operate heavy equipment
   Q. Manage a fish hatchery
48. F. Assemble cars
   K. Protect our borders
49. A. Play an instrument
   J. Plan activities for adult day care
50. C. Research soybean use in paint
   J. Provide consumer information
51. D. Guard money in an armored car
   B. Study why people do the things they do
52. E. Fix a television set
   M. Be an instructor at a school
53. F. Fix controls on a control panel
   J. Help a friend with a personal problem
54. C. Oversee a logging crew
   B. Study weather conditions
55. R. Pack boxes at a warehouse
   A. Teach dancing
56. Q. Sterilize surgical instruments
   B. Study soil conditions
57. N. Play the stock market
   C. Protect the environment
58. M. Grade papers
   R. Be a railroad engineer
59. L. Order building supplies
   E. Paint motors
60. P. Develop new computer games
   H. Buy merchandise for a store
61. K. Work to get someone elected
   C. Identify plants in a forest
62. D. Guard inmates in a prison
   L. Read blueprints
63. H. Line up concerts for a band
   K. Ask people questions for a survey
64. E. Manage a factory
   O. Work as a nurse in a hospital
65. A. Paint a portrait
   K. Testify before Congress
66. B. Work with a microscope
   I. Make tee times at a golf course
67. C. Classify plants
   O. Transcribe medical records
68. F. Install rivets
   Q. Raise worms
69. N. Balance accounts
   M. Develop learning games
70. J. Read to sick people
   P. Repair computers
71. F. Compare sizes and shapes of objects
   Q. Fish
72. R. Repair bicycles
   K. Deliver mail
73. M. Teach Special Education
   P. Set up a tracking system
74. G. Manage a store
   H. Advertise goods and services
75. R. Distribute supplies to dentists
   I. Compete in a sports event
76. I. Check guests into a hotel
   M. Teach reading to adults
77. L. Follow step by step instructions
   N. Work at a collection agency
78. Q. Deliver babies
   H. Persuade people to buy
79. R. Inspect cargo containers
   F. Work in a cannery
80. I. Coach a school sports team
   P. Set up a website
81. Q. Hunt
   K. Enlist in a branch of the service
82. H. Sell sporting goods
   J. Cut and style hair
83. B. Conduct experiments to find new metals
   N. Be a bank teller
84. G. Work with computer programs
   N. Loan Money
85. L. Hang wallpaper
   D. Make an arrest
86. H. Stock shelves
   I. Serve drinks at a concession stand
Step 1: Go back through Exercise 1 and look at the letters you circled. Count the number of times you circled the letter “A” for your response. Write that number next to the “A” in the table below.

Next count the number of times you circled the letter “B” for your response. Write that number next to the “B” in the table. Continue counting and recording your responses until you have completed the table.

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Step 2: Now write down the two letters with the most responses. These are your top two areas of career interest. (If you have a tie, list three.)

Step 3: Read the description of your top area of career interest on page 4. Record your interest and the Career Cluster it is listed under.
Assessing Interests

CAREER INTEREST AREAS

Listed below are 16 Career Clusters and the areas of career interest related to each.

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

C. Plants: Interest in activities involving plants usually in an outdoor setting.

Q. Animals: Interest in activities involving the training, raising, feeding, and caring for animals.

Architecture & Construction

L. Designing and Building: Interest in designing, planning, managing, building, and maintaining physical structures.

Arts, Audio-Video Technology & Communications

A. Artistic: Interest in creative or performing arts, communication or A/V technology

Business, Management & Administration

G. Business Detail: Interest in organizing, directing and evaluating business functions

Education & Training

M. Teaching: Interest in planning, managing, and providing education and training services, including support services, library and information services.

Finance

N. Banking, Investments, and Insurance: Interest in financial and investment planning & management and providing banking and insurance services.

Government & Public Administration

K. Administration: Interest in performing government functions at the local, state or federal levels

Health Science

O. Care and Prevention: Interest in the providing help to others by providing diagnostic, therapeutic, informational and environmental services, including researching and developing new health care services.

Hospitality & Tourism

I. Interest in providing services to others in travel planning, hospitality services in hotels, restaurants, and recreation services

Human Services

J. Interest in helping others with their mental, spiritual, social, physical, or career needs.

Information Technology

P. Interest in the design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia, systems integration services, and technical support

Law, Public Safety & Security

D. Interest in judicial, legal and protective services for people and property.

Manufacturing

E. Mechanical: Interest in applying mechanical principles to practical situations using machines, hand tools, or techniques.

F. Industrial: Interest in repetitive, organized activities in a factory/industrial setting.

Marketing, Sales & Service

H. Interest in bringing others to a point of view through personal persuasion, using sales/promotional techniques.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

B. Interest in discovering, collecting, and analyzing information and applying findings to problems in science, math and engineering

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

R. Interest in the movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, railroad and water

Adapted from Washington State's "Where are you going? Career Guide" funded through the 1998 Carl D. Perkins Vocational Act