

Victorian Careers Curriculum Framework

**Lesson Plan: How careers unfold**

**Australian Blueprint of Career Development competencies**

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| CAREER COMPETENCIES | PHASE II | PERFORMANCE INDICATOR |
| AREA C: CAREER BUILDING | | |
| 8. Make career enhancing decisions | 8.2 Link decision- making to career building | 8.2.3 Explore possible outcomes of decisions  8.2.7 Explore advantages and disadvantages of various courses and programs for the attainment of career goals |
| 9. Maintain balanced life and work roles | 9.2 Explore and understand the interrelationship of life roles (II) | 9.2.6 Explore the advantages and disadvantages of various life role possibilities  9.2.11 Determine the type of career roles that would best suit your life |

Teachers’ notes: How careers unfold

**Outcome**

Investigate how work patterns develop in unexpected directions.

**Rationale**

Careers often develop in unexpected directions. Work patterns may not evolve as planned and students must learn to take responsibility for coping with unplanned changes.

**Task description**

Suggested level: Years 7 and 8, but also suitable for Years 9 and 10

1. Using the sample survey forms, students discuss in small groups the purposes of survey forms and list several types of forms.

2. The teacher facilitates a whole-class discussion on the purpose of surveys in general.

3. The teacher facilitates a whole-class discussion on the intentions of and procedures for administering the ‘Career survey’, including the reasons for and type of information sought through questions in the survey.

4. Students in Years 9 and 10 could survey community members, but it may be more appropriate for students in Years 7 and 8 to survey family members.

5. The teacher facilitates a whole-class discussion on how to obtain responses to the questionnaire by using interpersonal skills.

6. Students complete the survey in pairs. The teacher clearly points out to students the safety issues involved in undertaking surveys of strangers.

7. On completion of the survey, students in small groups discuss issues arising from the findings, such as:

– Were there many people who did not get the work they expected after they left school?

– How helpful to their careers were the courses undertaken?

– Why did they want to, or not want to, change work? List the reasons.

– Did they tend to stay in the same type of work?

– Did anyone surveyed have any unusual career changes?

– How did they cope, or not cope, with unemployment?

– What affected the decisions they made?

– How have they changed through being at work?

– How has technology affected their careers?

8. Each group determines whether there are any particular patterns emerging and presents findings to the class.

9. The teacher facilitates discussion of issues that the students need to be aware of when planning careers.

**Extension activities**

• Update dictionary of terms in portfolios.

• In pairs, students summarise their survey results and findings. Their summaries may be a letter to a friend giving advice on career direction, a poster in the form of a flow chart on how careers develop or an article for the school magazine.

• Older students could link this activity with their work on ‘The local community scene’.

**Number of students worksheets for this Lesson Plan – 1**

• Career Survey worksheet

**Suggested resources**

• Sample real-life questionnaires and survey forms, e.g. car repair feedback surveys, department store feedback sheets, samples of surveys from polling enterprises, etc.

• Copies of Career survey worksheets

• Relevant resources for the creation of posters, magazine articles and letters

• Job Guide – in print (Section 1) or online at ww[w.jobguide.deewr.gov.au](http://jobguide.deewr.gov.au/)

This activity links to the Exploring step in ww[w.myfuture.edu.au](http://myfuture.edu.au/)

Student Worksheet: How careers unfold

**Career survey**

School: Student:

1. What is your present work?

2. Did you want to do this when you left school? Why?

3. What was your first work? (Was it part-time, full-time, casual, or volunteer work?)

4. Why did you take that work?

5. How many times have you changed work?

6. Why did you change work?

7. Describe the best work you have ever had.

8. Have you taken any courses and, if so, how were they helpful?

9. If you have been unemployed, how did you spend your time?

11. What was the best career decision you ever made? Explain why it was the best.

12. Are there any career decisions that you regret making?

13. How have technological changes affected you?

14. How has being at work changed you?

15. What advice would you give to yourself if you were our age?

Thank you for helping us with our survey.