



Teachers' notes

Year level

Year 6, 7, 8

VELS

Level 4 & 5



Time Two hours

Purpose

Explore people's motivation to work and the effects on society



Rationale

People have different motivations to work, that is not always driven by monetary rewards. These activities are designed to explore people's reasons for working and to consider the effects it would have if people chose not to work.



Activities

1. Discuss with students the sort of questions you could ask people who are working to find out the reasons they work e.g. 'Why do you work?', 'Would you still work if you didn't have to?'
2. Students draw up a questionnaire to explore why people work. You should check to ensure that they are not asking questions that are too personal or that people may find uncomfortable to respond to.
3. Students then conduct a survey of people they know who work. This may be people at home or people in the school environment – office staff, teachers, grounds people, cleaners, canteen workers etc.
4. Students then present their findings, in a brief written or oral report, which could include powerpoint or poster presentations. This could also be done as a small group activity where students interview a range of people.
5. Students investigate one occupation from the *What careers can offer* sheet. They give it a rating out of 10 in terms of the series of criteria - Interest, Job satisfaction, Money, Hours of work, Prestige, Legal Responsibility.
6. Students then combine with other students who have chosen the same career and compare their results. They discuss any differences and come to a consensus score for that occupation. This activity should raise issues that judgements of these criteria will vary depending on personal perspectives.
7. Each group then presents the career they have studied and their rating – the ratings are compiled to give a "most desirable career" using the table.
8. Explore the questions 'What would happen if no one worked?' and 'What would happen if certain groups of workers stopped working?' This should encourage students to think about the extent to which many jobs are dependent on other jobs, and how much our standard of living depends on people being at work.



Why work?

Further activities

- Older students could discuss issues for those people who do not have paid work and the effects this can have on themselves and their families.



Resources

- Copies of the *What careers can offer* sheet (one page) for each student
- *Youth Central* <http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/>
- The facts section of the *myfuture* website at <http://www.myfuture.edu.au>
- *Job Guide* – in print or online at <http://jobguide.dest.gov.au/>

Victorian Essential Learnings (VELS)

Level 4 and 5

Strand	Domain	Dimension
Physical, Personal and Social Learning	Personal Learning	The individual learner Managing personal learning
	Civics and Citizenship	Civic knowledge and understanding Community engagement
Discipline-based Learning	The Humanities – Economics	Economic knowledge and understanding
Interdisciplinary Learning	Communication	Presenting
	Information and Communications Technology	ICT for communicating
	Thinking Processes	Reasoning, processing and inquiry Reflection, evaluation and metacognition