

YOUR CAREER: PARAMEDIC



Read the interview, then answer the questions.

Interviewer: Hello Sam, thanks for doing this interview!

Sam: No problem!

Interviewer: So, what do you do?

Sam: I am a paramedic. That means I work in an emergency department. If someone is suddenly ill or has an accident, I and my team come out in the ambulance to help them - and maybe take them to hospital for more help.

Interviewer: Wow, that sounds like a difficult job!

Sam: Well, it can be because it can be stressful sometimes - but I really like how fast-paced it is!

Interviewer: Interesting! So what kind of person do you think you have to be to do this job?

Sam: Good question! First, you have to be caring and know how to talk to people who are feeling afraid. It's good to be humorous, but you have to be very organised. The emergency is fast, but you cannot rush. You have to solve problems carefully, so you have to be methodical and patient. You need to know a lot of medical information because you have to be able to make difficult decisions quickly.

Interviewer: Right, and how do you learn about medicine?

Sam: You can study to be a paramedic in three different ways. You can do a foundation degree, a diploma of higher education, or a university degree in paramedic science.

I am currently studying and working as a student paramedic. I have five GCSEs with pass grades (Maths, English Language, Science, Psychology and Physical Education), one Level 3 NVQ in Health and Social care, and a minibus driving licence. I have good grades, so I do not need a university degree.

First, I am doing a 1-year training course with the ambulance service, and then I'm a Newly Qualified Paramedic - I will pass my programme after 2 years of training while working. I'm so excited!

Interviewer: Yes - congratulations on finding your dream job so quickly!

Sam: It is amazing what you can do with GCSEs and college qualifications!

Interviewer: Thanks for your time, Sam!

Sam: Thank you - bye!

True or False?

1. Sam is a doctor.
2. He likes that his work is fast.
3. Sam thinks paramedics need to be patient.
4. He says he needs to understand medicine.
5. There are four ways to become a paramedic.
6. Sam has five GCSEs.
7. He has two NVQs.
8. He has a motorbike driving licence.
9. Sam is a student in his job.
10. He is not happy at work.

Choose the correct answer:

11. When will Sam pass his programme?
 - a. When he finishes his GCSEs.
 - b. After 2 years' working as a Newly Qualified Paramedic.
 - c. After his college qualification.
12. What do paramedics need?
 - a. To be excited about work
 - b. To be creative
 - c. To know about medicine
13. Why does Sam not need a university degree?
 - a. He has good grades
 - b. University is not useful
 - c. He is always on time to work

Answer the questions with the correct spelling:

14. What subjects did Sam learn at GCSE?

15. What kind of driving licence does Sam have?

16. Who is Sam working with on his 1-year training course?

Vocabulary - click all the words about:

17. HEALTHCARE

paramedic interviewer GCSE medicine training ambulance
university hospital student emergency department diploma

18. EDUCATION

interviewer GCSE diploma paramedic qualification suddenly grades
NVQ hospital organised foundation degree university ambulance

19. QUALITIES/SKILLS FOR WORK

organised dream job solve problems emergency humorous methodical
NVQ university medicine training patient make difficult decisions

Click on ALL the words that make the present continuous:

20. First, I am doing a 1-year training course with the ambulance service.