

CHOOSING A CAREER

A. Let me tell you a secret. Some people hate their jobs. Unfortunately, they not only hate their jobs, they hate their career and the fact that this is all happening to them before the age of 30. Once you have your academic results in your hand and think about what university you will attend, you will make a life-changing decision that will stay with you forever. (1) _____. Do you want to pay so much and work so hard to achieve something that may not ultimately deliver your perfect career?

B. Here is an example. At 18 years old, John's ambitions were of writing for the national newspapers, maybe becoming an editor one day. He got the grades to study journalism, he graduated reasonably well, but failed to even get an interview for the top jobs. He ended up as an editorial assistant at his local newspaper. (2) _____. He had no idea of the reality, he just followed the dream in his head.

C. The 'gap year' market is growing fast among the 25-to-35-year-olds, that is people who are changing career and usually take a travel gap year in between. (3) _____. If they had taken the time to see the job in action in the workplace, they might have taken a bit more time to choose a career that suited them. Looking back, many consider the idea of work experience during a gap year as an option that would have helped their decision-making process.

D. Taking a gap year to test an industry has few downsides and is becoming very popular. Getting a degree alone won't guarantee you a job. Vocational courses are different (a degree in medicine is still essential, I hope, for doctors), but many employers won't even look at that part of your CV. (4) _____. It's the other stuff that makes you stand out.

E. So the conclusion is this: if you are not 100 per cent sure that your degree will lead you to a job that makes you jump out of bed with enthusiasm every morning, then stop for a minute. (5) _____. If you're unsure, taking a gap year to test jobs and work out what you want to do in your life should be the priority. If this is what you're thinking about, remember that it is not a wasted year. You need to stay focused, get as much work experience as possible and then use what you have learned to find a place at university next year.

COMPLETE THE TEXT BY PUTTING THE SENTENCES (A-E) IN THE CORRECT PLACE (1-5).

- a.** The first day he had ever seen a room full of journalists was his first day at work
- b.** Everyone has a degree these days
- c.** Remember that there is another option
- d.** This decision could cost you over 10,000 pounds and will consume years of your life
- e.** Our research has shown that the vast majority think they made the wrong decision at 18

FOR QUESTIONS 6-10 CHOOSE THE PARAGRAPH FROM THE TEXT (A-E). CHOOSE EACH PARAGRAPH ONLY ONCE.

Which paragraph mentions ...

- 6.** that some people regret not taking a gap year?
- 7.** that taking a gap year has more advantages than disadvantages?
- 8.** how people feel when they work in something they like?
- 9.** how important it is to choose a degree?
- 10.** what may happen if you don't know the reality of the profession you choose?

CHOOSE THE MOST APPROPRIATE TITLE FOR EACH PARAGRAPH.

- 11.** What's a degree worth?
- 12.** Invest a year, get a satisfying job
- 13.** Happily ever after?
- 14.** An unfortunate case
- 15.** If I could go back ...