Reading

Task 1

Read the article. For questions 1–10, choose from the leaders (A–D). Some may be chosen more than once.

Which person/people:

1 needs to be keenly aware of their own behaviour? .....
2 uses an example to explain what they do as a leader? .....
3 believes that their work is beneficial for the next generation? .....
4 mentions the importance of being aware of the impression we leave behind? .....
5 finds the position has enhanced their view of a certain institution? .....
6 underestimated the requirements of their role? .....
7 appreciates the value of gained experience? .....
8 has a desire to set an inspiring example for others to follow? .....
9 helps accelerate a person's adaptation to a new position? .....
10 finds their role challenging but very rewarding at the same time? .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Careers in the spotlight

A. I lead the Young Scientists Centre at our university. It is a purpose-built facility which gives young people, aged 7–18, greater access to science, technology, engineering and maths outside of school. We provide hands-on workshops and interactive activities to inspire young people to study core subjects. It's a very demanding job as I am in charge of everything, from staff recruitment to events and festivals. Just last year we had more than 1500 people visiting the centre. Every year I am also involved in organising a science festival which is a free three-day event that attracts over 10,000 visitors. I work with a small team of creative educators who develop and deliver workshops covering four core subjects. Being passionate and enthusiastic is crucial as we work with young people and are aiming to enthuse and excite them about certain subjects. It is not an easy job but what I am getting out if it is major and I can't quantify it. Every single child that chooses to study one of these subjects represents a mark of success.

B. When I was doing my Master's degree, I started looking for a part time job at the university to be able to gain work experience. As an international student I valued any experience I could obtain during my studies, but I never expected to be managing a team of university ambassadors. But after being a student ambassador for one year I thought it was fitting to apply for a more senior role. I work with a highly motivated team to deliver events and activities. It has been a great opportunity for me to appreciate what the university does for the students and also develop a range of competencies such as public speaking, leadership, organisational and communications skills. The flexibility of the role allowed me to fit it around my studies. It was draining at times, but well worth it. I would like to teach when I finish my studies and I understand that a successful teaching career hinges on the ability to communicate and be organised; two of the many skills I was able to improve through this role.

C. I lead team development and culture for our company's marketing team. I also have the role of a mentor for new employees. When people ask me what it means, I usually say 'a lot of different things', but it boils down to being available when someone needs my support and advice. I help new recruits to settle in to their new job. When I accepted the role, I didn't realise how much practice and patience it required. As a mentor I try to eliminate any stumbling blocks that new employees may encounter. This requires listening to them very carefully and helping them feel comfortable so that they can freely ask any questions they may have in order for them to perform their jobs effectively. Having worked as a mentor for one year now, I have learned a lot about myself too: how effectively I can explain ideas in a way others can understand; how well I am able to control my emotions; whether I'm able to provide a vision that motivates others, and so on.

D. People might assume that being a role model is about working for years until you have proven you are good enough to be one and even then you have to wait until the role is given to you. As a matter of fact, anyone can be a role model at any time in their life. Do we need to wait for someone to tell us that we can be inspired by others and can inspire other people? Not really, it has to be earned. In my work as a networking manager, I have decided to be an influencer. I have consciously chosen to be a role model so I am constantly looking for people who can help me reach my potential so I can give back to those who are watching and learning from me. I try to show the way to my team with my actions. It's vital not to underestimate the impact of our words, actions and attitudes on others, as that's how we set standards for ourselves and others.

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