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Traits of a Software Engineer

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What qualities are important when working closely with other people?
- 2 How do engineers benefit from being both logical and creative?

Reading

2 Read the webpage. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the webpage?
 - A descriptions of people who work at an engineering firm
 - B the types of projects that an engineering firm handles
 - C clients' experiences with an engineering firm
 - D job opportunities at an engineering firm
- 2 Which of the following is NOT true of the engineering firm?
 - A It attracts talented engineers.
 - B It won awards for its creative projects.
 - C It was started by two engineers.
 - D It is a profitable company.
- 3 According to the webpage, how are the two owners similar?
 - A They are passionate about their jobs.
 - B They can focus for long periods.
 - C They have highly creative minds.
 - D They are naturally curious people.

MeshSoft Software Engineering & Development > About Us > Meet the Staff

Fiona Adler, Co-owner/Founder: Fiona started MeshSoft six years ago. Her **dedicated** attitude and **commitment** to success built a highly profitable business. As a naturally **curious** person, she enjoys exploring new ideas. MeshSoft earned several awards last year for Fiona's **innovative** programs and systems. Nobody thinks **outside the box** like Fiona!

Fiona is everyone's favorite boss. She's a **team player** who encourages employees to share ideas. Bright, talented engineers love working at MeshSoft.

Maxine Spencer, Co-owner: Maxine purchased part of the business last year. Fiona's creativity is balanced by Maxine's technical **expertise**. Maxine has a remarkably **logical** mind. She enjoys **critical thinking**, and she's good at it, too. If Fiona can imagine something, Maxine can usually make it happen. They make a great team.

Maxine has the **ability** to **focus** intently for long periods. Her **goal-oriented** attitude keeps MeshSoft moving forward. Like Fiona, Maxine has great dedication and passion for her job.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words and phrases (1-8) with the definitions (A-H).

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 __ focus | 5 __ dedicated |
| 2 __ ability | 6 __ team player |
| 3 __ logical | 7 __ outside the box |
| 4 __ curious | 8 __ critical thinking |

- A the skill to do something
- B wanting to know more about something
- C related to unusual or creative ideas
- D the skill of drawing conclusions based on facts
- E enthusiastic about a task or cause
- F based on evidence and reason
- G someone who takes actions that benefit a group
- H to watch closely



4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word or phrase best fits each blank.

1 goal-oriented / innovative

- A** A(n) _____ engineer is always thinking about the final product.
B A(n) _____ engineer is always coming up with new ideas.

2 commitment / expertise

- A** The intern had no experience, but the firm was impressed with her level of _____.
B The engineer went back to school to gain more advanced _____ in his field.

5 Listen and read the webpage again. What are some ways to describe someone who thinks of unusual ideas?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between an engineering firm owner and a manager. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ The first applicant has experience at multiple engineering firms.
2 ___ The second applicant recently completed an engineering degree program.
3 ___ The man once worked on a project with the second applicant.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

- Owner:** So she has strong 1 _____. Who else is there?
Manager: I like Henry Pacheco, too. But he's 2 _____.
Owner: That might be okay. What's his experience like?
Manager: He 3 _____ the X-99 traffic analysis software.
Owner: Really? That was a fascinating project. Those engineers really had to 4 _____.
Manager: Yeah, that's what I thought. Should I set up an 5 _____?
Owner: Definitely. Experience is nice. But I'd rather go with a 6 _____.
Manager: Okay, I'll call Henry right away.