



Be Ready

Important career questions to ask yourself



Why do you work? List all of the reasons you work or have a career or job – for example to have a fulfilling career, to pay the rent/mortgage, following a family legacy, because I've always done it, to earn some extra money etc

When you started your working what was your dream job? How, if at all has that changed?

What are you really good at? – interpersonal, knowledge, skills

What do you really enjoy doing? (again, and again)

What are you most proud of in your career to date?

What do you really want to avoid in your job/career?

What would people who know you well say you're good at?

What time and energy have you put in so far to developing yourself?

What are the non-negotiables to have in your career at this stage? For example – mastery, money, satisfaction, a career path, values, people, location, type of work, autonomy, purpose

Who/what influences your career choice? For example - family, money, peers, you, other?

What influence do they have over your choice?

What is your perfect job? Write down your ideal job with all the reasons it's ideal for you

What makes you happy at work?

What are you most proud to have achieved in relation to your job/career so far? Why are you proud?

Describe anything you would like to change about where you are now in your career. What would you like to replace it with? How can you achieve that?

If you were to ask three important people from your career, how would they describe you?

What are you motivated by in relation to work – ambition, power, fear of failure, money, relationships, loyalty etc?

How relevant are you to the market – have you kept yourself in line with what the market is looking for, up to date with your knowledge and skills?

How good is your network? Can you easily call on a wide range of people to help you out?

How much risk are you prepared to take to find the right job or career? To push beyond your normal boundaries and to think creatively about approaches to your search.

What role does work play in building the life you want?

What energises you at work?

What does a successful career look like for you?

What would you hire you to do?

Thinking about your personal values – how do you ensure these are a key component of your career?

How much effort are you prepared to put into finding the right next step? How much of a priority is it for you and how important is the next step?

What three things do you want a potential employer to hear or read about you from your resume/CV or from other people?

When you look at your career to date. Has it been mostly proactive, or reactive?

Are you in a job, or in a career? Where do you want to be from here?

What's the best career decision you've ever made?



What's the worst career decision you've ever made?

What question haven't you been asked here that you think would be useful to think through?

Who can help you from here?

Summary

Most of us work for a significant part of our lives and having a job or career you enjoy makes a significant difference on all the other parts of your life.

With a move towards portfolio careers (short stints in different roles/companies) very much front and centre today, it's certainly easier to take that control than it was 15 years ago.

Today's Covid-19 climate means that you might need to be more creative, patient, flexible and proactive as the market is more competitive and challenging at the moment than it's been for many years.

Managing your own career takes clarity, lots of perseverance, adaptability and a handful of resilience! A few mistakes or bumps along the way can prove to be extremely valuable in cementing what you really want to do.

Perhaps the most important question is how much effort and energy are you are prepared to put into trying...?