# Holland's theory of career choice



John Holland's theory centres on the notion that most people fit into one of six personality types: realistic, investigative, artistic, social, enterprising and conventional.



### Realistic

#### **Interest area:**

#### Key skills:

You like working mainly with your hands making, fixing, assembling or building things, using and operating equipment, tools or machines. You often like to work outdoors. Using and operating tools, equipment and machinery, designing, building, repairing, maintaining, measuring, working in detail, driving, moving, caring for animals, working with plants

#### Occupations with practical components:

Pilot, farmer, horticulturist, builder, engineer, armed services personnel, mechanic, upholsterer, electrician, computer technologist, park ranger, sportsperson

## Subjects to develop your skills:

English, Maths, Science, Workshop, Technology, Computing, Business Studies, Agriculture, Horticulture, Physical Education

### Investigative

#### Interest area:

You like to discover and research ideas, observe, investigate and experiment, ask questions and solve questions.

#### Key skills:

Thinking analytically and logically, computing, communicating by writing and speaking, designing, formulating, calculating, diagnosing, experimenting, investigating

## Occupations with practical components:

Science, research, medical and health occupations, chemist, marine scientist, forestry technician, medical or agricultural laboratory technician, zoologist, dentist, GP

#### Subjects to develop your skills:

English, Maths, Science, Computing, Technology

### Artistic

#### Interest area:

You like using words, art, music or drama to express yourself, communicate or perform or you like to create or design things.

#### **Key skills:**

Expressing artistically or physically, communicating by speaking, writing and singing, performing, designing, presenting, planning, composing, playing, dancing

### Occupations with practical components:

artist, illustrator, photographer, signwriter , composer, singer, instrument player, dancer, actor, reporter, writer, editor, hairdresser, fashion designer

#### Subjects to develop your skills:

English, Social Studies, Music, Drama, Art, Graphic Design, Computing, Business Studies, Languages

### Social

#### Interest area:

You like working with people to teach, train, inform, help, treat, heal, cure, serve and greet. You are concerned for others' well-being and welfare.

#### Key skills:

Communicating by writing and speaking, caring and supporting, training, meeting, greeting, assisting, teaching, informing, interviewing, coaching

## Occupations with practical components:

Teacher, nurse, counsellor, police officer, social worker, salesperson, customer service officer, waiter, secretary

## Subjects to develop your skills:

English, Social Studies, Maths, Science, Health, Physical Education, Art, Computing, Business Studies, Languages

### Enterprising

#### Interest area:

You like meeting people, leading, talking to and influencing others, encouraging others, working in business.

#### Key skills:

Selling, promoting and persuading, developing ideas, public speaking, managing, organising, leading and captaining, computing, planning

#### Occupations with practical components:

Salesperson, lawyer, politician, accountant, business owner, executive or manager, travel agent, music or sports promoter

#### Subjects to develop your skills:

English, Maths, Business Studies, Accounting, Economics, Social Studies, Drama, Computing, Languages

### Conventional

#### Interest area:

You like working indoors and at tasks that involve organising and being accurate, following procedures, working with data or numbers, planning work and events.

#### **Key skills:**

Computing and keyboarding, recording and keeping records, paying attention to detail, meeting and greeting, doing calculations, handling money, organising, arranging, working independently

## Occupations with practical components:

Secretary, receptionist, office worker, librarian, bank clerk, computer operator, stores and dispatch clerk

## Subjects to develop your skills:

English, Maths, Business Studies, Accounting, Economics, Computing