

Choices Shape Careers

Trace how education, work, and career decisions can affect future options.

SS.8.FL.1.2 “Identify the many decisions people must make over a lifetime about their education, jobs and careers that affect their incomes and job opportunities.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each education or training decision, underline each job or career decision, and number the sentences that explain an effect on income or future job opportunities.

Jordan Plans Ahead

- ① At fourteen, Jordan enjoys repairing bicycles and wonders how that interest could become a career. Jordan learns that education choices can begin now. Taking technology, math, and communication classes can build useful skills. Joining a repair club or asking to observe a mechanic can reveal what the work is like. These choices do not lock Jordan into one job, but they can prepare Jordan for later training and help employers see relevant experience during an interview.
- ② After high school, Jordan might choose a paid apprenticeship, a certificate program, community college, or another route that fits a career goal. An apprenticeship may provide wages while a person learns, while some programs require tuition and time without full-time pay. Completing a credential can qualify a worker for jobs that require it. However, income depends on factors such as skills, experience, location, hours, and the kinds of jobs available. No single education choice guarantees a certain salary.
- ③ Career decisions continue after a person is hired. Jordan may compare job offers by looking at hourly pay, health insurance, schedules, chances to learn new skills, and opportunities for promotion. Later, new technology or changes in local hiring may lead Jordan to update skills, earn another credential, change employers, or move into a related occupation. A decision that raises income now, such as working more hours, may leave less time for training. People often weigh present needs against future job opportunities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two choices Jordan can make now that may prepare Jordan for later training or a career?

2 How could a paid apprenticeship affect Jordan's income differently from a program that requires tuition and time without full-time pay?

3 Why could completing a credential increase Jordan's job opportunities?

4 If Jordan works more hours to raise income now, what future opportunity could become harder, and why?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one career you might explore. Complete the table with three decisions you could make at different times and explain how each decision could affect income or future job opportunities.

DECISION	POSSIBLE EFFECT ON INCOME NOW	POSSIBLE EFFECT ON FUTURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each education or training decision, underline each job or career decision, and number the sentences that explain an effect on income or future job opportunities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two choices Jordan can make now that may prepare Jordan for later training or a career?	Jordan can take technology, math, and communication classes, join a repair club, or ask to observe a mechanic. Any two are correct.
2	How could a paid apprenticeship affect Jordan's income differently from a program that requires tuition and time without full-time pay?	A paid apprenticeship may provide wages while Jordan learns. A program requiring tuition and time without full-time pay may cost money and reduce income during training.
3	Why could completing a credential increase Jordan's job opportunities?	A credential can qualify Jordan for jobs that require that credential.
4	If Jordan works more hours to raise income now, what future opportunity could become harder, and why?	Training could become harder because working more hours may leave less time for it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

DECISION	POSSIBLE EFFECT ON INCOME NOW	POSSIBLE EFFECT ON FUTURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES
Take a health science course in high school	It may not change income now	It can prepare me for health-care training
Complete a medical assistant certificate	Tuition may cost money while I train	It can qualify me to apply for medical assistant jobs
Learn new office software after being hired	Training may take unpaid personal time	It can help me qualify for more duties or a promotion