

Paycheck Pathways

Prepare for work, compare benefits, and manage income taxes.

SS.8.FL.1 "Examine the various methods of preparation, possible benefits and tax responsibilities related to earning income."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action Maya takes to prepare before applying. Circle the four possible job benefits besides wages, then number the four tax-related actions Maya takes in paragraph 3 from 1 to 4 in the order she takes them.

Maya Plans for a First Job

- ① Before applying for a job, Maya makes a plan. She lists skills from school, volunteering, and hobbies, then compares them with qualifications in local job postings. For one opening, she creates a clear résumé that names her skills and experience. She asks two adults for permission to list them as references. Maya also checks the application deadline and gathers needed information, such as dates of activities and contact details. These steps help her submit an accurate application for work she can do.
- ② A job's pay is important, but wages are not the only possible benefit. Some employers offer paid sick leave or paid vacation, so workers can receive pay during approved time away. Health insurance can help cover some medical costs. A retirement plan can help a worker save money for later years, and an employer may add money to the account. Benefits vary by job, so Maya compares the total package, including pay, schedule, and benefits, before accepting an offer.
- ③ After Maya is hired, she completes Form W-4 for her employer. The form helps the employer determine how much federal income tax to withhold from each paycheck. Maya checks her pay stub to see her earnings and amounts withheld. At the end of the year, her employer sends her a Form W-2 that reports her wages and withholding. Maya keeps the W-2 and other records, then uses them to file a tax return if she is required to file one. A return may show that she owes tax or should receive a refund.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two actions Maya takes before applying that help her prepare for a job.

2 Why does Maya compare the total job package before accepting an offer? Name the three parts of the package listed in the passage.

3 What form does Maya complete after she is hired, and what does the form help her employer determine?

4 What records does Maya use to file a tax return if required, and what are two possible results of the return?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you are considering a weekend job. Write exactly three sentences: describe one action you would take before applying, one benefit besides wages you would compare, and one tax-related action you would take after being hired. Explain why each action matters.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action Maya takes to prepare before applying. Circle the four possible job benefits besides wages, then number the four tax-related actions Maya takes in paragraph 3 from 1 to 4 in the order she takes them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two actions Maya takes before applying that help her prepare for a job.	Any two: lists her skills, compares skills with job qualifications, creates a résumé, asks adults to be references, checks the deadline, or gathers needed information.
2	Why does Maya compare the total job package before accepting an offer? Name the three parts of the package listed in the passage.	Benefits vary by job, so she compares the full offer. The passage lists pay, schedule, and benefits.
3	What form does Maya complete after she is hired, and what does the form help her employer determine?	She completes Form W-4. It helps her employer determine how much federal income tax to withhold from each paycheck.
4	What records does Maya use to file a tax return if required, and what are two possible results of the return?	She uses her W-2 and other records. The return may show that she owes tax or should receive a refund.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before applying for a weekend library job, I would compare my volunteer skills with the job qualifications so my application is accurate. I would compare paid sick leave because it could provide pay if I am absent for an approved illness. After I am hired, I would check my pay stub so I can see my earnings and the taxes withheld.

For Question 1, accept any two preparation actions stated in the first paragraph. For the open response, accept different reasonable examples if all three required areas are present, each includes a sensible explanation, and the response has exactly three sentences.