

21 – Professional Ambitions

Useful Vocabulary

career	office / desk job	I'm the type of person that ...
occupation	stuck behind a desk	have a good work ethic
profession	dead-end job	take initiative
field	nine-to-five job	take risks
ideal job	high-powered job	productive
career choice	self-employed	(good) team player
I'm dreaming / thinking of	be my own boss	team work
becoming a / an ...	run a business	individual contributor
My goal is to be a / an ...	make sacrifices	contribute
establish / build a career	salary / pay / wages	contribution
position	income	specialize in
professional	bonuses	workplace
employee	commissions	place of employment
specialist	minimum wage	temporary job
manager	living wage	permanent job
executive	steady income	part-time
director	earn a (good) living	full-time
CEO	well-paid	shift work
freelance(r)	lucrative job	work shifts
entrepreneur	working conditions	night shift
climb the career ladder	benefits	qualifications
work with my hands	perks	(undergo) training
blue-collar job	flexible hours / schedule	(pleasant) work environment
white-collar job	long hours	(a short / long) commute
manual work / labor	overtime	get / land a job
physical work / labor	heavy workload	get a promotion
hard / challenging /	high-pressure job	get promoted
complicated / intensive /	stress(ful)	(many / few) job openings
physical / delicate work	vacation days	jobs are scarce
fascinating / creative /	take time off	high rate of unemployment
intellectual work	work-life balance	opportunities
routine / undemanding /	job satisfaction	retire (early)
repetitive / menial work	priorities	early retirement
skilled profession	stable job	
giving profession		



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Practice Questions

1. Do you have any professional ambitions at the moment? If so, what are they? If not, why not?
2. What are your short-term career goals?
3. What are your long-term professional ambitions?
4. How do you see yourself professionally ten years from now?
5. What is your biggest professional goal in life?
6. What do you envision as a successful career for yourself? Explain.
7. Are there many opportunities available in your chosen field? Explain.
8. What have you done in life so far to try to realize your professional ambitions? Explain.
9. Which obstacles lie in the path to realizing your professional ambitions? Explain.
10. How hard or easy do you think it will be for you to reach your professional goals? Why?
11. What are the disadvantages of your chosen profession / career? Explain.
12. If you could choose any career / profession, which field would you choose to work in?
13. Describe your dream job. (Where would you be working? What would you be doing? etc.)
14. Who has influenced your professional ambitions? Explain.
15. What do you consider more important: a work-life balance or professional ambitions? Explain.
16. What factors do you think are important to take into account when making career choices?
17. How important a factor is money in determining your professional ambitions? Explain.
18. How is learning English important for your professional ambitions?
19. Should a person's professional ambitions be based on his or her parents' careers? Why or why not?
20. What advice have you gotten from your parents about your professional ambitions? Have you paid attention to their advice? Why or why not?
21. Do you consider yourself an ambitious person or would you be happy with a routine, steady job? Explain.



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