

S3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. Read the passage below carefully and answer the task that follows.

Choosing a career definitely involves many aspects. It might take one a lot of time to think about what he would like to be. It is better for one to ask questions, do a little research and read newspapers in order to have adequate knowledge about the best career.

There are many things one should follow before choosing a career. If one does not want to commit more than 30 minutes to work each day, you would not want to be a flight attendant or a marine biologist. Find out about what businesses are thriving locally and what kind of jobs would be plentiful where you plan to live. So, think about where you live or where you want to live as you choose a career.

If you are interested in how things work, you probably should major in something like electronics. But if you like balancing your cheque book or setting up a family budget, the career like business management might be perfect for you. It is therefore important to choose a career that fits who you are. In other words, think about your personality and what you like or you do not like.

Sometimes people choose careers glamorized on television and find out later after years of study and expense, that real jobs are a lot different. Talk with people who in jobs related to the career you are considering. Try therefore to get first-hand knowledge before choosing a career. How fast do you need to get a job or change careers? You may have all the time in the world and plenty of support from others but if you like us, time and money are critical. Maybe you only have enough time to attend school for a year. If, so, consider choosing a career where you can earn a certificate or diploma. The skills you would gain would enable you to get a job. Anyone should figure out how much time and money he can devote to his education, just do what is right for you based on your resources and motivation.

Choosing a career definitely involves deciding how much money you need in order to have the life you want. If you want to build a mansion, for example, you will need a career that pays a lot. But remember, making a lot money is not everything but the bottom line is, make sure you know the earning potential for the career you choose and be sure the salary and the job are what you can live with.

While you may want to be a company president one day, you may want to advance beyond entry level. So, try to think about future opportunities, the career can offer. You know where life may lead, but it is always wise to find out where a career path may take you. For example, you may find out what graduates are doing several years after finishing the program.

Most careers have certain conditions that are associated with work. Like most farmers work outdoors, most

teachers take work home every night during the school year, and most hair dressers stand on their feet all day. You need to find out what conditions (stress levels, work hours and travel, physical environment, levels of responsibility) are, that will be associated with the type of work you will be doing. Try to understand the demand and expectations of your career choice. Can you handle not only the work but also conditions that you will probably face?

When all is said and done, make sure you choose a career based on you. Make choices that reflect your personality, your abilities, motivation and your desired lifestyle.

Be realistic, honest and do what is right for you. And whatever choices you make, think through the next steps. It may seem like a long journey. Remember to note “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” So never fear to make a choice!

Task:

Most students often find it difficult to choose a career. You have been invited to speak to them during a Careers talk. Write what you will speak to them about what one should consider in choosing a career as shown in the text. Use about 130 words.

The rough copy

The fair copy

2. Read the text below.

Recently, I visited my sister who lives in Jinja. I arrived at about 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon. After asking around I was directed to her house. I knocked on the door for quite some time but no one answered. However, I could hear some music playing inside the house. I got frustrated, and being very tired, I decided to sit on the beautiful lawn that made up the large compound. I must have dosed off because the next thing I heard was my sister's voice waking me up. 'Mukisa, how can you travel all the way from Kagulu to come and sleep on the lawn? Let's go inside,' she said as she led me into the house. I was surprised when we got inside the house only to find four children glued to the TV.

My greetings were answered with sullen grunts. Only one or two looked up briefly to see who the stranger was. My sister excitedly introduced me to the children as their uncle. They shouted and screamed, but I was scandalised to realise that I was not the cause of their excitement. Their pop star had just taken the stage in the music program they were watching, causing all the excitement. This infuriated me.

For the next three days I witnessed the children wake up early in the morning and watch TV till late into the night. I observed that during prayers for meals, all the children did was to mute the sound on the TV and then pretend to be praying while they continued to watch the TV. I heard very little conversation either among themselves or their mother. These children had become 'TV zombies'. On the last evening of my visit I decided to intervene. After supper I demanded that they switch off the TV. This was met with disbelief and open hostility. Nobody made any effort to switch off the TV, but I was not going to relent. So I took the remote control unit and switched off the TV. 'What is wrong with watching TV?' the eldest girl protested, looking at me with murderous eyes.

'The Television itself is not the problem,' I said firmly, 'but the way one uses it'. At least I now had their attention. The house was deadly silent. This was the first time in three days that the children were talking with me, albeit in a hostile environment. I explained to them that television was a positive tool only to a certain extent. First, it is certainly a good source of education.

There are many well researched documentary programmes which viewers can benefit from. Second, TV is a good source of entertainment. There are numerous sports and drama programmes which are quite entertaining. On the other hand, TV can be a negative force. When you sit for hours on end watching every programme without discrimination, thus this is very dangerous.

Some of the programmes may not be appropriate and may corrupt your morals. You also run the risk of becoming a zombie. 'Since I came here three days ago none of you has had time to talk with me, yet I am your only maternal uncle' I reasoned with now attentive children. 'I am leaving tomorrow morning but none of you even knows my name!' I continued. 'I am sorry, uncle,' the youngest child pleaded. 'I am not against your watching TV, but you need to plan your time properly so that you don't end up watching TV the whole day. You must select the programmes you are going to watch carefully; otherwise you'll end up watching all the programmes, including those meant for adults only!' I concluded. 3 As I went to sleep that evening, all the children followed suit. The next morning, as my sister and her four children escorted me to the bus station, I told her that she needed to create time to discuss with the children what they watched on TV.

Respond to each of the following tasks below.

a) 'The television itself is not the problem,' I said firmly, 'but the way one uses it'. Rewrite without using quotation marks.

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b) In life, we understand people's character by what they say, do or what others say about them. Describe the character of the following;

i) the children

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.....

ii) their uncle

a) Advice is one of those complicated things because people always never want to listen to it. What advice would you give regarding the appropriate use of the television?

b) Learning never stops. What are some of the moral lessons you learn after reading the passage?

c) Describe what will happen if the trend in the passage does not change.

SECTION B

3. You recently purchased a faulty electronic device from a local shop in your area. Complain to the shopkeeper, detailing your issues with the product. (Use 250 – 300 words.)

4. You are the chairperson of the Debate Club at your school. Your neighbouring school has always requested you to organise a friendly debate and you are finally organising one. Write to the Patron of the Debate Club of the neighbouring school. (Use 250 – 300 words.)

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