



Future Plans and Ambitions

Note-taking: career interview days | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. What questions would you ask someone about their job?
2. How can interviews help students plan future careers?
3. Should schools invite local employers to speak to students?
4. What makes career advice realistic?

Exercise 3 at a glance

In this activity, you will read one factual text and complete notes using information from the text. In the exam, this task is usually worth 7 marks. This practice version includes extra notes to help you build confidence. Use short words or phrases from the text, not your own ideas.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. How can career interview days help students?

Career Interview Days

Career interview days give students the chance to speak with adults from different workplaces. Instead of listening to one long speech, students move between short interviews with visitors such as nurses, engineers, designers, hotel managers and local business owners. The aim is to help students understand real jobs, practise questions and think about future skills. Students often arrive with very general ideas about jobs. They may know that a nurse helps patients or that an engineer solves technical problems, but they may not understand shift work, teamwork or the training needed.

Preparation begins before the event. Students research each visitor's job, write questions and decide what they want to find out. Teachers encourage them to ask about daily routines, training routes and challenges, not only salary. This helps students build a more realistic picture of work. It also prevents every group from asking the same general question. Teachers usually prepare students to listen actively. This means taking short notes, asking follow-up questions and noticing when a visitor says something unexpected. Students are reminded not to ask only about money or holidays.

During the interviews, students practise speaking politely and taking brief notes. They may ask how the visitor chose their career, what skills they use most and what advice they would give to a teenager. Visitors are encouraged to mention setbacks as well as success. This can help students see that career paths are not always straight or predictable. Visitors benefit too, because they can explain skills that are sometimes invisible. A hotel manager may discuss organisation and patience, while a designer may explain how often ideas are changed after feedback from clients.

After the event, students compare what they learned. Some write a reflection about one job that surprised them, while others update a personal skills plan. Schools may also use the day to connect students with work experience placements or volunteering opportunities. Organisers say the best career events do not force students to choose one path immediately. They give students better questions to ask as they plan the future. The best interview days include reflection afterwards. Students compare surprising details, identify skills they already have and choose one area to improve. This makes the event more than a careers fair; it becomes part of planning for the future.

3. Strategy focus

Look for practical outcomes

Career texts often mention activities and what students learn from them. Copy the practical outcome that fits the note heading.

4. Practice note-taking task

Complete the notes using information from the text. Use short words or phrases from the text. Do not add your own ideas.

Notes	Write short answers
Visitors students may interview	- - -
Preparation before the event	- - -
Questions students may ask	- - -
Follow-up after the event	- - -

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases from the text. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Which visitor would be most useful for students at your school?
2. Strategy: Choose three answers and check whether each note is an activity, question or outcome.
3. Writing: Write five questions for a career interview day.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to careers, skills and future plans.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: they help students understand real jobs, practise questions and think about future skills.

4. Practice note-taking task

Visitors students may interview

- nurses
- engineers
- hotel managers

Preparation before the event

- research each visitor's job
- write questions
- decide what they want to find out

Questions students may ask

- how the visitor chose their career
- what skills they use most
- what advice they would give

Follow-up after the event

- write a reflection
- update a personal skills plan
- work experience placements

Notes for checking

This is an extended practice version of the IGCSE ESL note-taking task. The live exam normally has fewer marks, but this version includes extra notes to build confidence and selection skills.

Accept short phrases that keep the same meaning.

Learners should avoid copying a whole sentence if a shorter note answers the heading.

Some answers need more than one or two words, especially when the key detail is a phrase.