



Work and Careers

Multiple choice: career experience | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. What kind of person would make a good paramedic?
2. Would you enjoy a job where every day is different?
3. Why is teamwork important in emergency services?
4. Can work experience change someone's career plans?

Exercise 4 at a glance

Read one longer text and answer six multiple-choice questions. Choose A, B or C. The correct answer may depend on attitude, purpose or a detail across a whole paragraph, not just one matching word.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the article. What did Ben learn from the work-shadowing day?

A day with a paramedic

by Ben Okafor

I asked to shadow a paramedic because I thought the job would be exciting. Television programmes make emergency work look fast, noisy and dramatic, and I imagined spending the day rushing through traffic with flashing lights. The paramedic I followed, Carla, warned me that real shifts included long waits, careful paperwork and many situations that were serious without looking dramatic. I nodded, but I did not fully believe her until the first call came through.

The call was to an elderly man who had fallen at home. I expected panic, but Carla entered the flat calmly and spoke to him before touching any equipment. She asked simple questions, checked whether he was confused and made sure his daughter understood what was happening. The medical checks mattered, but I noticed that communication changed the room first. The daughter stopped crying once Carla explained each step and gave her a practical job: finding the man's medication list.

Later, there was a more urgent call involving a cyclist with a head injury. This was closer to what I had imagined, but even then the team did not behave like actors in an action scene. They moved quickly, but nobody shouted unless they needed to be heard over traffic. Carla said speed is useful only when it is controlled. If people rush without thinking, they can miss a danger, block a colleague or frighten the patient more.

The part I had not expected was the decision-making after each call. Carla had to judge whether a patient needed hospital, whether another service could help or whether advice at home was enough. She explained that taking everyone to hospital might sound safe, but it can create long waits and use resources badly. That surprised me. I had assumed the job was mainly about treatment, but it also involved choosing the most responsible next step.

By the end of the day, I was still interested in healthcare, but for different reasons. The job was not less impressive because it involved paperwork, waiting and difficult conversations. It was more impressive because those ordinary parts helped the emergency care work properly. I went in looking for excitement. I left admiring the ability to stay calm, listen carefully and make decisions when other people feel frightened.

3. Strategy focus

Read for purpose

When a question asks why the writer mentions something, decide what that example shows about the job or the writer's changing view.

4. Exam-style multiple-choice questions

For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

Question 1

Why did Ben want to shadow a paramedic?

- A He had already decided to train as a paramedic.
- B He expected the job to be exciting and dramatic.
- C He wanted to avoid doing paperwork at school.

Question 2

What impressed Ben during the first call?

- A Communication helped calm the situation.
- B The paramedic used complicated equipment immediately.
- C The daughter solved the medical problem herself.

Question 3

What did Carla mean about speed?

- A It is more important than teamwork.
- B It should be avoided during urgent calls.
- C It must be controlled to be useful.

Question 4

What surprised Ben about decisions after calls?

- A Paramedics decide without asking questions.
- B Hospitals are rarely used by emergency teams.
- C Not every patient should automatically go to hospital.

Question 5

How did Ben's view of the job change?

- A He admired the ordinary parts that supported emergency care.
- B He decided healthcare was too slow for him.
- C He thought paperwork was more important than patients.

Question 6

What quality does Ben most admire by the end?

- A the ability to drive quickly
- B calm judgement in frightening situations
- C a dislike of routine tasks

5. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: What career looks different on television from real life?
2. Strategy: For one difficult question, decide whether the wrong option is too dramatic, too general or not supported.
3. Writing: Write a short reflection about a job that requires calm decisions.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to work, healthcare and responsibility.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: He learned that paramedic work depends on calm communication and judgement, not only speed or dramatic emergencies.

4. Exam-style multiple-choice questions

1. B; 2. A; 3. C; 4. C; 5. A; 6. B

1. B - He imagined rushing through traffic after seeing television programmes.
2. A - He notices communication changed the room first.
3. C - She says speed is useful only when controlled.
4. C - Carla explains that taking everyone to hospital can use resources badly.
5. A - He says the ordinary parts made the care work properly.
6. B - He admires staying calm, listening and making decisions.