

# UNTANGLE YOUR TIMETABLE

Know what you want to do one day, but no idea which subjects to take to get there? We've broken it down for you. By Helen Ueckermann

**S**electing subjects is one of the most crucial decisions a high-school student has to make. Whatever you choose will impact the rest of your life, as it will determine what you can study, which affects your future career.

The sheer variety of subjects and different learning fields to choose from can be quite overwhelming for a young person, according to Alba Delpoit, editor and publisher of the *Ultimate Career Guide*. 'There are eight fields and each has compulsory subjects preferred by tertiary institutions for admission to certain studies.' Sound confusing? We got her to break it down for you.

## LEARNING FIELD ONE: HUMAN AND SOCIAL STUDIES

### Subjects

Geography, history, religious studies, life orientation

### Possible careers

#### Psychologist

#### Characteristics

Emotional stability, strict ethics, above-average intelligence, sensitivity, compassion, patience, ability to lead and inspire others, maturity

#### Teacher

#### Characteristics

Keen interest in children, humour, patience, compassion, emotional stability, maturity, tolerance, tact, sympathy, good health, stamina, organisation

#### Social worker

#### Characteristics

Desire to serve others, even temper, tolerance, ability to inspire confidence in others, good understanding of human nature, humble nature, ability to communicate effectively

## LEARNING FIELD TWO: LANGUAGES

### Subjects

Choose one language as a medium of instruction and a second out of the 11 official or 13 unofficial languages.

### Possible careers

#### Writer

#### Characteristics

Passion for words, creativity and imagination, a curious and inquisitive nature, self-motivation, ability to work under pressure, excellent command of written and spoken language

#### Public relations officer

#### Characteristics

Persuasive abilities, confidence, extrovert nature, maturity, leadership skills, understanding of human nature, good command of spoken language

#### Translator/Copy editor

#### Characteristics

Careful attention to detail, a willingness to research content and background, excellent command of language, an interest in various fields, born perfectionist

### LEARNING FIELD THREE: ARTS AND CULTURE

#### Subjects

Dance studies, design, dramatic arts, music, visual arts

#### Possible careers

##### Ethnomusicologist

#### Characteristics

Passion for music, research-oriented, ability to analyse and interpret data, interest in different cultures and societies, inquiring mind, imagination, self-motivation, dedication

##### Photographer

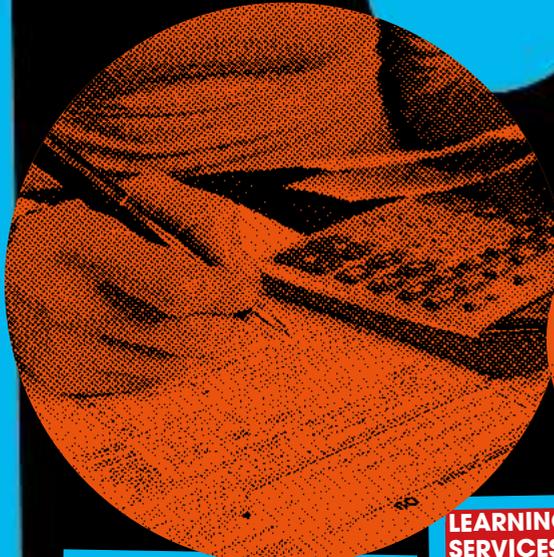
#### Characteristics

Quick reflexes, good hand-eye co-ordination, good eyesight, entrepreneurial skills, strong business skills, interest in design, composition and art

##### Dancer

#### Characteristics

Good health and stamina, discipline, perseverance, sense of rhythm, willingness to be subjected to prolonged, irregular and taxing work schedules, correct physique and temperament



### LEARNING FIELD FOUR: BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

#### Subjects

Accounting, business studies, economics

#### Possible careers

##### Accountant

#### Characteristics

Analytical and logical thinker, computer literacy, integrity, intelligence, high concentration, attention to detail, numerical aptitude, strategic planner

##### Brand manager

#### Characteristics

Research-oriented, ability to conceptualise, good communicator, creative and analytical

##### Personnel consultant

#### Characteristics

Good communication and listening skills, good character judgement, enjoy working with people, strong negotiation skills, excellent people skills, tact, empathy

### LEARNING FIELD FIVE: SERVICES

#### Subjects

Consumer studies, hospitality studies, tourism

#### Possible careers

##### Chef

#### Characteristics

Keen sense of taste and smell, strong sense of personal style, excellent personal hygiene, self-motivation, dedication, creativity and imagination, ability to work with and manage others

##### Beauty therapist

#### Characteristics

Enjoy working with people, good grooming, finger dexterity, beauty and health consciousness, keen eyesight

##### Tour guide

#### Characteristics

Good communication skills, broad general knowledge, organised and meticulous nature, problem-solving skills, ability to manage people, wide range of interests, passion for reading, tact, friendly disposition



## LEARNING FIELD SIX: PHYSICAL, COMPUTER, MATHEMATICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

### Subjects

Physical sciences, maths or maths literacy, computer application technology, life sciences

### Possible careers

#### Radiographer

##### Characteristics

Above-average stamina, emotional stability, desire to stay abreast of tech developments, attention to detail, desire to help people, accurate and thorough work ethic

#### Network technician

##### Characteristics

Physical fitness, problem-solving skills, mechanical ability, perseverance to the point of stubbornness if a problem needs to be addressed, enjoyment of working with your hands

#### Biologist

##### Characteristics

Love of nature, analytical mind, objective thinking, fascination with science, meticulous attention to detail, above-average intelligence, ability to communicate effectively, self-motivation

## LEARNING FIELD SEVEN: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

### Subjects

Agricultural sciences, agricultural management practices, agricultural technology

### Possible careers

#### Farmer

##### Characteristics

Enjoy working outdoors, organisational ability, resourcefulness, self-motivation, innovation, passion for farming, good health and stamina

#### Agricultural inspector

##### Characteristics

Interest in animals and plants, willingness to work in all weather conditions, understanding of how agriculture fits into the local and global economy, pride in quality work, self-motivation and dedication

#### Nature conservator

##### Characteristics

Willingness to work outdoors in all weather conditions, adventurous and inquisitive nature, willingness to study further, ability to organise with good planning skills, self-motivation and self-discipline

## LEARNING FIELD EIGHT: ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

### Subjects

Civil technology, electrical technology, engineering, graphics and design, mechanical technology

### Possible careers

#### Civil engineer

##### Characteristics

Aptitude for science and maths, leadership qualities, sound judgement, accurate and meticulous nature, ability to work well with others, creativity and innovation, resourcefulness, ability to express ideas clearly

#### Draughtsman

##### Characteristics

Ability to transfer concepts on to paper, enjoyment of detailed work, ability to concentrate for long periods, good health, good vision, good hand-eye co-ordination, flair for computer work, methodical and meticulous nature

#### Electronics technician

##### Characteristics

Good technical skills and basic drawing skills, ability to make calculations, ability to follow instructions carefully, eye for detail, good hand-eye co-ordination, ability to work well under pressure ■

## USEFUL CLICKS

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