

## UNIT 7

# The Choice of a Career

*Prof. Abdul Majeed Khan (1960)*

### Students Learning Outcomes:

**On the completion of this unit, the students will be able to:**

- write a persuasive essay on a given topic.
- illustrate use of adverbs.
- identify and use adverbial phrases and clauses.
- explore various options given in a reading text, to decide on a specific course of action relating to work place decision e.g. deciding which job to apply for.

### Pre-reading:

- Which profession do you want to choose and why? Discuss.

The prosperity and bright future of a man depends largely on the profession that he chooses. The right choice of a career leads to happy and healthy life whereas the wrong one to gloomy and sad one. It is, therefore, imperative for a young man to carefully choose his career by taking into account all the pros and cons of it and after making it sure that it suits his tastes and talents. Besides, he should consider the future of that career and not to drift along the current.

It is, therefore, necessary that we should choose our profession with utmost care, for arbitrary decisions often lead to despair and ruin. In the past the youths followed the professions of their parents. They needed not bother themselves with the thoughts of choosing any profession. A merchant's son would become a merchant and a cobbler's a cobbler. But now the social conditions have completely changed. The culture of democracy has changed the mindset and outlook of the people. Today every individual tends to choose a profession of his own choice. However, choosing a suitable career that could guarantee a respectable position in the society, is not that easy. It requires a clear vision and far-sightedness which is

not so common among the youth. It is, therefore, necessary for them to consult their elders and specialists before making a decision. A young man has to also keep himself abreast of the new trends not only in his society but in the whole world as well.

One thing that he should keep in his mind is that he should not just consider the material benefits that a career may provide him but also see if his tastes and talents match it. It doesn't mean that he should totally ignore the financial aspect of his career. A person cannot live through life by holding on to his taste. He has to earn a reasonable amount of money to lead a decent life. For example, a young boy who has a talent and taste for music or sculpture, decides to become a professional musician or a sculptor, is likely to repent later and get frustrated when he fails to earn his living through these careers. He may choose such things as a hobby, for you may find, here and there, many cases of such professionals, becoming penniless and destitute in the end. Only a fraction of them become popular and successful in such profession. Thus a young must not put at stake his future on such career in which the chances of success are little. But once the choice is made, one should do put one's heart into it. He might get bored at times while performing his duties, and even lose heart, but he has to curb the feelings of despair that arise in his mind and devote himself to his profession. He must face courageously the difficulties that come in his way and must not lose his heart. There are some fickle-minded people who shift from profession to profession. Such rolling stones never achieve success in their life. Perseverance is the key to success and tenacity of purpose eventually bears the fruit.

We may quote many examples of such people who started their career in very unfavourable circumstances, yet they achieved their goals by sheer dint of hard work and strong will. For example, Abraham Lincoln, who was the son of a poor farmer, chose to become a lawyer and put his whole-

hearted efforts into this profession. Gradually, he became popular among the masses and eventually he was elected as the President of United States of America. Quaid-e-Azam was the son of a merchant. He also chose the same profession. When he entered the arena of politics, he devoted himself to the welfare of Muslim nation. He was then elected as the President of All-India Muslim League. Later, he demanded a separate homeland for the Indian Muslims and eventually succeeded in carving out a new country, Pakistan, on the world map. His devotion to his profession and dedication to his cause won him the title of the "Father of the Nation".

In our country, Pakistan, where literacy rate is too low and thus, majority of the people are conservative and orthodox. The youth are not allowed to choose the career of their own choice. The parents force their wards to adopt their family professions. Thus the clash of interest between the parents and their wards results in either poor performance or complete failure. Such wards tend to think of themselves as a square peg in a round hole.

Besides, there are limited opportunities for our youth in most of the professions. Most of our young men wish to choose the professions like, medical, engineering or law, whereas the brilliant ones try their luck in C.S.S (Central Superior Services). However, these are already overcrowded and only a fraction of them succeed in these professions. We can find, here and there, a large number of young men wandering about in search of jobs. Majority of them get jobs of clerks or small rank officials. So our educational institutions are churning out a race of clerks.

A German scholar was once asked about the reason of the development of their country, to which he replied that the progress and development of his country lied in establishing technical training centers in which the young men were trained in various trades and crafts.

Same is the reason of the development of other European countries.

When we follow them in many ways and in different fields of life, we must also have followed them in this field.

In Pakistan, there are only a few technical training centres and even these are not properly equipped with modern technology. That's why we lack skilled workers in every field and thus could not make progress in technology or industry.

Fortunately, the present government has realized the need to establish technical institutions. In recent years, the technical education has been introduced in many colleges and many technical institutes have been established.

Thanks to the role of media, especially the electronic one, our young generation is gradually developing in them an outward looking approach and dynamism, which the old generation was lacking. Now, they want to become engineers, scientists, economists etc. They are no more interested in office jobs. Today, they are inclined towards joining Army, Navy, and Air force. The change of outlook in youth augers well for the future of our country. Now we can hope that our country will become as developed and prosperous as the European countries.

### Reading and Thinking Skills

#### 1. Answer the following questions.

- i) Why did the youths follow the profession of their parents in the past?
- ii) How does the right choice of a career lead to a happy and healthy life?
- iii) Why should one select a profession matching to one's taste and talent?
- iv) Who was Abraham Lincoln?
- v) What is the role of technical training centres in the

development of Germany?

- vi) What role can media play in motivation of youth?
- vii) Is there any career counseling in your college?
- viii) What role does career counseling play for the youth?

**2. Mark the sentences as true or false.**

- i) One should choose the profession matching to one's talent and interest. ☐
- ii) In the past, the youth never followed the profession of their parents. ☐
- iii) One has to earn a valuable amount of money to lead a decent life. ☐
- iv) Abraham Lincoln was the son of a merchant. ☐
- v) The clash of interest between the parents and their wards results in poor performance. ☐
- vi) Technical education is not necessary for the development of a country. ☐
- vii) Media can play a key role in motivation of youth to choose a better career. ☐
- viii) Every educational institute must have career counseling for the students. ☐
- ix) Technical education has been introduced in every college recently. ☐
- x) There are only a few technical training centres in Pakistan. ☐

**3. Tick the correct option.**

- i) It is imperative for a young man to carefully choose his .....
  - (a) hobby
  - (b) council
  - (c) career
  - (d) work

- ii) One should choose a profession of one's taste and .....  
 (a) intelligence                      (b) keenness  
 (c) talent                              (d) choice
- iii) In our country, the parents force their wards to adopt their ..... professions.  
 (a) mother's                              (b) friend's  
 (c) family                                (d) father's
- iv) According to a German scholar, "The progress of his country lies in establishing ..... institutes."  
 (a) technical                              (b) modern  
 (c) medical                                (d) engineering
- v) We can hope that our country will become as ..... as European countries.  
 (a) technical                              (b) rich  
 (c) poor                                      (d) developed

## Writing Skills

### Persuasive Essay Writing

Write a persuasive essay on "Internet that changed our lives."

## Oral Communication

### Group/Class Presentations

Work in groups of five to ten. Prepare a group / class presentation on the right choice of a career.

- a) What is a career?
- b) How to choose the best career?
- c) Benefits of choosing the best career.
- d) The career you have chosen.

A word that modifies the meaning of an adjective, verb or other adverb in a sentence is called adverb.

#### Examples:

- i) Ahmed is financially weak.
- ii) The weather is terribly hot today.
- iii) We should drive very carefully.
- iv) He plays tennis extremely well.

### Adverbial Phrases

A group of words that describes the action of a verb is called adverbial phrase.

#### Examples:

- i) Are you sitting in a comfortable chair?
- ii) He draws cartoons like a real cartoonist.
- iii) The train arrived on time.

### Adverbial Clauses

A subordinate clause that usually describes the action of a verb is called adverbial clause.

#### Examples:

- i) A crow attacked a cat while I was waiting for the bus.
- ii) Put the sign where the students can read it.

There are different kinds of adverbial clauses.

- i) **Adverbial clause of manner:** It tells how an action of the verb happens.

#### Examples:

- a) The dog is walking around like he owns the place.
- b) He is behaving as if he were our boss.

ii) **Adverbial clause of place:** It tells where an action takes place.

Examples:

- a) She can study wherever she wants.
- b) He stayed where it was comfortable.

iii) **Adverbial clause of time:** It tells when an action takes place.

Examples:

- a) Every time he cracked a joke, the punters roared with laughter.
- b) When the train arrived, they had left the station.

iv) **Adverbial clause of degree:** It tells to what extent an action takes place.

Examples:

- a) He is not as intelligent as he thinks he is.
- b) He is as modest as he is brilliant.

v) **Adverbial clause of reason:** It tells about the reason of an action.

Examples:

- a) He came late because his car got out of order.
- b) Since he is working hard, he can win the contest.

vi) **Adverbial clause of condition:** It tells about the condition for a certain result.

Examples:

- a) If they have enough money, they will arrange a nice party.
- b) I will help you provided that you become a good person.

vii) **Adverbial clause of concession:** It expresses an idea that suggests the opposite of the main part of the sentence.

Examples:

- a) Though he is poor, he is honest.
- b) Even if I fail, I will contest once again.

### Activity

Read the unit "The choice of a career" and identify adverbs, adverbial phrases and clauses and write down in your notebooks.