

LCVP



LCVP Portfolio Items

Career Investigation

The Career Investigation in the LCVP

The ability to research and plan a career is an essential part of the toolkit of today's worker, who needs to continuously respond and adapt to a rapidly changing working environment. Students too, in preparing for life after school, need to know how to access information about career opportunities and be able to evaluate the vocational options open to them.

LCVP students who engage in a career investigation, in conjunction with other guidance and counselling activities in the school, can learn important skills in career research and planning, and improve their communicative and decision making skills.

The career investigation is a short summary of the information gathered and the insights gained by a student during the course of active research into a chosen career. This portfolio item is an outcome of Unit 3 of the Link Modules, Preparation for the World of Work. In this unit students are encouraged and facilitated to actively investigate careers related to their aptitudes, interests and choice of Leaving Certificate subjects, with particular reference to their selected vocational subjects.

Specific Learning Outcomes (page 32 Programme Statement)

The student should be able to:

- 3.1** identify personal aptitudes and interests
- 3.2** investigate a range of careers appropriate to personal aptitude and interests
- 3.3** identify and analyse the aptitude and skills required to pursue a specific career
- 3.4** describe relevant qualifications and training required for entry to the selected career
- 3.5** identify available opportunities to pursue a selected career locally, nationally and where possible, at international level
- 3.6** plan and set up an opportunity to interview and/or work shadow a person in a selected career
- 3.7** integrate information from a variety of sources to prepare a final report on a career investigation
- 3.8** reflect on and evaluate the experience of undertaking a career investigation
- 3.9** link the activities in this unit to learning in relevant Leaving Certificate subjects

LCVP Assessment

Portfolio of Coursework

As part of their Portfolio of Coursework, students must present a total of six items. The Career Investigation is part of the mandatory core. The Career Investigation carries 40 marks.

Assessment Criteria – Career Investigation (page 49 Programme Statement)

The Career Investigation will assess the student's ability to:

- Generate a document with a clear and consistent layout **OR** Communicate in a clear and confident manner (if presenting on audio cassette)
- Describe a specific career concisely and accurately
- Identify and categorise skills, qualities, qualifications and training relevant to the selected career
- Describe two pathways to the selected career
- Evaluate the selected career in the light of personal aptitude, interests and choice of Leaving Certificate subjects
- Present clear evidence of interaction with adults other than teachers in a relevant out of class learning experience
- Evaluate the experience of undertaking a career investigation

Guidelines for preparing a Career Investigation

- The Career Investigation may be presented as a word-processed document 300-600 words in length.
- A student may opt to present this portfolio item in the form of an audio cassette tape on which they are interviewed for 3-5 minutes about their Career Investigation. The interview should be carefully structured so as to ensure that students have the opportunity to fulfil all the assessment criteria for the career investigation. A possible outline for such an interview is given on page 39 of the Assessment Guidelines.
- Candidates may include specific career requirements downloaded from relevant websites or taken directly from appropriate publications.
- The Career Investigation document may contain information in tabular form but the inclusion of appendices is not recommended
- Full details of the revised Link Modules syllabus including the Career investigation can be found in the Department of Education and Science publication- "Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme" 2001. Please also refer to the Link Modules Assessment Guidelines that were written to support teachers in preparing students for assessment in the revised Link Modules.

The Career Investigation – A possible template

Title: Career Investigation of _____

Description of Career: 2/3 sentences outlining the type of work a person in the chosen career would be doing.

Skills and Qualities: relevant to the chosen career- 2 skills (ability to do job) and 2 qualities (type of person)

Qualifications & Training: 2 pathways.

Pathway 1	Location	Pathway 2	Location
	Length of course		Length of course
	Entry requirements		Entry requirements
	Qualifications		Qualifications

Option 1- as above if 2 very different pathways e.g. pharmacy

Option 2- if pathways are quite similar e.g. Medicine in UCD and Medicine in NUIG.

A description of the course content and course structure must be included and maybe the entry requirement and/or outcome may differ.

Option 3- If only 1 definite route e.g. A garda. Then describe an alternative career in the same area or a contingency plan of what the student might do while waiting to train.

Interaction: In developing the skills of research, students should refer to interaction with an adult other than teachers in a relevant out of class learning experience e.g. work shadowing, visit to an enterprise, interview with a person in the career area, college open day, careers exhibition or other event organised as part of the school guidance programme. Students need to be specific here. Give date of interview, name and position of interviewee and outcomes of interview

Evaluation of:

(A)The Career in light of personal aptitude, interests and choice of Leaving Certificate subjects **and** (B) The skills developed and insights gained from the experience of undertaking the career investigation

LCVP Terminal Examination

The Career Investigation may also appear on the written exam paper in the General Questions Section.

References

2004 LCVP Written Exam

Section C Q1

Career choice is important so that you select a career that best suits your aptitudes and abilities.

- (a)** Name a career you have investigated (1 mark)
- (b)** List three qualities you have which makes this a suitable career for you (6 marks)
- (c)** Identify two of your Leaving Certificate subjects which you consider the most relevant for this career. Explain why each subject is relevant. (8 marks)
- (d)** Describe how you went about investigating the career mentioned. (10 Marks)

NCCA Assessment Guidelines

Page 16 Sample Question 3

A career investigation is intended to help you research a career based on your knowledge of yourself, your abilities and your aptitudes.

- (a)** Identify a career you investigated.
- (b)** List three qualities you have which make this career a suitable one for you.
- (c)** Describe the contact you had with a person from outside the school when investigating the career. How did you benefit from this contact?
- (d)** Identify the two Leaving Certificate subjects which you believe are most relevant to your career choice. Explain why each subject you identified is relevant

The Career Investigation Resource Book

Due to the Introduction of the Revised Link Modules syllabus in 2002, The Career Investigation Resource Book needs to be updated. However, Guidance Counsellors and LCVP Link Modules teachers may use this as a “dip-in” resource. At all times reference should be made to the Specific Learning Outcomes and the Assessment Criteria for the Career Investigation.

The following are some of the pages in the Career Investigation resource Book that may be useful for classroom discussion

Page 9	Value of a Career Investigation	OHP1
Page 10	Key stages in the CI	OHP2 (Last stage to read “submit a Career investigation)
Page 11	CI Task Sheet	(change stage 6 to read “submit a Career Investigation)
Page 12	Blank CI Task Sheet	
Page 15	The Skills I can offer	
Page 16	My Interests, Achievements and Work	
Page 17	My Personal Profile	
Page 20	Sources of Information and Inspiration	
Page 21	Report Sheet – My Initial Research	
Pages 22 – 24	Profiling the Career	
Page 25	Interview of Person in Career	
Page 27	Work Shadowing	
Page 28	Work Shadowing Task Sheet	
Page 31	Debriefing and Evaluation of CI	
Page 33	Glossary	

