

With a pre-vocational taster, you are given the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the given occupation. With a pre-vocational practical assessment, it is the host company that decides whether you are suited for the occupation in question.

Getting initial exposure to the world of work

There are many opportunities for young people to gain initial exposure to daily working realities before choosing an occupation. In addition to information media and films, there are information events at companies and occupational orientation meetings and job fairs. These are wonderful opportunities to observe professionals at work and talk with them about their daily routines.

Pre-vocational taster or practical assessment

The best way to become familiar with daily routines in a given occupation is to do a pre-vocational taster or pre-vocational practical assessment. Most of these last two to five days, and you will be asked to perform tasks at a host company. Pre-vocational tasters and practical assessments generally unfold in the same manner but the host company's objectives are different:

- With a pre-vocational taster, the aim is for you to get to know the company, occupation and daily routine. You find out whether your initial assumptions about the work and daily routine are correct.
- With a pre-vocational practical assessment, the host company also wishes to know if you are the most suitable person for the given occupation and apprenticeship. In addition, the host company may invite two or three candidates to do a pre-vocational practical assessment. However, only one person will get the apprenticeship position.

Your objectives for a pre-vocational taster or practical assessment

If you do a pre-vocational taster or a pre-vocational assessment, the main objective should be to get an apprenticeship. However, the time spent at the host company can also be used to clarify unanswered questions, for example:

- Are your initial assumptions about the occupation, about the host company accurate?
- Do you like the work?
- Are you suited for the occupation?
- Do you feel content at the host company? Are you pleased with the atmosphere?
- Could you imagine learning and working at this host company over the next three or four years?

Tips and suggestions for parents

Mothers and fathers often think they know what is best for their child. However, in the phase of career choice, it is extremely important to remain objective!

Try to:

- Listen to what your child says.
- Realistically interpret dreams and desires – look at what is actually possible.
- Support your child, but don't be patronizing.

Possible outcomes of a pre-vocational taster or practical assessment

A pre-vocational taster or practical assessment can lead to different outcomes:

- You and the people in charge at the host company are convinced that the occupation and host company are right for you. You show interest in an apprenticeship.
- The people in charge at the host company are unsure whether you are suited for the occupation. You disagree. You try your luck at another company. If nothing works out, then contact your careers adviser.
- Your assumptions about the occupation were wrong. You will need to go back to looking at different occupations.



PREPARATION

For you, receiving an invitation to do a pre-vocational taster or practical assessment is an important achievement. The host company would like to meet you and find out whether you are suited for the host company and occupation:

- Do you blend in well with the team?
- Are you curious? Do you ask questions?
- Are you motivated? Do you show enthusiasm at work?
- Are you suited to the occupation?

You know where the host company is, who to report to and what you need to bring with you. You arrive on time and are prepared for the pre-vocational taster or practical assessment:

- What do you know about the occupation?
- Why do you want to learn it?
- What do you know about the company?
- Why would you like to do an apprenticeship at this host company?
- What are your strong points?
- What are your weak points? How do you handle them?

“And if you are interested in an apprenticeship position at a large company, then you need to register early for information events or trial days. Pre-vocational tasters are rare.” Sina
