

The Interest-A-Lyzer

By
Joseph S. Renzulli
University of Connecticut

Name _____ Age _____

School _____ Grade _____

Date _____

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help you become more familiar with some of your interests and potential interests. The questionnaire is not a test and there are no right or wrong answers. Your answers will be completely confidential. You may want to talk them over with your teacher or other students, but this choice is entirely up to you.

Some of the time you spend in the special program will be devoted to working on individual or small-group projects. We would like for you to work on projects that are of interest to you, but sometimes we have to do a little thinking before we really know what some of our interests might be.

A good way to get in touch with our interests is to think about some of the things we like to do now and also some of the things we might like to do if given the opportunity. Some of the questions that follow will be "Let's pretend" questions; but keep in mind that their only purpose is to see what choices you would make in an imaginary situation.

As you read the questions try not to think about the kinds of answers that your classmates might write or how they might feel about your answers. Remember, no one will see your answers if you want to keep them confidential.

Do not try to answer the questions now. Read them over and think about them for a few days and then write your answers. Please do not discuss the questionnaire with others at this time. Sometimes we can be influenced by the opinions of others and this influence may prevent you from exploring some of your own interests. Remember, the major purpose of the Interest-A-Lyzer is to get YOU to THINK about YOUR OWN INTERESTS.

1. Pretend that your class has decided to put on a play to raise money for a class trip. Each person has been asked to sign up for his or her first, second, or third choice for one of the jobs listed below. Mark your first choice with a 1, second choice with a 2, and third choice with a 3.

_____ Actor	_____ Playwright
_____ Director	_____ Musician
_____ Design Costumes	_____ Dancer
_____ Make Costumes	_____ Singer
_____ Light / Sound Person	_____ Business Manager
_____ Design Scenery	_____ Design Advertisements
_____ Build and Paint Scenery	_____ Photographer (to prepare photos for newspapers, bulletin boards, and other advertisements)

2. Pretend that someday you will be the famous author of a well-known book. What type of book will it be (History, Science, Poetry, Fiction, Fashion, *etc.*) and what will the book be about?

Type of Book _____

The book will be about _____

Can you think of a good title for your book?

3. Pretend that you can invite any person in the world to be a teacher in the special program for two weeks. Who would you invite?

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

4. Pretend that a new time machine has been invented that will allow famous persons from the past to come back to life for a short period of time. If you could invite some of these persons to give a talk to your class who would you invite?

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

5. Are you a collector? Do you collect stamps, seashells, baseball cards, or other things? List the things that you collect and the number of years you have been collecting.

Things I Collect

Number of Years
I Have Been Collecting

6. What are some of the things you would like to collect if you had the time and money?

7. Pretend that your class is going to take a trip to a large city. After visiting the zoo, the historical sites and going to a sports event, each student can choose one place he or she can spend an entire afternoon. Mark your first, second, and third choice by placing a 1, 2, and 3 in the spaces.

_____ Art Museum
_____ Television Studio
_____ Science Museum
_____ Stage Play
_____ Opera
_____ Newspaper Office
_____ Fashion Show
_____ Hospital

_____ Museum of Natural History
_____ Ballet
_____ State Senate Meeting
_____ Symphony Orchestra
_____ Stock Market
_____ Computer Center
_____ Court Room
_____ Planetarium

8. Pretend that you are an astronaut who has been assigned to take a one year trip in space. You are allowed to take ten personal possessions (books, games, hobbies, projects) with you to help you spend free time. List the things you would take.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

9. Pretend your community is going to have a career day so that students can learn about the activities that are involved in different occupations. You can select any person in the community with whom you would like to spend the day. List the occupations of the persons you would select.

First Choice _____

Second Choice _____

Third Choice _____

10. Newspapers often have special feature columns or sections such as the ones listed below. Pretend that you have just been given a job as a feature writer. Which of the following columns would you like to write? Mark your first, second, and third choice with a 1, 2, 3.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ Gardening | _____ Clothing Fashions | _____ Book Reviews |
| _____ Travel | _____ Pet Care | _____ Personal Advice |
| _____ Science Facts | _____ Movie Reviews | _____ Advice to Consumers |
| _____ Humour | _____ Political Cartoons | _____ Business Trends |
| _____ Local History | _____ Cross Word Puzzles | _____ Editorials |
| _____ Horoscope | _____ Famous People | _____ Outdoor Life |
| _____ Advice on Chess | | _____ Mathematics Puzzles |
| _____ Stock Market Analysis | | _____ Furniture Refinishing |
| _____ Advice on Bridge | | _____ Games and Activities |
| _____ Popular Music | | |

11. Many people take part in activities that are not connected with school work or the extra-curricular activities that are organized by the school. Listed below are examples of such activities. Indicate how often you have engaged in each activity by marking the appropriate column. Please do not check any of the activities if they were part of your school work or were organized by the school which you attend.

	Seldom / Never	Occasionally	Often
Wrote a short story, play or poem.			
Repaired a broken radio, toy, machine, or piece of furniture.			
Conducted a science experiment.			
Printed your own newspaper.			
Took photographs of landscapes, interesting people, or unusual objects.			
Studied the weather by keeping daily records of temperature, barometric pressure, wind speed or rain fall.			
Studied different groups of stars.			
Sold things from door-to-door such as magazines, candy, vegetables, or greeting cards to make money for yourself or a club.			
Organized a team, club, or "gang".			
Organized a musical group.			
Was a member of a musical or theatrical group.			
Put on a puppet show for other youngsters.			
Started your own business to make money (for example, car wash, bicycle repairs, lemonade stand).			
Started your own comic strip.			
Painted or sketched interesting people, objects or landscapes.			
Wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper or to a public official (Mayor, etc)			
Learned to play a musical instrument on your own.			
Wrote a song, opera, or other musical composition.			
Learned a handicraft such as weaving, wood carving, or making jewellery.			
Designed costumes, clothes, or furniture.			
Entered a contest (for example, chess tournament, writing or art contest).			
Put on a backyard show (fair, exhibition, magic show, circus)			
Built or designed a vehicle (model aircraft, rocket, hot air balloon, water craft, go-cart) that you flew, sailed, drove, etc.			
Developed your own film and printed your own photographs			

	Seldom or Never	Occasionally	Often
Designed a physical fitness program for yourself (callisthenics, jogging, cycling, yoga).			
Taught yourself another language.			
Made up and used your own secret code.			
Kept a notebook or diary for as long as a year at a time.			
Made and recorded observations of people or animals on a regular basis.			
Planned and cultivated your own garden.			
Started a neighbourhood project (paper drive, rat patrol, building a park).			
Read on a regular basis a news, science, or literacy magazine (Newsweek, National Geographic, Saturday Review of Literature, or a similar magazine).			
Raised animals to sell or to enter in a show or contest.			
Made a movie.			
Performed as a comic or member of a comedy team, using original material.			

12. Review the above list and draw a circle around the five activities that you think you might like to do. Do not circle any of the activities for which you have checked the "Often" column. Review the five activities that you have circled, and place a star (*) next to the one activity from among the five that you think would be most interesting.