

# STRAIGHT TO A JOB

**You do not need to have a degree for many careers and there is always the possibility of working your way up.**

**Many Leaving Cert, or equivalent, students go into temporary jobs, so there is less competition from your peers for a permanent job.**

**However, you might find yourself in competition with more qualified people as your career progresses.**

**Most permanent jobs for Leaving Cert students are in clerical and retail.**

**Other possibilities may be:**

**Financial - banking, insurance, building societies, accountancy;**

**Engineering/technical work;**

**Caring careers like residential social work, nursing;**

**Catering/leisure;**

**Uniformed services, e.g. gardaí, armed services, fire service, ambulance service, prison services;**

**Building and surveying;**

**Farming, forestry, horticulture;**

**Others - e.g. journalism, legal executive, air traffic control, merchant navy etc.**

**Identify the employers in your area, see what they have to offer and decide whether there may be something that suits you.**

Will you need to pass further exams?

**For some careers you will find you will have to pass more exams in order to become fully qualified for your profession, e.g. mechanic, child care worker, beauty therapist, air traffic control.**

**For others, if you wish to progress, you should expect to take further professional exams, e.g. banking and insurance. Some career areas like retailing may encourage you to take a business studies qualification part-time.**

# Find Out

**Is there any training provided? Fewer companies now have formal management training schemes for Leaving Cert (or equivalent) entrants. However, you may be able to persuade your employer to let you go to college for part-time study;**

**Whether you will have the opportunity to use your abilities;**

**Look at the promotion prospects;**

**Look at the salary;**

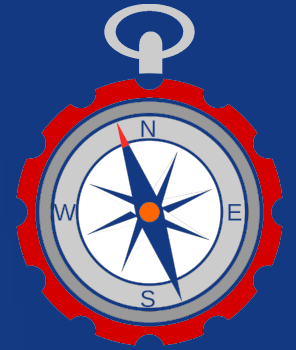
**Are you likely to get job satisfaction?**

**Consider, also, the possibility of self-employment.**

# Where to look for vacancies:

- **Local VEC Careers Offices (they will also be able to give you specialist advice);**
- **FÁS (Solas) Centres;**
- **Recruitment Agencies;**
- **Local and National Newspapers;**
- **Networking;**
- **The Internet.**

# Time Out / Gap Year



**An alternative to going directly to college is to take some time out beforehand.**

**Your decision to take time out may well meet with some criticism, so it always helps to be fairly sure of your motives and to be aware of some of the difficulties you might encounter along the way.**

**On a positive note, a productive Gap Year can look good on a C.V..**

# The Arguments For:

- You can improve your CV by showing you have made good use of time.
- It gives you an opportunity to rethink your career choices
- You can go abroad to learn a new language
- It's a break from the education and the exam system
- You get to see the culture and lifestyles of another country from the inside
- You broaden your personal and cultural horizons
- You meet lots of different kinds of people
- You learn to look after yourself
- You can earn some money to supplement your college expenses
- You can build up your self confidence
- Doing community work makes you feel like you are contributing positively
- You can't travel so easily when you are working or at university or an I.T.
- You can gain some relevant work experience

# The Arguments Against:

- **Your friends get a year ahead of you at college**
- **It can be difficult to get back into academic study**
- **Some college departments don't like you deferring entry**
- **If you are away you might miss the closing date for applications**
- **Regular incomes are difficult to give up**
- **There is a risk that admin fees/ C.A.O. points might increase while you're away**
- **You might find it hard to give up a job that you could do well in**
- **You might lose touch with your friends**
- **Your family might not be keen on the idea**
- **There is a risk that some employers might not be impressed**