



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **9th Grade** | Unit 4

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 904

Planning a Career

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Planning a Career

Introduction

Young people need goals to give them direction. An occupational goal gives a young person a target at which to aim. They can then begin preparing to reach a specific objective. Goals provide motivation and incentives to work.

The choice of an occupation early in high school does not mean that the young person will automatically fulfill that role in life. Later on, the person may change that goal if his interests change or if he finds that his abilities are best suited to doing something else. Many people change careers during their adult working years. Therefore, an occupational goal should not be considered fixed or permanent, although it may turn out to be just that for the person who successfully reaches his goal and enjoys his work.

Most important to the Christian is the part that God plays in the choice of a career. God is actively concerned about all of the choices a person makes, and He guides the person who seeks Him to a place of fulfillment unknown to the non-believer. Christ wants us to have an abundant life, one that will make use of our abilities to bring blessing to ourselves and others. Since work makes up so much of an adult's life, we can be confident that God is interested in helping His children make wise decisions regarding their careers.

In this LIFE PAC® you will define career and discover guidelines for knowing God's will that you can use in choosing your own career goal. You will begin to explore the many and varied occupational possibilities open to you. Then you will do some self-evaluation and will consider ways of finding, obtaining, and keeping that all-important job.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Define *career*.
2. Identify the reasons for the many varied career choices and the need for divine guidance.
3. List and explain the guidelines for knowing God's will.
4. Outline the difference between a service job and a production job.
5. Identify the different career areas and several jobs in each area.
6. Identify job skills with their appropriate career areas.
7. Evaluate your personal strengths and weaknesses relating to the world of work.
8. List several occupations that make use of your abilities and interests.
9. Set goals and develop Christian values for life and work.
10. Explain how to prepare for a career and how to apply for the job of your choice.

1. WHAT A CAREER IS

In this section you will learn what a career is from a Christian viewpoint. You will discover the diversity of occupations open to you and

some of the reasons for this variety. This study will help you see the great need for divine guidance to help you make a wise career choice.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Define a career.
2. Identify the reasons for the many varied career choices and the need for divine guidance.
3. List and explain the guidelines for knowing God's will.
4. Outline the difference between a service job and a production job.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

career (ku rir). Advancement or achievement in a particular job or lifework.

conscience (kon' shuns). Feeling of right or wrong.

dedication (ded' u kā' shun). Devotion to some work.

diversity (du ver' su tē). Variety, a number of things.

enthusiasm (en thū' zē az um). Eager interest.

guidance (gī' duns). Giving direction, leading, pointing the way.

industrialization (in dus' trē u lu zā' shun). Replacement of hand labor by machines.

missionary (mish' u ner' ē). Person sent out to preach and teach about God, usually in a foreign country.

motivate (mō' tu vāt). To move to action.

occupation (ok' yu pā' shun). Something that takes up time, one's business.

production industry (pru duk' shun in' du strē). Manufacture of products that people buy.

secular (sek' yu lur). Worldly, not religious.

service industry (ser' vis in' du strē). Work that serves people.

simultaneously (sī' mul ta' nē us lē) Occurring at the same time.

specialization (spesh' u lu zā' shun). Concentration on doing one specific task or producing one product.

trust (trust). Allowing someone else to handle things for you, based on his ability and claims.

unique (yü nē k). One and only, different from all others.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ul/ represents /a/ in about, /el/ in taken, /il/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

DEFINITION OF A CAREER

A **career** is more than a job. A career is a life-work. A career involves service, **dedication**, and achievement in a particular line of work. A person may engage in several careers **simultaneously** or in several different ones throughout his or her lifetime.

For the Christian, a career should be a calling. God calls some believers to be pastors and

missionaries, but He calls others into **secular occupations** where they can influence non-believers through daily contact. The important thing to realize is that God has a plan for every Christian. God's **guidance** is for all, not just a select few. God promises to guide all who seek Him. He says (Psalm 32:8), "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."



Complete these activities

1.1 A *career* is _____. (Check all items that apply.)

_____ a job only

_____ a lifework

_____ a calling

_____ a service to others

_____ a temporary activity

_____ a divine plan for one's life

1.2 Write the definition of *career*. _____

1.3 Write a definition of *career* from a Christian viewpoint. _____

1.4 According to Psalm 32:8 God promised to do three things for those who seek Him.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

CHOICE OF A CAREER

The number of occupations open to people in this century has mushroomed. The *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*, Third Edition, lists more than twenty thousand items and separate jobs. It contains more than eight hundred pages filled with job descriptions.

What accounts for all of this **diversity**? A major factor was the change from home-centered work to factory-centered mass production of

goods. Also, with **industrialization** has come **specialization** rather than self-sufficiency.

The early colonists in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries often worked at home making articles by hand. These colonists were real craftsmen, passing the knowledge of their craft on to young apprentices. The Southern plantation was basically self-sufficient, raising

and growing the necessities of life. Only luxuries were imported from England.

The challenge of an untamed wilderness and the distance from England forced the colonists to become inventive and resourceful. Eli Whitney's cotton gin revolutionized the cotton industry. Steam power transformed the new nation's transportation system and factories. The telegraph, telephone, electric light, automobile, and other inventions set the stage for the massive knowledge explosion of the twentieth century.

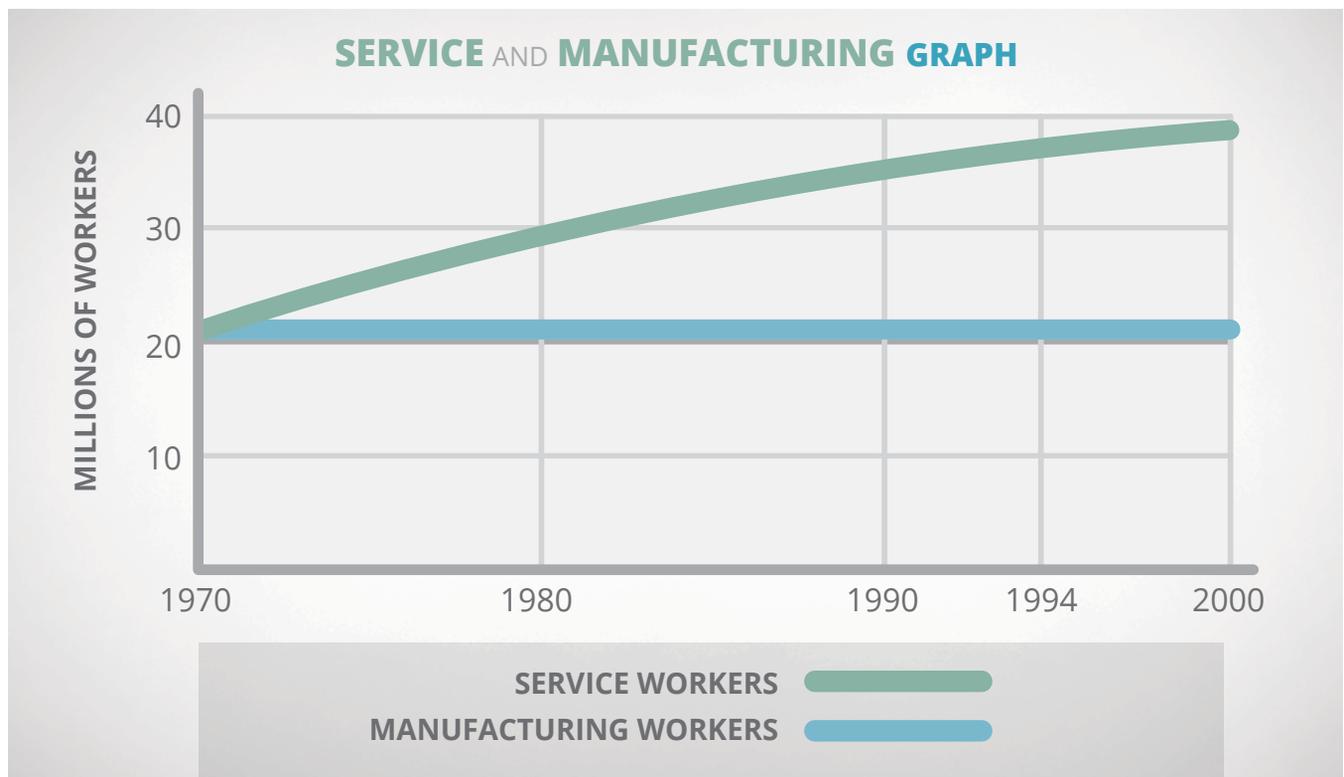
With industrialization in advanced stages, not only must a person decide between the two basic types of work—service and production—but he must also choose between specific jobs within an occupational career area.

The **service industries** are those that deal directly with the needs of people and include

medical, legal, educational, and repair services. **Production industries**, on the other hand, manufacture the products people buy. Production includes both research and the step-by-step assembly of finished products.

Since 1970 the number of workers employed in service industries has doubled, but the number of workers producing goods has remained steady. As of 1994, the number of service workers was double the number of manufacturing workers.

With so many choices available to a young person, it is even more important for a Christian to seek divine guidance. Only God knows just the right job or jobs for a person. God knows us completely. God made us, knows our potential, and knows where we can best use our God-given gifts. Without God's guidance, a person cannot know God's will for his life.





Write true or false.

- 1.5 _____ A person can find a comprehensive list of occupations and their descriptions in the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*.
- 1.6 _____ In the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*, more than twenty thousand specific occupations are listed.
- 1.7 _____ The number of specific occupations available to a person living now is about the same as it was for a person living in the eighteenth century.
- 1.8 _____ The number of workers in service industries has not increased as fast as the number of workers in production industries.

Write the correct answer in the blank.

- 1.9 Industrialization brought _____ rather than self-sufficiency.
- 1.10 Three inventions that greatly changed American life and work were
a. _____ , b. _____ , and c. _____ .
- 1.11 A person has a choice between entering a production industry or a _____ industry.
- 1.12 Only _____ knows the very best career for a person because only He knows a person's full potential and where he can best use his gifts.
- 1.13 Some jobs that no longer exist because of industrial change are
a. _____ , b. _____ , and c. _____ .
- 1.14 List some jobs that would be eliminated or greatly changed if we were suddenly to run out of oil.
a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____



Complete these activities.

1.15 Write S (for service industry) or P (for production industry) beside each of the following. Some may be both.

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| a. _____ | pastor | o. _____ | parcs manager |
| b. _____ | gas station attendant | p. _____ | policeman |
| c. _____ | logger | q. _____ | author |
| d. _____ | truck driver | r. _____ | newscaster |
| e. _____ | assembly-line worker | s. _____ | politician |
| f. _____ | car repairman | t. _____ | missionary |
| g. _____ | chemist | u. _____ | athlete |
| h. _____ | banker | v. _____ | paper mill worker |
| i. _____ | cook | w. _____ | oil driller |
| j. _____ | farmer | x. _____ | lifeguard |
| k. _____ | carpenter | y. _____ | company president |
| l. _____ | tailor | z. _____ | pilot |
| m. _____ | auto designer | aa. _____ | baby-sitter |
| n. _____ | photographer | bb. _____ | welder |

Complete this puzzle.

1.16 Down

1. Giving direction
2. One who learns a trade
4. Person sent out to preach
5. Life work

Across

3. Devotion to some work
6. Doing one task over and over
7. Variety

GOD'S WILL CONCERNING A CAREER

If God is good and He loves us, then He has a plan for our lives and His plan must be good. If God knows everything, then He knows what is best for us. If God cares about us, then He is interested in guiding us into His plan.

The Bible reveals the will of God through its commands and examples. We are specifically told that it is the will of God for Christians to be morally pure and to be thankful (1 Thessalonians 4:3 and 7 and 5:18): "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication... For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness... In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

God's will is that love for others should **motivate** all of our decisions and actions (1 Corinthians 16:14): "Let all your things be done with charity."

It is God's will that young people honor, respect, and obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-2): "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother..." Young people are to listen to their parents and carefully consider their advice (Proverbs 1:8): "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."

God's will is also that Christians work hard and do their work with **enthusiasm** and for the glory of God (Ephesians 4:28 and Colossians 3:23): "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth... And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

The promises of God make it clear that He is interested in guiding our lives. God promises to teach, guide, and counsel those who seek Him (Psalm 32:8-9). God told the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5) that He had planned for Jeremiah to be a prophet before he was born. God

revealed to Paul that his ministry was to be to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15; Romans 11:13).

In addition, God has created us with **unique** gifts and talents. God gives Christians spiritual gifts and He expects them to be used (1 Peter 4:10): "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

How does a person make these principles practical when considering which career to enter? A person must first know God personally. A person who has never trusted Christ by asking Christ to forgive the wrong things he has done and to take over his life is automatically outside of the will and guidance of God. God's first command to the unbeliever is to come to Christ and trust Him (Acts 17:30 and 4:12): "...now [God] commandeth all men every where to repent... Neither is there salvation in any other: For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

A true Christian is in a position to know God's will. The first place to start is with the Bible. David said (Psalm 119:105), "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." A person who knows God and His Word better will be able to sense God's leading easier.

The next thing to do is ask God to reveal His will for your life. Since God commands us to know His will, He is more desirous of revealing His will to us than we are of following His will. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write (Ephesians 5:17), "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." James wrote (James 1:5), "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

A person must also have a listening ear and a willing heart to do what God wants. Only those people who have given themselves to God as honestly as they know how and who read the Bible regularly and pray consistently are able to find God's will in any situation. God said

through Paul (Romans 12:1-2), "...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Guidance can be defined in the following manner. Guidance means that a person **trusts** God to give him wisdom (common sense) according to what He says in the Bible, and to make reasonable decisions under His control, in His love, and for His glory. Those who ask God for wisdom with confidence, can be sure that He will give it to them, and that the Holy Spirit will guide their thoughts and decisions.

Five factors should be considered in making any God-given decision:

1. What the Bible says (**conscience**)
2. How a person feels (desire)
3. Inner peace (sense of calm and rightness)
4. One's ability with God's power (freedom)
5. Circumstances (open and closed doors)

Obviously, if God's Word plainly says "no," a person has all the guidance he needs. For example, if the occupation being considered violates or could violate God's standards of morality or honesty, it is not His will. Bartending is such a job.

Sometimes the first four factors all seem favorable, but circumstances block the way. Maybe a person cannot secure the type of job he wants no matter how hard he tries. In such cases, the Scripture supports waiting on God. The prophet Isaiah spoke of this waiting when he said (Isaiah 64:4), "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him."

Waiting may be a test of a person's trust in God and the person's willingness to do God's will. A person must keep trusting God and do what seems reasonable. If God wants things to change, He will open doors and close doors. God knows what is best, but our knowledge of a situation is limited. That is why we must always trust God (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Read the following story. It tells us about trusting God and knowing His will.

The Best-Laid Plans...

by Gregg Lewis¹

I wanted to make my own decisions. I was afraid God would mess up my life.

I've always had plans for my life. At the age of six I wanted to be the Lone Ranger.

By the time I quit playing cowboys and Indians and took up basketball, I'd shifted goals. As the 5' 11" center on my seventh grade basketball team, I vowed to keep growing and playing until I was good enough and big enough to earn my fame as a professional basketball star. Basketball continued to be a big part of my life (even through college), but when I quit growing as a 6'1" high school sophomore, I began to think seriously about alternative careers outside the NBA.

I remember a conversation I had about personal goals with a couple guys on my varsity basketball team. It was one of the few serious locker-room conversations I can recall. I admitted that I had vague plans for the future, "maybe teaching or law."

One of the guys shook his head. "I know what you'll be," he told me. "You'll be a minister. Or maybe a missionary."

"Oh, no! Not me!" I replied hotly.

"I can see it," he argued.

"Never!" I insisted, slamming my locker a little harder than usual.

That dressing-room discussion touched a raw nerve in my life. The whole subject of my future plans was part of an intense spiritual battle raging inside me.

Even back then I somehow knew that I'd become a Christian someday. But I kept putting the day off because I had this deep inner dread that if I gave my life to God, he'd make me do things I couldn't

or didn't want to do. I wanted to make my own decisions.

What if God wanted me to be one of those gung-ho religious fanatics who ambush people to preach at? If God changed me into a stiff, pious prude my life would be dull and boring.

What if God told me to drop my non-Christian friends? Life could get miserably lonely.

What if God had already picked out some unlikeable girl for me to marry? Sure, I knew a few sharp Christian girls. But what if. . . ?

The thought of becoming a Christian held a lot of risks. I guess it all boiled down to trust. I wasn't ready to trust God with my life.

Even in an area of my life where I didn't have definite plans—my future career choice—I was afraid to trust God. I knew God didn't want everyone wearing funny collars or hopping the next boat to Africa, but I feared the worst. I couldn't get away from the feeling that God might want me to become a minister or a missionary. And I hated the thought of doing either. So I kept putting God off—holding him at arm's length.

I guess I wanted God to show me what he wanted me to do with my life before I decided if I'd trust him.

I wanted the risks erased.

I struggled with my fear and lack of trust until I was a freshman in college. Then the day finally came when I quit fighting and told God, "Okay, you can have my whole life. I trust you for my future and my present—whatever your will is."

Before long I learned an important truth that I should have known all along—God was worth trusting. He didn't want my life so that he could mess things up for me. He didn't want to play puppet

master to a hapless marionette. He didn't steal my will or my power to make my own decisions. He didn't want to force me to do his will for his sake, he wanted me to choose to do it for my own sake—because he knew and wanted what was best for me.

To my surprise I found I could trust God completely. He didn't transform my personality—I was still me. I didn't lose my non-Christian friends; I think they actually respected me more for taking a stronger, more honest stand for what I believed. I trusted God with my dating life and I found a fantastic Christian girl who eventually became my wife. God didn't mess up any area of my life.

But the final proof of God's trustworthiness revolved around my career. Strangely enough, after I decided to trust God with my life, I quit thinking he wanted me in the ministry or in missions. I wasn't sure what his plan was. For three years I wondered. There was never any loud voice from heaven, but in my senior year of college God used a professor's encouragement, some well-timed circumstances, and an unexpected opportunity to show me he wanted me to go into journalism—something I'd always loved to do.

I don't want to give the impression that trusting God and doing his will makes life all fun and games. Some days my typewriter seems like my worst enemy and I'd rather be in a far-off mission compound.

Sometimes I still struggle with my own will, when it seems to differ from God's. When that happens I have to catch myself and remember that he knows better than I do. I can trust him with any part of my life. I just wish it hadn't taken me so long to learn.

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Complete these lists.

1.17 What is God's will according to the following Bible verses?

1 Thessalonians 4:3 and 7 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:18 _____

1 Corinthians 16:14 _____

Ephesians 6:1-2 _____

Ephesians 4:28 _____

Acts 17:30 and 16:31 _____

Note: *repent* means to *change one's mind*.

1.18 List the five factors to consider in making a God-directed decision.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

Complete these sentences.

1.19 Before a person can know God's guidance in daily life, he must

_____.

1.20 Two Bible characters who knew God's plan for their lives were

a. _____ and b. _____.

1.21 Because God loves us, according to Romans 12:2 His plan for our lives must be

a. _____, b. _____, and

c. _____.

1.22 According to Psalm 119:105, God's Word acts as a _____ to guide us on our way.



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Write true or false (each answer, 1 point).

- 1.01 _____ A career is just a job.
- 1.02 _____ A career may refer to a person's lifework.
- 1.03 _____ A Christian does not need to consult God about choosing a secular career.
- 1.04 _____ God will guide any Christian who seeks Him.
- 1.05 _____ The number of specific occupations has increased during the past one hundred years.
- 1.06 _____ The twentieth century has seen increasing job specialization.
- 1.07 _____ A larger number of people work in service jobs rather than production jobs.
- 1.08 _____ Present-day occupations could change in the future.
- 1.09 _____ There are more than 50,000 job titles listed in the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*.
- 1.010 _____ God has a plan for each Christian.
- 1.011 _____ An occupation that requires a person to do something wrong is not God's will.

Match the following factors in knowing God's will (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1.012 _____ | desire | a. the Bible |
| 1.013 _____ | open/closed doors | b. inner peace |
| 1.014 _____ | sense of calm and rightness | c. circumstances |
| 1.015 _____ | conscience | d. one's ability with God's power |
| 1.016 _____ | freedom | e. how a person feels |
| | | f. the <i>Dictionary of Occupational Titles</i> |

Match these definitions (each answer, 2 points).

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1.017 _____ service industry | a. devotion to some work |
| 1.018 _____ trust | b. work that serves people |
| 1.019 _____ industrialization | c. variety |
| 1.020 _____ guidance | d. feeling of right or wrong |
| 1.021 _____ unique | e. achievement in a lifework |
| 1.022 _____ career | f. allowing someone to handle things for you |
| 1.023 _____ conscience | g. replacement of hand labor by machines |
| 1.024 _____ occupation | h. one and only, different from all others |
| 1.025 _____ missionary | i. person sent to preach and teach about God |
| 1.026 _____ dedication | j. something that takes up time, one's business |
| | k. giving direction, leading, pointing the way |

Complete these statements (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.027** A Christian needs a a. _____ ear and a b. _____ heart in order to know God's will.
- 1.028** God promises wisdom for making decisions to those who ask Him in _____ .
- 1.029** According to God's revealed will in the Bible, a Christian young person ought to be morally pure, loving, a. _____ , b. _____ , and c. _____ .
- 1.030** Two men in the Bible who knew God's will for their lives were a. _____ and b. _____ .
- 1.031** When circumstances seem opposed to what appears to be God's leading according to the other four factors, a person should _____ .
- 1.032** The Bible says God's Word is a lamp to our a. _____ and a light to our b. _____ .

Write **S** for service industry and **P** for production industry for each of the following careers (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.033 _____ typesetter
 1.034 _____ mayor
 1.035 _____ pastor
 1.036 _____ school teacher
 1.037 _____ fireman
 1.038 _____ assembly line worker
 1.039 _____ architect
 1.040 _____ psychologist
 1.041 _____ miner

Answer these questions (each answer, 5 points).

1.042 From the Christian viewpoint, what is *guidance*? _____

1.043 How would you use the five factors involved in finding divine guidance to choose a career for yourself? _____

82

102

SCORE _____

TEACHER _____

initials

date



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