

Curriculum Resource

Apprenticeship Answers: Exploring Apprenticeship

OALCF Alignment

Competency	Task Group	Level
Competency A -Find and Use Information	A1. Read continuous text	2
Competency A -Find and Use Information	A2. Interpret documents	2
Competency B - Communicate Ideas and Information	B1. Interact with others	2
Competency B - Communicate Ideas and Information	B2. Write continuous text	2
Competency B - Communicate Ideas and Information	B3. Complete and create documents	2
Competency D - Use Digital Technology	N/A	2

Goal Paths (check all that apply)

- Employment
- Apprenticeship
- Secondary School Credit
- Postsecondary
- Independence

Embedded Skills for Success (check all that apply)

- Adaptability
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Creativity and innovation
- Digital
- Numeracy
- Problem Solving
- Reading
- Writing

Notes:

Original source material: Apprenticeship Answers Curriculum

Owner: Literacy Link Niagara

CLO Researcher / Writer: Summer Burton

Note: Originally one large resource with three units, based on recommendations from our expert advisors, it has been divided into several separate resources:

1. Apprenticeship Answers: Exploring Apprenticeship
2. Apprenticeship Answers: How do I Become an Apprentice?
3. Apprenticeship Answers: Skills for Apprenticeship Success
4. Apprenticeship Answers: By the Numbers
5. Apprenticeship Answers: Working as an Apprentice
6. Apprenticeship Answers: Putting Your Best Foot Forward

This is the first resource, Apprenticeship Answers: Exploring Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship Answers: Exploring Apprenticeship

Contents:

What is Apprenticeship? 3
Activity – How is Apprenticeship different? 4

Kinds of Apprenticeships 5
Activity – Explore Careers Based on Work Interests 6
Activity – Explore Jobs on ApprenticeSearch.com 11
Next steps 17

What is Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship is a kind of training that happens mostly on the job. With an apprenticeship, a person new to the trade (an apprentice) learns the skills they need from an expert (a licensed journeyman). The apprentice earns a wage during their on-the-job training. Part of apprenticeship training also happens in a classroom at a college or trade union. For most trades, an apprentice would train on the job for at least a year and then attend the first level of classroom training for eight to 12 weeks.

It takes two or three levels of on-the-job and classroom training to complete an apprenticeship. This can take between two and five years depending on the requirements of the trade and how many hours the apprentice works. To move from one level to the next, an apprentice has to show they can complete certain work-related tasks or “competencies.”

When most people think of an apprentice, they think of a plumber or electrician. In fact, there are 144 skilled trade jobs that offer apprenticeship training in Ontario. Twenty-three of those are compulsory trades that require an individual to go through an apprenticeship to work legally in Ontario. The rest of the trades are non-compulsory, so while apprenticeship training is available it is not required to work in the trade.

Who can become an apprentice? Someone who:

- is at least 16 years old
- has a valid social insurance number
- has the educational requirements for their chosen trade. This is often a Grade 12 diploma or recognized equivalent, although a few apprenticeships require only Grade 10)
- has an employer who will sponsor them

Discussion:

What is an apprentice? How would you describe it for someone who hadn't heard of this type of training?

What makes apprenticeship interesting to you?

Activity – How is Apprenticeship Different?

Apprenticeships are different than taking a college program or going straight into work on a job. They also may be the same in some ways.

Fill in the chart below using the information you’ve learned so far, along with some critical thinking skills to see what’s the same and what’s different. If you can’t fill in the blanks, have a discussion with someone who might be able to help.

	Apprenticeship	College	Job
Where does the training take place?			
When does the trainee start getting paid?			
What are the educational requirements?			
How long is the training?			

Kinds of Apprenticeships

Each apprenticeship is different depending on the skilled trade. The skilled trades all fall into one of four sectors. These are:

- Construction
- Industrial
- Motive Power
- Service

Construction Apprenticeships are related to building and constructing. These include carpenters and plumbers.

Industrial Apprenticeships are related to manufacturing. These include welders and cabinetmakers.

Motive Power Apprenticeships are related to the operation of moving machines/vehicles. These include auto body repairers and motive power machinists.

Service Apprenticeships are related to serving people. These include hairstylists and developmental service workers.

Discussion:

What sector do you think pipefitter falls under? Why?

What sector do you think tool and die maker falls under? Why?

What are some trades (other than hairstylists and developmental service workers) you think fall under the Service sector?

Activity – Explore Careers Based on Work Interests

Jobs in each sector of the skilled trades appeal to different types of people. You may already have a specific sector in mind. Or you may be drawn to the hands-on type of training that apprenticeship offers, but you are still unsure about what trade you would like to work in. The Government of Canada Job Bank offers a quick, 50-question self-assessment that can help narrow down possible jobs both in and outside the skilled trades by your interests and work preferences. The self-assessment is available at <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/workpreference>.

It will ask you questions about the kinds of activities you enjoy in a job. You can rank them from having no interest, to being extremely interested in these things.

Doing the same task for a long period of time.

Not interested at all

Extremely interested

Building things and/or repairing them.

Not interested at all

Extremely interested

Exploring a subject from different points of view.

Not interested at all

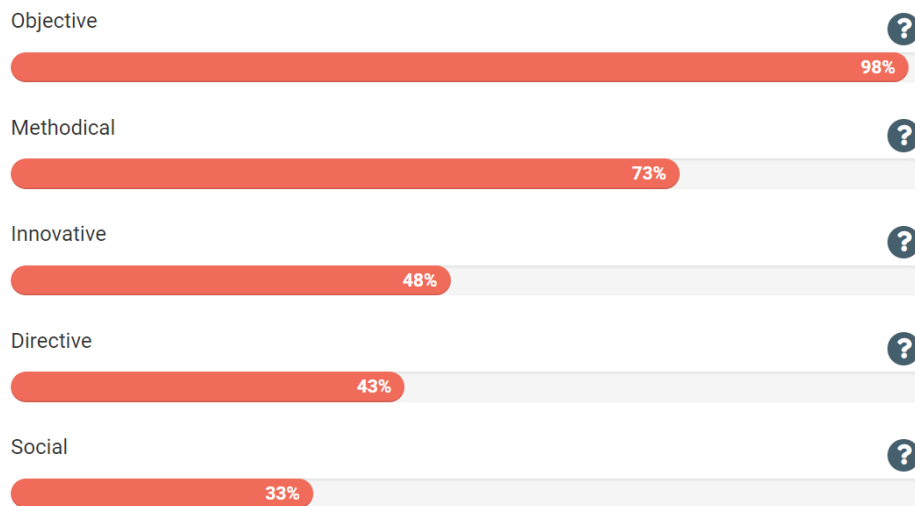
Extremely interested

At the end of the quiz, the results will tell you how much you prefer directive, social, methodical, objective or innovative work.

- If you prefer **Objective** work, you probably enjoy working with tools, equipment, instruments and machinery. You may like finding out how things are built and how they work, and to make or fix them.

- If you prefer **Methodical** work, you probably like to have clear rules and processes to follow. You may prefer to work on one thing until it is completed, and enjoy following a set routine and where unexpected changes don't disrupt your work.
- If you prefer **Innovative** work, you probably like to explore things and arrive at solutions to problems by experimenting. You may enjoy coming up with different ways to solve problems and don't mind when new or unexpected experiences happen.
- If you prefer **Social** work, you probably like being around other people and prefer to work as part of a team. You may like caring for other people and helping them figure out their needs and solve problems.
- If you prefer **Directive** work, you probably like to organize things on your own. You may prefer to take charge when something requires planning or decision making, and you find it easy to tell other people how to do things.

This quiz will rank the type of work you prefer the most to the type of work you prefer the least.



The Job Bank will also suggest different jobs that suit your interests. Not all the job results will offer apprenticeship training, but you may find some that do. Look at the tabs across the top of the job list, and notice that you can filter by the kind of education or training required for that job, including apprenticeship training.

Occupations matching your abilities

Occupations matching your abilities		
<input type="checkbox"/> Any level <input type="checkbox"/> No formal schooling N <input type="checkbox"/> High school or short course H <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College or apprenticeship C <input type="checkbox"/> University U		
	Occupations	Level of education:
100%	Agricultural service contractors	N H
100%	Aircraft electrical mechanics and technicians	C
100%	Aircraft instrument mechanics and technicians	C
100%	Alterationists	N
100%	Assemblers, industrial electrical motors and transformers	H
100%	Assemblers, rubber products	N
100%	Avionics inspectors	C
100%	Avionics mechanics and technicians	C

Clicking on the job title will open up a page that includes:

- a job description
- the kind of training needed
- the median wage
- the outlook for this kind of job
- links to job postings
- a list of skills needed for this job

You will see an example of this on the next page.

- Summary
- Description
- Wages
- Prospects
- Jobs
- Requirements
- Skills
- Search

Note that some information in this job profile is based on the 2016 version of the NOC.

Description

Heavy equipment operators operate heavy equipment used in the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, airports, gas and oil pipelines, tunnels, buildings and other structures; in surface mining and quarrying activities, and in material handling work. They are employed by construction companies, heavy equipment contractors, public works departments and pipeline, logging, cargo-handling and other companies. Apprentices are also included in this unit group.

[Learn more >](#)

Requirements

Post-secondary or apprenticeship

This occupation usually requires a college diploma (community college, institute of technology or CÉGEP), an apprenticeship training of less than 2 years, or more than 6 months of on-the-job training.

[View job requirements >](#)

Wages

\$30.00/hour

Median wage in Canada

[View wages >](#)

Prospects

Varies

The job prospects vary across Canada depending on the province or territory.

[View prospects >](#)

Jobs

228 jobs

Advertised in Canada

[View available jobs >](#)

Skills

- John Deere controls
- Operate heavy equipment
- Read and interpret blueprints, maps, drawings and specifications
- Calculate weight, distance, volume and length measurements
- Clean and lubricate equipment and refill equipment tanks

[View skills >](#)

[Labour Market Information Survey](#)

[Report a problem on this page](#)

Date modified: 2022-11-06

Now, visit <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/workpreference> to complete the quiz and complete the activity below.

1. Is your highest preference for directive, social, methodical, objective or innovative work? Circle your preference below.

Directive Social Methodical Objective Innovative

2. List three jobs that were suggested and that interest you.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. Did any of these jobs mention apprenticeship training? If so, which ones?

4. Pick one of the jobs and fill in the information below.

- What is the median salary? _____

- How many job postings are there in Canada right now? _____

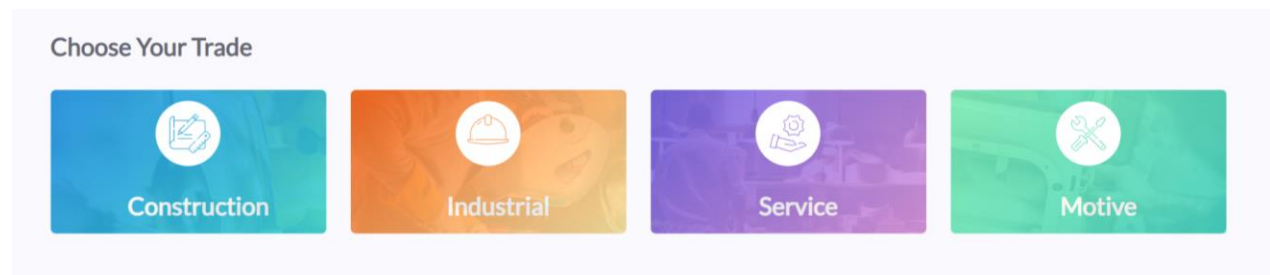
- What is one skill you would need to do this job? _____

Activity – Explore Jobs on Apprenticesearch.com

Now that you have explored your work interests, you may have a better idea of what sector of the skilled trades is a good fit for you. You may have also seen some jobs you would consider doing.

Apprenticesearch.com is a free online job search and matching platform that focuses on apprenticeship trade positions in Canada. There, you can explore jobs in each sector and learn what skills, interests and values you need, and what training can help you prepare. Apprenticesearch.com also offers short self-assessments so you can decide if each job is right for you.

Visit <https://www.apprenticesearch.com/trades> and choose one job from **each** of the four skilled trades sectors that might interest you.



Then, click the title of each job and read the information that appears.

You will see an example of this on the next page.

EN ▾ Log In SIGN UP

HOME ABOUT US ABOUT TRADES CAS NEWS & EVENTS CONTACT US RESOURCES

What does a Die Designer (670D) do?

Construction ▾

Die Designers are skilled craftspeople that help create dies for stamping, forming, or forging presses. Certification as a Tool and Die Maker is a prerequisite for starting a Die Designer apprenticeship in Ontario.

Job Related Skills, Interests and Values

- Interpreting and using technical data to plan the sequence of work to be performed
- Reading composite structure blueprints, structural repair manual data, and non-destructive inspection reports
- Completing written documentation to ensure tracking and storage of materials
- Safely removing paint/surface coating or special fasteners using hand or power tools
- Using ratio calculations and mathematical measurements to mix resin systems
- Recognizing and responding to contamination and its forms; addressing situation using decontamination and drying techniques
- Learning and applying sheet metal repair methods
- Communicating effectively with co-workers and supervisors; working as member of the team

Related Trades

33 | 🇨🇦 | C | \$

General Machinist (429A)

General Machinists are skilled craftspeople who set up and operate precision...

22 | 🇨🇦 | C | \$

Construction Millwright (426A)

Construction Millwrights install, maintain, and troubleshoot industrial machinery, mechanical...

127 | 🇨🇦 | C | \$

Cabinetmaker (438A)

Cabinetmakers construct and repair wooden cabinets, furniture, fixtures, and related products.

For each of the four jobs you've chosen, answer the questions below.

What job did you choose from the **Construction** sector?

1. Why did this job appeal to you?

2. What are three of the skills, interests and values used in this job?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. Which of those skills do you already have, and which would you need to learn more about?

4. How many hours is the apprenticeship training for this job?

5. Take the self-assessment quiz. Is this job a good fit for you?

- Yes No

What job did you choose from the **Industrial** sector?

1. Why did this job appeal to you?

2. What are three of the skills, interests and values used in this job?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. Which of those skills do you already have, and which would you need to learn more about?

4. How many hours is the apprenticeship training for this job?

5. Take the self-assessment quiz. Is this job a good fit for you?

Yes No

What job did you choose from the **Service** sector?

1. Why did this job appeal to you?

2. What are three of the skills, interests and values used in this job?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. Which of those skills do you already have, and which would you need to learn more about?

4. How many hours is the apprenticeship training for this job?

5. Take the self-assessment quiz. Is this job a good fit for you?

- Yes No

What job did you choose from the **Motive** sector?

1. Why did this job appeal to you?

2. What are three of the skills, interests and values used in this job?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. Which of those skills do you already have, and which would you need to learn more about?

4. How many hours is the apprenticeship training for this job?

5. Take the self-assessment quiz. Is this job a good fit for you?

Yes No

Next steps

Now that you understand more about the apprenticeship systems, you can move on to the second resource in the Apprenticeship Answers series: **How do I Become an Apprentice?**