

What does it take?

Group activity worksheet



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Written by teachers for teachers

What does it take?

The purpose of this activity is for students to think about some of the elements of success in life.

You will need:

to ask students to work in groups of 2, 3 or 4

to ensure the groups can see the table below.

Action: 1. Great exam results are not the whole answer. Can you say which description goes with which famous person?

<p>1. Camila Batmanghelidjh</p>  <p>Founder of Kids Company, a registered charity that supports children with severe behavioural, emotional and social difficulties resulting from significant levels of trauma and neglect.</p>	<p>A. The opportunity that Hawaii offered—to experience a variety of cultures in a climate of mutual respect—became an integral part of his world view, and a basis for the values that he holds most dear.</p>
<p>2. Barack Obama</p>  <p>President of the United States from 2008.</p>	<p>B. She went to Marlborough College, a co-educational independent boarding school in Wiltshire, followed by the University of St Andrews in Fife, Scotland where she met her future husband. She graduated with an MA (2:1 Hons) in the History of Art.</p>
<p>3. Kate Middleton</p>  <p>Duchess of Cambridge</p>	<p>C. Half way through the course at New York University, she withdrew from the school to focus on her musical career. Her father agreed to pay her rent for a year.</p>
<p>4. Lady Gaga</p>  <p>She has sold an estimated 13 million albums and 51 million singles, making her one of the best-selling music artists worldwide.</p>	<p>D. He has dyslexia and had poor academic performance as a student, but later discovered his ability to connect with others.</p>

What does it take? *continued*

<p>5. Lily Allen</p>  <p>British songwriter and singer.</p>	<p>E. He signed a YTS (youth training scheme) contract (this is similar to an apprenticeship) when he was 16.</p>
<p>6. David Beckham</p>  <p>Footballer, former Captain of England with a total of 108 international caps.</p>	<p>F. He spent nearly 26 years in prison.</p>
<p>7. Richard Branson</p>  <p>English business magnate, best known for his Virgin Group.</p>	<p>G. She attended 13 schools in all and was expelled from several of them for drinking and smoking. She dropped out of school at age fifteen, not wanting to “spend a third of her life preparing to work for the next third of her life, to set herself up with a pension for the next third of her life.”</p>
<p>8. Jamie Oliver</p>  <p>English chef, restaurateur and media personality.</p>	<p>H. Severely dyslexic, she completed her studies using a tape recorder instead of pen and paper. For four years, she trained in psychotherapy. She also worked as a nanny, and discovered a talent for working with children.</p>
<p>9. Nelson Mandela</p>  <p>Former president of South Africa. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.</p>	<p>I. Educated at a grammar school, he left at age 16 without any qualifications. He went on to attend Westminster Kingsway College.</p>

What does it take? *continued*

Action: 2. Discuss what qualities you think are needed in order for someone to become successful.

Rank the qualities below in the order of their importance. From 1 – 9, with 1 being the most important. Be prepared to explain your answer.

Exam results

Learning from mistakes

Ability to get on with people

Being willing to work hard

Communication skills

Self confidence, self belief

Following a passion

Being prepared to do basic jobs if necessary

Overcoming obstacles

A particular talent

Discuss as a class. Can you think of anything else?

Which of these qualities do you already have? Which would you like to develop?

Talk with your partner / buddy about ways in which you can develop these qualities.

“In contrast to IQ, which changes very little in course of a lifetime, our emotional intelligence can be cultivated at any age. It is never too late to learn how to govern our emotions and our relations with others.”

Dr D Servan-Schreiber

What does it take? *Results*

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