

Three courses, four questions

Write in the three courses your child is already talking about — the ones that come up at the dinner table. Then take each one down the four questions. **One evening, at the kitchen table.** The prompts for questions 1 to 3 are on the back. You are not trying to pick a winner. You are trying to see what you are actually choosing between.

	COURSE ONE	COURSE TWO	COURSE THREE
Where did this one come from? A cousin, a teacher, a subject they enjoy, a salary someone mentioned. Be honest.			
1 What is the work, actually? Not the job title — what someone does all day. List the main tasks. Prompt 1 on the back.			
2 Which tasks could be written down as steps? Instructions somebody else could follow and get the same result. Prompt 2.	Underline those tasks in question 1.	Underline those tasks in question 1.	Underline those tasks in question 1.
3 For each task: does AI raise the expert, or remove them? Same tool, opposite outcomes. Video 2 shows how to tell. Prompt 3.	Next to each task in question 1, write R if AI raises the expert, X if it removes them.	Next to each task in question 1, write R if AI raises the expert, X if it removes them.	Next to each task in question 1, write R if AI raises the expert, X if it removes them.
THE HARD ONE 4 What's left over — and would your child want to do that work? Ignore the X tasks. Look at what remains. Not what they're good at. Not what you would choose.			

Question 4 is the one you can't look up.

Questions 1 to 3 you can answer with a chatbot and some checking. Question 4 needs to know **what genuinely holds your child's attention**, which is not the same as what they score well in. Talk it through with them.

Getting the facts

Questions 1 to 3 need facts you probably don't have. Get them from any AI chatbot: paste in a prompt, replacing **[career]** with the work the course leads to. Using AI to find things out is fine. The deciding stays with you.

FOR QUESTION 1

1 What does a [career] in South Africa actually do day to day? List the main tasks in plain language. No marketing wording.

FOR QUESTION 2

2 For each task, tell me which ones could be written down as steps for someone else to follow, and which need judgement that changes case by case.

FOR QUESTION 3

3 Which of these tasks are already being done with AI tools today, and which are not?

Check what comes back

A chatbot can give you a confident list that is wrong, out of date, or describes the work as it is done in another country. Read it and ask: does this match what I know about this work? Does anything look wrong? **Best of all is fifteen minutes with someone who actually does the job** — it beats anything a chatbot says.

Run it a second time

This method doesn't expire. The courses on your first sheet mostly arrived by accident — something your child is good at, something a relative does, a talk at school. Print page 1 again for any new set: courses that come up later, or the careers in a Prime Career report, which describes how your child is wired and which careers fit them — often ones neither of you had thought of. Because you have the method, you don't have to take the report's word for it. Same four questions, whenever you're ready.

For question 4: talk it through

Sit with your child and look at the tasks you didn't mark X. Ask them which of those they would still want to be doing in their third year, on an ordinary day. Write down what they say, in their words.

Five short videos, the method and this sheet.

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