



**University of Dundee**

## **Getting Ready to Leave School**

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## Ready to Leave School

These questions are designed to help you and your teachers understand what you are thinking and feeling about leaving school so you can get into a course or job that would be good for you.

There are no right or wrong answers. Just pick the number that best fits the way you think and feel about leaving school. Circle the number.

Here is an example of how it works for you to try. Circle any one number to show how much you agree or disagree with the statement. You can choose any number between 1 (Strongly Disagree) and 6 (Strongly Agree).

Example.

I can say the alphabet backwards.

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1

2

3

4

5

6

Now go to the next page and begin to answer the questions.

1. I can start a good career when I leave school:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

2. I have done well in a part-time job or work experience:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

3. I know someone who has a good job:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

4. I know someone who tells me I can get a good job after school:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

5. I feel good when I think about my career after school:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

6. I often talk to someone at home about my future career:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

7. Nothing can stop me having a good career:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

8. I feel things will stop me doing what I want in my career:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

9. I can get into employment, education or training after school:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

10. I know someone who has gone to college or university after school:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

11. I know someone who really believes in my ability to have a good career:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

12. I feel bad when I think about my career after school:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

13. I often talk to a close friend about my future career:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

14. I feel there are things getting in the way of my career choices:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

15. I know a teacher I can trust to discuss my future career:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

16. I am always optimistic about my future after school:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

17. Having a good career is going to be difficult for me:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

18. I can avoid being unemployed when I leave school:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

19. If I take a job after school it will lead to a good career for me:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

20. I have done well in my education so far:

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

End

## Ready to Leave School

### Instructions for Teachers on Scoring the Questionnaire

Following completion of the Ready to Leave School questionnaire transfer the student's response to each question into the appropriate spaces below. The student responses for items 8, 12, 14 and 17 must first be reversed using the table below. For these items 1 becomes 6, 2 becomes 5, 3 becomes 4, 4 becomes 3, 5 becomes 2, and 6 becomes 1.

Questionnaire scores

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

Reversed scores for items 8, 12, 14 and 17.

Strongly  
Disagree

Strongly Agree

6                      5                      4                      3                      2                      1

Calculate the **Overall Mean Ready to Leave School Score** by adding up all 20 scores and dividing by 20.

| Question number | Score |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1.              | _____ |
| 2.              | _____ |
| 3.              | _____ |
| 4.              | _____ |
| 5.              | _____ |
| 6.              | _____ |
| 7.              | _____ |
| 9. (R)          | _____ |
| 9.              | _____ |
| 10.             | _____ |
| 11.             | _____ |
| 12. (R)         | _____ |
| 13.             | _____ |
| 14. (R)         | _____ |
| 15.             | _____ |
| 16.             | _____ |
| 17. (R)         | _____ |
| 18.             | _____ |
| 19.             | _____ |
| 20.             | _____ |

Sum of all 20 scores = \_\_\_\_\_

**Overall Ready to Leave School Mean** is the sum of all 20 scores /20 =

\_\_\_\_\_

Then calculate the Subscale Mean Score for each of eight Ready to Leave School Subscales by adding up the Subscale Total Score and dividing by the number of scores in that subscale.

|   |   |                    |  |
|---|---|--------------------|--|
| <b>Positive Destination<br/>Self-efficacy</b> | <b>Personal Experience<br/>of Success</b> | <b>Role Models</b> | <b>Social Persuasion of<br/>Positive Destination</b> |
| 1. _____                                      | 2. _____                                  | 3. _____           | 4. _____   |
| 9. _____                                      | 20. _____                                 | 10. _____          | 11. _____  |
| 18. _____                                     |   |                    |  |

|                                    |                                    |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Subscale<br>Total<br>Score = _____ | Subscale<br>Total<br>Score = _____ | Subscale<br>Total<br>Score = _____ | Subscale<br>Total<br>Score = _____ |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

|                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Subscale<br>Mean<br>score = _____ | Subscale<br>Mean<br>score = _____ | Subscale<br>Mean<br>score = _____ | Subscale<br>Mean<br>score = _____ |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

|                                    |  |                        |  |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| <b>School Leaving<br/>Emotions</b> | <b>Career Supporting<br/>Attachments</b> | <b>Career Optimism</b> | <b>Perception of Career<br/>Barriers</b> |
| 5. _____                           | 6. _____                                 | 7. _____               | 8. (R) _____                             |
| 12. (R) _____                      | 13. _____                                | 16. _____              | 17. (R) _____                            |
|                                    | 15. _____                                | 19. _____              | 14. (R) _____                            |

|                                    |                                    |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Subscale<br>Total<br>Score = _____ | Subscale<br>Total<br>Score = _____ | Subscale<br>Total<br>Score = _____ | Subscale<br>Total<br>Score = _____ |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

|                                   |                                   |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Subscale<br>Mean<br>score = _____ | Subscale<br>Mean<br>score = _____ | Subscale<br>Mean<br>score = _____ | Subscale<br>Mean<br>score = _____ |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

### Interpreting the Ready to Leave School scores

An **Overall Ready to Leave School Mean** score of 3 or below indicates a higher risk of failing to obtain a positive destination in education, training or employment after school.

Scores of 3 or below on any of the eight **Ready to Leave School Subscale Means** is also associated with a higher risk of failing to obtain a positive destination in education, training or employment. The profile of scores on the **Ready to Leave School Subscales Means** can therefore be used diagnostically to decide what individualised educational experiences would now help the young person to make a more successful transition.

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<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/media/dundeewebsite/eswce/documents/research/ready-to-leave-school-questionnaire-2021.docx>