



University of Dundee

Getting Ready to Leave School

Topping, Keith; Douglas, Walter

Publication date:
2021

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in Discovery Research Portal](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Topping, K., & Douglas, W. (2021). *Getting Ready to Leave School*. University of Dundee.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in Discovery Research Portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from Discovery Research Portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain.
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

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.

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

Subscale Total Score = _____	Subscale Total Score = _____	Subscale Total Score = _____	Subscale Total Score = _____
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Subscale Mean score = _____	Subscale Mean score = _____	Subscale Mean score = _____	Subscale Mean score = _____
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

School Leaving Emotions	Career Supporting Attachments	Career Optimism	Perception of Career Barriers
5. _____	6. _____	7. _____	8. (R) _____
12. (R) _____	13. _____	16. _____	17. (R) _____
	15. _____	19. _____	14. (R) _____

Subscale Total Score = _____	Subscale Total Score = _____	Subscale Total Score = _____	Subscale Total Score = _____
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Subscale Mean score = _____	Subscale Mean score = _____	Subscale Mean score = _____	Subscale Mean 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.

© The Kelvin Centre and University of Dundee

You are free to use this as many times as you wish, but please acknowledge copyright when doing so.

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