

Getting Organized: Which Way to Go

In considering which of the four options you would like to pursue at this time, the questions that follow may be of assistance to you. Examine the four sets of statements below. If the statement fits you, check “Yes.” If it does not, answer “No.” Answer as honestly and objectively as possible. See scoring instructions on page 357.

Scenario I—Entrepreneurs

- | | Y/N |
|--|-------|
| 1. Having the freedom to create my own work is extremely important to me. | _____ |
| 2. When I have an idea that I'm excited about, I get everybody around me excited about it too. | _____ |
| 3. I enjoy aggressively going after what I want. | _____ |
| 4. When I take on a project, I'm practically married to it until it's done. | _____ |
| 5. I trust my instincts, and I am able to act decisively. | _____ |
| 6. I thrive on challenge. | _____ |
| 7. It's okay with me if people think I'm a little crazy, as long as I believe in what I'm doing. | _____ |
| 8. I'd say that a natural ability to lead is one of my strongest talents. | _____ |
| 9. I am prepared to work more than forty hours a week. | _____ |
| 10. I never let it stop me if I don't know how to do something. I just jump in the middle of it, and pretty soon, I've got it figured out. | _____ |

Scenario II—Freelancers

- | | Y/N |
|---|-------|
| 1. The freedom to follow my creative instincts is extremely important to me. | _____ |
| 2. I do my work because I enjoy it. I'd probably do it whether I was getting paid or not. | _____ |
| 3. I enjoy working alone—in fact, I thrive on solitude. | _____ |
| 4. If I'm doing what I love best, I can easily adjust to fluctuations in income. | _____ |
| 5. It's very important to me to live by my own schedule. | _____ |
| 6. I have little patience for bureaucracy and red tape. | _____ |
| 7. I make most of my business decisions intuitively, independent of the feedback of others. | _____ |
| 8. I don't want to be tied down to any one location. | _____ |
| 9. I'd say that I possess a good deal of self-discipline. | _____ |
| 10. I don't want the responsibility or the hassle of managing an organization. | _____ |

Scenario III—Nonprofit Founders

1. Although I am a strong leader, I enjoy teamwork and cooperative decision making. Y/N _____
2. I am able to work cooperatively with a board of directors, staff, and volunteers in order to accomplish my organization's objectives. _____
3. Economic profit is not as important to me as working at something I believe in. _____
4. I have the willingness and the patience to put up with a lot of red tape. _____
5. I am able to work effectively with a variety of viewpoints and agendas while sticking to my organization's purpose and long-term goals. _____
6. Making a difference for others is a very strong value for me. _____
7. I enjoy finding creative ways to fund my organization, and I am willing to do so indefinitely. _____
8. I am able to delegate responsibility in order to accomplish a variety of tasks. _____
9. I enjoy getting people motivated around an idea. _____
10. I am willing to speak out in public for my beliefs and for my organization, and to attract media and community attention when necessary to accomplish my goals. _____

Scenario IV—Job Seekers

1. The only way I can do my work is as an employee of an existing organization. Y/N _____
2. I believe there are organizations already in existence where I could pursue my work purpose in alignment with the company's objectives. _____
3. I like the predictability of a large organization—its policies and opportunities for advancement. _____
4. I believe I could benefit from the training and experience that I would receive by working at a job in my field. _____
5. I do not want to enter into any kind of financial venture that might threaten my ability to maintain my present standard of living. _____
6. I do my best work as a member of a team. _____
7. One of my strongest talents is an ability to be reliable and consistent. _____
8. I like work in which my responsibilities are clearly spelled out for me. _____
9. I want to create a steady, reliable income to support myself while I am training for my chosen field. _____
10. I like to leave work at work. I try to keep my work life and my personal life separate. _____

Now check over your answers, and tally up the number of “Yes” responses in each scenario. If most of your “Yes” answers were in the first scenario, you may prefer to create your own business now or later. If you had more “Yes” responses in the second scenario, you may want to try working as a freelance. If most of your “Yes” answers were in the third scenario, you may want to begin your own nonprofit organization. If you had more “Yes” answers in the fourth scenario, you will probably want to work for an organization that fits your goals.