

Career Thinking Patterns (CTP)
Interpretive Report (v1.0)
by Terence J. G. Tracey

How to use the CTP

The Career Thinking Patterns Inventory (CTP) is designed to measure the extent to which individuals think about career concepts in the same manner as most people. Individuals who have high scores on the CTP tend to think about their vocational activities in a manner that closely matches how many of these are organized in the world of work. These high scoring individuals tend to be more likely to have clearer and more committed career plans. Those individuals with lower scores are more commonly found to have less clear career goals and more difficulty making decisions. The aim of the CTP is to provide feedback on this to an individual and help that person better use career resources.

The Personal Globe Inventory (PGI) and Inventory of Children's Activities (ICA) are provided to give information about a person's interests and competence perceptions to enable a better examination of what careers exist that would be good fits. They provide information that can help individuals think through important life decisions by providing information on:

- what to choose for a career
- what to choose for a major or program of study
- new career possibilities
- confirm current career plans
- find out new outside-career interests
- help select both a career and hobbies

In general, the more your career, area of study, and outside of work activities match your interests, the more satisfied you will be. Generally those scoring higher on the CTP have an easier time of sorting through interest test scores and occupational information to match the two areas. Research has demonstrated that individuals get higher scores as they age, especially from elementary school ages through college.

The CTP provides a score from -1.00 to 1.00 that indicates how much you view everyday activities in a manner like most people. Scores below .35 indicate a manner of thinking about activities and careers that is more unusual. Research has found that educating these individuals about how the world of work is organized results in better career decisions and career decision-making confidence.

Research has demonstrated that people's preference for different activities can be organized into two broad dimensions and six different types.

The two broad dimensions are:

1. **People** versus **Things**:

(focus on being around others) vs. (focus on working with ones hands and on physical things)

2. **Data** versus **Ideas**

(focus on detail activities) vs. (focus on thinking about things and ideas)

The **six** more specific interest types are:

Realistic: preference for working with ones hands and outdoors

Investigative: preference for scientific activities

Artistic: preference for creative and expressive activities

Social: preference for working with others

Enterprising: preference for business activities

Conventional: preference for detail and office activities

These 2 dimensions and 6 types are organized in the following circular manner. Types closer together are more closely related. So Realistic and Social types are very dissimilar as they are on opposite sides of the circle, but Realistic and Investigative are somewhat similar because they are near each other on the circle.

