

Unit **1** My life, my way

I Listening

1. Listen to the quotes about choices and fill in the blanks.

- (1) Sometimes you make choices in life and sometimes _____.
- (2) While we are free to choose our actions, we are not free to choose _____ of our actions.
- (3) A man is happy so long as _____ and nothing can stop him.
- (4) The choices we make are ultimately _____.
- (5) Allow the world to live as it chooses, and allow yourself to _____.

2. Listen to the dialogues and note down the decisions that have been made.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____

3. Listen to the passage and fill in the blanks.

Life is full of choices at every moment in time. There is a multitude of (1) _____ in front of you to choose from. You need to select one course of action from all available (2) _____ based on your judgment. That is what constitutes making a decision. If you think about it, life is (3) _____ decisions and consequences that follow them. (4) _____ are the triumphs of judgment while bad decisions are opportunities to learn from and change our (5) _____.

II Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words and expressions in the box. Make changes when necessary.

graduation	ignore	improve	inform	potential
pursue	variety	vocational	be likely to	sound like

- (1) We just need to open our lives to the possibilities and live each moment to our full _____.
- (2) You don't _____ a foreigner speaking English.
- (3) They completely _____ these facts as if they never existed.
- (4) She had come to England to _____ an acting career.
- (5) He has determined to go to Tibet after _____.
- (6) _____ courses are often given more respect and funding than arts or philosophy.
- (7) I think we need to _____ our educational system in general.
- (8) His results _____ reopen the discussion on education.
- (9) The students were well _____ about the pros and cons of different programmes.
- (10) You will find a wide _____ of choices available in the school cafeteria.

III Reading

1. Read the passage and fill in the blanks with the words and expressions in the box.

graduating	goal-oriented	variety
are more likely to	clear up	get ignored

The vocational colleges often (1) _____ due to some misconceptions. Here are some most common ones: "People go to vocational college only because they can't get into university." "I'll get a better job and make more money if I go to university." "The quality of education at universities is better than that in vocational colleges."...

Let me (2) _____ these misconceptions for you one by one.

First, people go to vocational college because they choose to. Vocational colleges are far more (3) _____ than universities. Students there usually realise earlier what they really want to do.

Second, a university degree cannot guarantee you a better job and more money. On the contrary, students from vocational colleges (4) _____ be employed after graduation than those (5) _____ from universities.

Third, Universities can be large and impersonal. Vocational colleges, on the other hand, tend to have much smaller class sizes and a wide (6) _____ of instructors who are experts in their particular fields. It's quality over quantity in most cases.

2. Read the passage and put the following sentences back into the passage.

- A. it's because a college education doesn't always guarantee success
- B. they require results
- C. And you probably also know many successful people who never went to college
- D. a degree is merely a piece of paper certifying you met a certain level of scholastic achievement
- E. you do need an education

College is overrated. You probably know many people who excelled in college yet barely seem able to string together a coherent thought. (1) _____ or barely made it through college, or ended up working in fields unrelated to their degrees.

Why is that? How can it be that some people struggle despite having a degree from a qualified institution, while others are successful without a college degree or in fields unrelated to their degrees? In my opinion, (2) _____. Success depends on many other factors—things colleges often don't teach.

A college degree is simply a form of certification. In basic terms, (3) _____. Yet what happens in the classroom doesn't always translate into the real world.

A truth many people aren't willing to admit is that you don't always need a college degree to be successful. But (4) _____, along with a desire to continue to learn, work hard, and adapt.

An education is different from a degree. An education can be formal, informal, self-

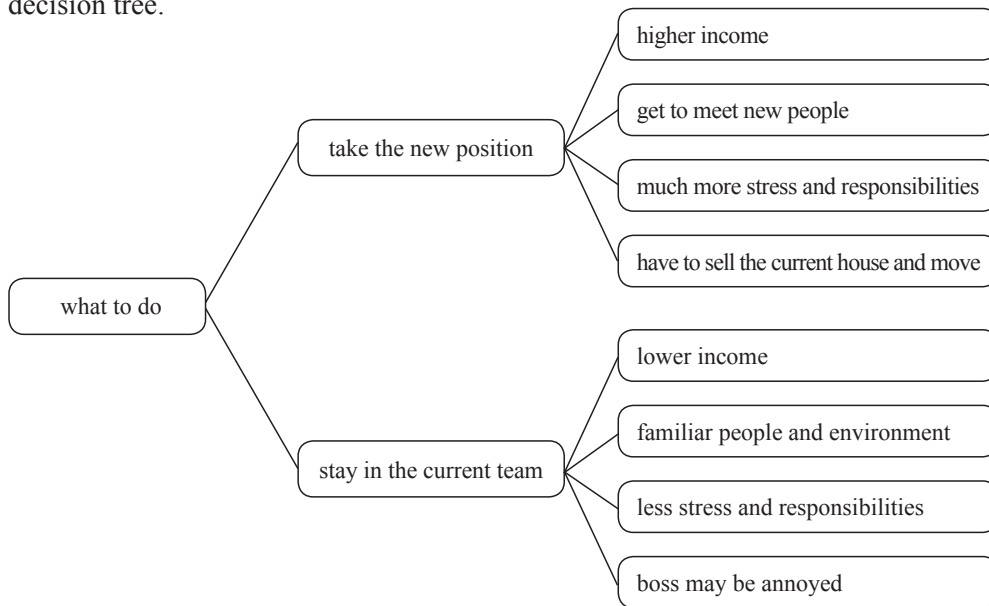
directed, on-the-job training, professional licences and certifications, or other forms of learning.

There are hundreds of careers that don't require a college degree. And they all share one thing in common: (5) _____, and in many cases, require years of hard work and study to achieve success.

I am not against college degrees. I have one, and recommend college education to many people. But some people may be better off not going to college if it doesn't match their skills or career ambitions.

3. Read the decision tree made by Daniel and list the pros and cons of each choice.

Daniel's boss has unexpectedly offered him a promotion. Daniel is excited about the opportunity, but he knows that there are several negative sides of leaving his current team and taking on a new role. He decides to weigh the pros and cons of the choices using the decision tree.



	Pros	Cons
Take it		
Decline it		

IV Grammar

1. Match Column A with Column B to form phrases.

A

- (1) take
- (2) have
- (3) get
- (4) make
- (5) give

B

- a. the best use of
- b. rise to
- c. action
- d. hold of
- e. access to

2. Complete the sentences with the phrases you got in the former task. Make changes when necessary.

- (1) Only 40% of 5-year-olds _____ pre-school education.
- (2) If business success is what you want, then you need to _____.
- (3) His observations _____ a heated discussion.
- (4) She managed to _____ a copy.
- (5) We must _____ the few natural resources we have.

3. Translate the following sentences into Chinese and pay attention to the underlined phases.

- (1) Does his absence make a difference to your work?

- (2) I can't imagine what Nora had in mind.

- (3) The traffic laws don't take effect until the end of the year.

- (4) Take your time packing, for we still have one and a half hour.

- (5) It makes good sense to continue with the reforms.

V Translation 

Translate the following into Chinese.

While universities often seem the obvious choices, depending on your career path, vocational colleges also have lots to offer. They sometimes get ignored due to some common misconceptions. Let me clear up some of these misconceptions for you.

VI Writing 

1. If you were Daniel in Task 3 of the reading section, what decision would you make and why?

Your decision:

Your reasons:

2. Harry will graduate from college this June. His parents want him to go back to work in his hometown, but Harry is thinking about trying his luck in Guangzhou. Make a decision tree for him to sort things out.

