



TO PHD OR NOT TO PHD?

IS A PHD RIGHT FOR YOU?



INSTRUCTIONS

FOR EACH QUESTION, CHOOSE THE ANSWER THAT FEELS MOST NATURAL TO YOU (THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS)

NOTE: THIS QUESTIONNAIRE HAS NO SCIENTIFIC VALUE. IT IS SIMPLY A GAME TO HELP YOU REFLECT ON YOUR MOTIVATIONS REGARDING THE COMMITMENT INVOLVED IN STARTING A PHD. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE OR DISCOURAGE YOU IN EITHER DIRECTION. YOUR ASPIRATIONS AND SKILLS CAN EVOLVE OVER TIME—SO TAKE THE RESULTS WITH A PINCH OF SALT.

1 WHEN FACED WITH A QUESTION YOU CAN'T CLEARLY ANSWER, YOU TEND TO:

- DIG DEEPER, READ, AND EXPLORE DIFFERENT OPTIONS
- ASK EVERYONE FOR THEIR OPINION
- CHANGE THE SUBJECT OR GIVE UP

2 WORKING ON THE SAME PROJECT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, FOR YOU, IS:

- RATHER BORING
- A STIMULATING ADVENTURE
- A PRISON

3 WHEN SOMEONE SAYS "AUTONOMY," YOU THINK OF:

- ISOLATION
- RESPONSIBILITY
- FREEDOM

4 IN CASE OF FAILURE OR A MAJOR SETBACK:

- YOU NEED TIME TO BOUNCE BACK
- YOU TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE REASONS AND LEARN FROM IT
- IT COMPLETELY DEMOTIVATES YOU

5 READING, WRITING, AND REPHRASING:

- YOU LOVE IT
- YOU MANAGE, BUT IT'S NOT YOUR STRONG SUIT
- YOU AVOID IT WHENEVER POSSIBLE

6 PRESENTING YOUR WORK IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE:

- IS AN ABSOLUTE NIGHTMARE
- STRESSES YOU OUT, BUT YOU MANAGE
- YOU ENJOY IT

7 YOUR SECRET MOTIVATION FOR STUDYING:

- UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD
- FINDING YOUR PATH
- DELAYING ENTRY INTO THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD

8 TODAY, YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH RESEARCH FEELS MORE LIKE:

- ONE OPTION AMONG OTHERS
- A GENUINE PERSONAL CURIOSITY
- SOMETHING RATHER VAGUE

9 COLLABORATIVE AND TEAM-BASED WORK:

- WORKING WITH DIFFERENT PROFILES ENERGIZES YOU
- IT DEPENDS ON WHO AND FOR WHAT
- YOU PREFER WORKING ALONE

10 YOUR MAIN MOTIVATION FOR CONSIDERING A PHD:

- ACCESS TO CERTAIN PROFESSIONS OR CAREER PATHS
- THE PRESTIGE OF THE TITLE OR EXPECTATIONS FROM OTHERS
- A SINCERE PASSION FOR A TOPIC

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A PHD SEEMS ALIGNED WITH YOUR ASPIRATIONS AND WAY OF WORKING. YOU APPEAR CURIOUS, AUTONOMOUS, COMFORTABLE WITH UNCERTAINTY, AND WILLING TO INVEST IN A LONG-TERM PROJECT.

NEXT STEP: GATHER INFORMATION, MEET PHD CANDIDATES AND SUPERVISORS, REFINE YOUR THINKING, AND IDENTIFY THE TOPICS THAT GENUINELY EXCITE YOU.

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A PHD SEEMS LIKE A POSSIBLE PATH, BUT NOT A PRIORITY. IT COULD FIT INTO YOUR TRAJECTORY WITHOUT BEING AN ESSENTIAL STEP. YOUR REFLECTION DESERVES TO BE DEEPENED BY EXPLORING DIFFERENT OPTIONS.

NEXT STEP: TAKE TIME TO EXPLORE THE VARIOUS PATHS AVAILABLE.

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A PHD CURRENTLY FEELS FAR FROM YOUR ASPIRATIONS THIS DOES NOT CALL INTO QUESTION YOUR ABILITIES OR POTENTIAL. CAREER PLANS EVOLVE, AS DO PERSONAL GOALS—AND A PHD MAY BECOME RELEVANT LATER, OR NEVER, AND BOTH ARE PERFECTLY VALID.

NEXT STEP: FOCUS ON BUILDING A PATH THAT TRULY FITS YOU.