



Joining the dots: Improving your skills

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You might not be ready to step into the Creative Sector just yet, but now is the perfect time to start thinking about your skills, interests and values and how these could help you work towards and achieve your dream creative career.

Before you evaluate yourself and your abilities, let's take a look at the main skills needed within a creative career.



Creativity

This skill isn't just for the Creative Sector. Every organisation needs problem solvers and imaginative minds.



Time management

Being able to work efficiently and get everything done is incredibly important in the workplace, especially in the Creative Sector where you might find deadlines.



Communication

This is both written and verbal communication and can include activities like sending emails or clearly explaining an instruction to someone.



Organisation

Most creative companies require their employees to use good organisational skills to be more productive in their job.



Problem-solving

No matter what area of the Creative Sector you join, many companies rely on their employees to identify and solve problems that improve something or impress a customer.



Building relationships

Creating positive relationships between employees and customers benefits everyone by building trust.

Your creative skills map

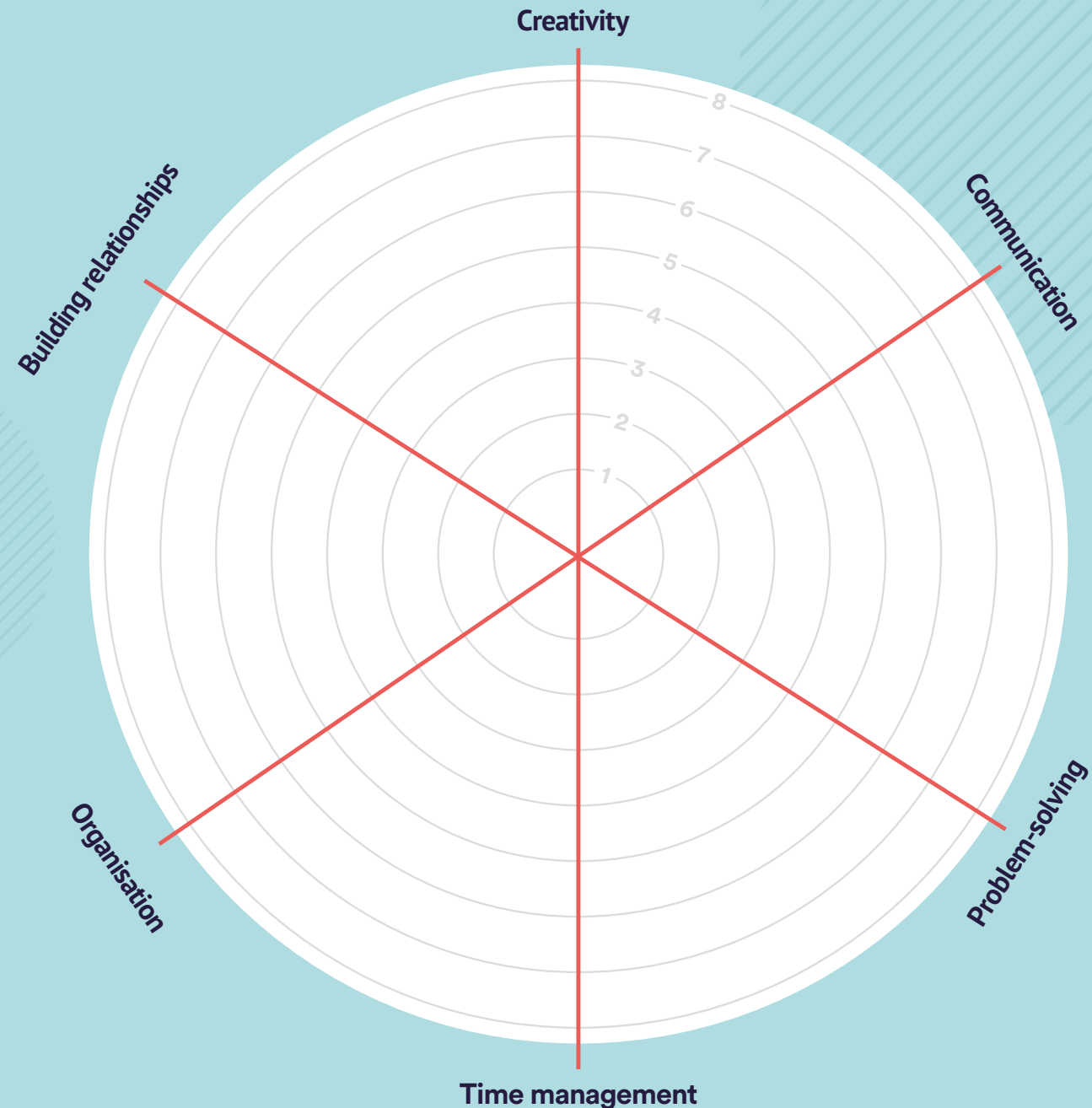
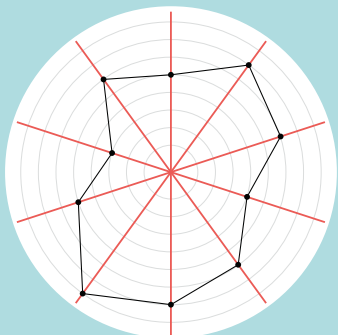
It's time to look closely at your own abilities and see how confident you are about each key skill.

Each skill has a score of 1-8, with 8 being the strongest.

Simply place a 'dot' on the skills line where you see yourself. For example, communication might be a strength for you and if that's that case, you can score yourself near 8!

If you have a printed copy, you can join up the points on your map.

You will now be able to see which skills you are the strongest in and which skills require more attention.



Your interests and values

Understanding how your interests and values can help to shape your future career is really useful. Even now, with a few years to go before you leave school, you will already be more passionate about some subjects than others. You may already have an interest outside of school that you love and could potentially turn into a career when you grow up.

1. Spend a few minutes on each question, try to write down the first thing that comes to mind.
2. Once you have answered each question, reflect on your answers and see if you can spot any similarities.

Education

Which subjects do you enjoy the most?

Which subjects are you good at?

Which subjects do you find the hardest?

Spare time/social

How do you keep in touch with your friends in your spare time?

What do you spend most of your spare time doing?

If you could learn something new or try out a new hobby what would it be?

Values & priorities

What things are important to you?

What does success look like to you?

What do you wish you could change in the world right now?

Creative career opportunities



We're not saying that you should already know what your future career will be, but by reflecting on your interests and values you'll be one step closer to understanding what your future might look like.

1

Using the following websites, have a look at the different Creative Sector job roles available and decide on three careers that interest you the most.

<https://futuregoals.co.uk/cc-creative/>

<https://discovercreative.careers/#/>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/creative-arts-and-design/creative-jobs>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/creative-and-media>

2

Now that you have your chosen three creative careers, make a list of the top three skills needed for each one – you might need to delve a little deeper!

For example, a career as a photographer might have caught your eye – see if you can find out the top three skills needed to be successful in this role.

3

Take a quick look back at your creative skills map. Which were your weakest skills and do any of these appear as top skills in your chosen creative job roles? If they do, make a note of the rating you gave yourself.

For example, for a career as a copywriter you might need good organisation skills – what score did you give yourself for organisation in the first task?



Opportunities



Job roles

Top skills

My skill rating

1				
2				
3				

Connecting the dots

So far you have:

- Evaluated your own skills.
- Reflected on your own interests and values.
- Researched three creative job roles.
- Evaluated how you score in each one.

From the job roles you found the most interesting and the skill that you think is your weakest, what do you think you need to focus on in order to prepare for a career within the Creative Sector?

Skills focus:

This is your
skill to be
developed.

Make a quick list of activities and tasks that can help you to develop your skill. If you can't think of any activity ideas, you can take a look through the **Skill Activity Inspiration** page.

Skill activity inspiration

Creativity



- Design a boardgame for you and your family to play.
- Create motivational posters to place around the house.



Time management

- Make a plan for day. Make a do to list and try to finish all tasks in set times.
- Plan someone else's day (include everything that they want to achieve).

Communication



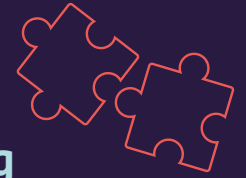
- Tell someone a story (it could even be about what you did yesterday).
- Write a letter to the Prime Minister about your experience of lockdown.
- Write a speech pretending that you are the Prime Minister.

Organisation



- Help to do the online food shop.
- Tidy your room.
- Sort and label an area in the home that will make life easier for your household.

Problem-solving



- From items in the cupboards and fridge, plan meals for your household.
- Have a go at puzzle solving apps.
- Create an escape room in your bedroom.



Building relationships

- Learn three new things about someone in your household or family. You could ask them in person, via phone or virtual communication.

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