Careers for INTP Personality Types

“Ingenious Problem Solvers”

Whether you're a young adult trying to find your place in the world, or a not-so-young adult trying to find out if you're moving along the right path, it's important to understand yourself and the personality traits that will impact your likeliness to succeed or fail at various careers. It's equally important to understand what is really important to you. When armed with an understanding of your strengths and weaknesses, and an awareness of what you truly value, you are in an excellent position to pick a career which you will find rewarding.

INTPs generally have the following traits:

- Love theory and abstract ideas
- Truth Seekers - they want to understand things by analyzing underlying principles and structures
- Value knowledge and competence above all else
- Have very high standards for performance, which they apply to themselves
- Independent and original, possibly eccentric
- Work best alone, and value autonomy
- Have no desire to lead or follow
- Dislike mundane detail
- Not particularly interested in the practical application of their work
- Creative and insightful
- Future-oriented
- Usually brilliant and ingenious
- Trust their own insights and opinions above others
- Live primarily inside their own minds, and may appear to be detached and uninvolved with other people
INTPs have a special gift with generating and analyzing theories and possibilities to prove or disprove them. They have a great deal of insight and are creative thinkers, which allow them to quickly grasp complex abstract thoughts. They also have exceptional logical and rational reasoning skills, which allow them to thoroughly analyze theories to discover the Truth about them. Since the INTP is driven to seek clarity in the world, we have a happy match of desire and ability in this personality type. INTPs will be happiest in careers which allow them a great deal of autonomy in which they can work primarily alone on developing and analyzing complex theories and abstractions, with the goal of their work being the discovery of a truth, rather than the discovery of a practical application.

**INTP CAREERS**

**ACADEMIC**
- Archaeologist
- College faculty administrator
- College teacher of advanced students
- Economist
- Historian
- Interpreter/translator
- Logician
- Mathematician
- Philosopher
- Researcher

**CREATIVE**
- Agent
- Artist
- Creative writer
- Entertainer/dancer
- Information-graphics designer
- Inventor
- Musician
- Photographer

**HEALTH CARE/TECHNICAL**
- Biomedical engineer/researcher
- Neurologist
- Pharmaceutical researcher
- Pharmacist
- Physicist
- Plastic surgeon
- Scientist: chemistry/biology
- Veterinarian

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
- Change management consultant
- Computer programmer
- Computer software designer
- Financial planner

Information services – new business developer
Information services developer-computer programming
Investment banker
Management consultant: computer/information services, marketing, reorganization
Network integration specialist (telecommunications)
New market or product conceptualizer
Research and development specialist
Strategic planner
Systems analyst/date base manager

**PROFESSIONAL**
- Architect
- Corporate financial attorney
- Economist
- Financial analyst
- Intellectual property attorney
- Investigator
- Lawyer
- Legal mediator
- Psychiatrist
- Psychoanalyst

Excerpt from *Do What You Are* by Paul Tieger and Barbara Barron-Tieger
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