Once you’ve chosen a dream role (don’t accept anything less), you need to plan the long and winding road to your destination. The crucial element of this journey is the need to develop your skills through work experience. However, it’s not just good enough to have experience on your CV, you need to strategically manage what you’re doing, so you can clearly demonstrate to future employers that you have the high-level skills they require.

In the following activity, research a few interesting career roles and see what skills they require, then honestly assess your strengths and weaknesses in each area. You can then look for targeted experiential opportunities that will give you effective scope for targeted improvement.

Problem-solving is explored as an example in the table below. You may want to identify other transferable roles (such as teamwork or IT literacy), or technical skills limited to the particular career you’re targeting such as auditing (for a career in accountancy).

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| **Self-assessment: Assessing your strengths**   1. List four skills you’ll require in your chosen sector/role. 2. For each skill, outline one or two of your strengths and some areas you can improve.   Problem-solving is provided as an example.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **The skills required in your chosen role** | **Your strengths** | **Some areas you can improve** | | Example skill:  Problem-solving | * Clearly unravelling the key issues * Researching a range of solutions | * Getting help from others * Confidence in my conclusions | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |

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| **Reflecting on your answers:** Reflecting on your skills in this way is an important skill in itself because a career is for life and this ability will help you prepare for any future challenge. |