On any long journey to a new destination, you’d rarely just head out randomly onto the open-road and cross your fingers that you’ll end up where you want to go; you'd plan your trip beforehand, or at least plug your destination into a SATNAV. Of course, you may end up making a detour or two, changing your mind, breaking-down or even changing your mind, but it still helps having a plan at the outset. All of this is equally true for your career.

So, once you have an idea as to where you want to go in life, it can really help to figure out the steps you need to take and, even though these may well change, some sort of strategy at the outset will give you the focus you ‘ll need.

Try planning your route in the exercise overleaf. Several examples are shown in chapter 7, if you need help.

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| **Self-assessment: Your own personal career strategy**  Plan your personal route into your career (incorporate extra steps if need be):   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Your manageable steps** | **Completion date** | | Step 1: |  | | Step 2: |  | | Step 3: |  | | Step 4: |  | | Step 5: |  | | Step 6: |  | | Any extra steps as required: |  | | Your destination |  |   . |

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| **Reflecting on your answers:** Ask a Careers Adviser if this plan seems realistic and amend it accordingly. |