Tests are like yardsticks and scales; they are for measuring. Tests try to measure someone’s knowledge, abilities, interests, or other attributes by asking carefully worded questions. Of course, the measurement is only as good as the questions asked—and the answer that the person gives. Tests are used in several ways. Schools and employers use tests in admissions, course grading, hiring, and other screening and placement decisions. Individuals can use them in making personal plans, too.

Tests used in career counseling are often called “assessment instruments.” In counseling, they are not used to evaluate a person; instead, they are used to help assess career prospects. You and your counselor use the results—along with other information and ideas—in planning your career. You are both the test taker and the test user.

Most vocational assessment reports compare your scores to the scores of other people. They tell how you compare, for example, to people who work as opticians. Such comparisons are hard to draw, but they make test results easier to use. It helps to know whether your interests are like those of people who are opticians, but an interest inventory can’t tell you if you have the necessary manual and visual abilities to do a good job. A test can help you understand one aspect of yourself, but it won’t tell you what to do. That is a decision you need to make yourself, and it requires more information than one test can provide. You need to consider your various interests and abilities and the opportunities that are available. Assessment Link and the rest of the Career Information System will provide you with information about work and schooling.

Assessment Link shows the connection between the titles used in a test and the titles used in the Career Information System. Some are the same, but others differ. Assessment Link finds the closest CIS occupations.

If you have taken one of the tests listed on the Assessment Link screen, you can identify CIS occupations related to the test occupations or categories. In order to benefit from the CIS cross references, you should have your test results in hand and have met with your counselor to have them explained. How you use the results of any assessment instrument is a personal choice that should be guided by the intent of the instrument and your level of self-knowledge.

Selecting the Assessment Instrument

To link your results to CIS occupations, select the test you used by clicking on its name in the Assessment Link Index. If you want more information about the test, click on Overview. For each occupation or occupation group listed on your test results, you can display a list of related CIS occupations.

Assessment Link Categories

Several assessment instruments group the occupations in their reports by categories or occupational groups. For those tests, you must first choose a category on the left side of screen. Click on the category you wish to explore using your test report to identify the category(ies) that match your results. A list of occupations or subgroups of occupations for that category will appear on the right.

If the assessment instrument uses other structures to organize the report, there will be only one category listed on the left side of the screen. Click on this title. A list of occupations or subgroups of occupations for that test will appear on the right.

Related CIS Occupations

To see the CIS occupation title(s) that are equivalent to your test results, click on one of the titles on the right. The CIS title(s) will be listed. Click on any CIS title of interest to access all of the information available for the CIS occupation. If the occupation is one that you would like to consider in your planning, you may want to save it in your Career Planning Portfolio, noting that you saved the information as a result of the specific assessment results. (Name the instrument in your note.)