NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PRE-QUIZ

Education, Careers, & Earning Potential

What + Why: A quick, ungraded check on what you already know—your answers help shape the learning ahead. It's okay not to know—just give it your best shot.

Instructions:

1. Answer each question as best you can.
2. Circle the best answer for each question.
3. Submit it when you're done.

1. In a fast-changing technology field where new tools and programming languages emerge every few years, which factor is most likely to have the greatest impact on a worker's long-term earning potential?
   a. the level of formal education completed at the start of the career
   b. the ability to regularly update skills to meet new demands
   c. the total number of years spent working in the field
   d. the size of the company where the person is first employed

2. Alex enjoys working with tools and hands-on systems, and prefers learning by doing rather than through long academic coursework. She wants to start earning income within the next two years and values a predictable work schedule and steady employment over maximizing salary. Which pathway best aligns with Alex's interests, abilities, and goals?
   a. a commission-based sales role that offers high earning potential but variable income and hours
   b. a general studies associate degree that keeps future options open but doesn't focus on a specific occupation
   c. a four-year engineering degree that requires advanced math and typically leads to higher long-term earnings
   d. a one-year industrial maintenance certificate that leads to technician roles with stable demand but lower pay

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3. Which statement best analyzes the difference between federal grants and federal student loans as ways to pay for postsecondary education and training?
   a. Grants require students to repay the amount received once they finish their programs, but do not charge interest.
   b. Grants and loans offer similar long-term financial outcomes because both reduce the upfront cost of education.
   c. Grants lower the overall cost of education because they do not require repayment, whereas loans increase long-term costs through interest.
   d. Loans are more beneficial than grants because they can be used for a wider range of expenses.

4. A company introduces automated tools that increase productivity by reducing the need for repetitive manual tasks. How is this change MOST likely to affect the types of jobs available and the income potential for workers at the company?
   a. It will increase income for all workers because the company's increased profits will be shared equally.
   b. It will increase the number of routine, entry-level jobs and lower the income for most workers.
   c. It will have little effect on job types or income because productivity gains only affect broad labor markets, not individual companies.
   d. It will reduce demand for routine jobs and increase demand and income for workers with strong technical and problem-solving skills.

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