

“The Perfect Career” - Workshop with Mohammed Amin & 1st Ethical Charitable Trust

Blurb: Everybody wants "the perfect career" - but how to go about finding it? This workshop will be on the importance of choosing and succeeding in a career that brings financial success, and success in moving up inside a corporate hierarchy if you are not running your own business. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers in the session.

Speaker bio: Mohammed Amin, MA, FCA, AMCT, CTA (Fellow). Mohammed Amin was born in Pakistan but has lived in the UK since 1952. He attended a state grammar school and then obtained a mathematics degree from Cambridge University and a post graduate certificate in education from Leeds University. After a year teaching, he trained as a chartered accountant and specialised in taxation upon qualifying. In 1990 he became Price Waterhouse's first Muslim partner in the UK, and in 2003 was elected to the firm's Supervisory Board.

1. Introduction

- a. Perfection is like beauty. It is in the eye of the beholder. Today's workshop is intended to help you think about what career you want.
- b. Talk for about 15 minutes, then Q&A.

2. Structure

- a. What entitles me to talk about perfect careers?
- b. Five key things my career taught me.
- c. Q&A

3. What entitles me to talk about perfect careers?

- a. I started training as a chartered accountant in October 1974.
- b. I retired at the end of 2009, 35 years later.
- c. In 35 years, some days were better than others, but:
 - i. I cannot remember a single day when I was bored.
 - ii. I never wanted to just go home.
 - iii. I never considered an alternative career.
 - iv. For a long time I was in the top 1% of income earners.
 - v. My career took me all around the world.
 - vi. It also had a lot of status.

4. Key things my career taught me

- a. Money is a by-product, not the main goal. If you choose a career just for the money, you are likely to end up unhappy.
- b. You need to be totally fascinated by what you do. Not just interested, fascinated.
 - i. Some people want to cure diseases.
 - ii. Some people want to paint pictures.
 - iii. Some people like solving tax problems.
- c. Join the very best organisations that you can.
 - i. Iron sharpens iron.
 - ii. A Jewish lawyer once said to me after I had stopped being a partner in a small firm to become a senior manager at Price Waterhouse “It is better the tail of a lion than the head of a dog.”
- d. Tackle hard challenges
 - i. Nobody pays you much for solving easy problems.
 - ii. The most difficult clients are often the most rewarding. I worked for 22 years with a client who used to sack his French tax partner roughly every six months!
- e. Learn to work with people
 - i. Apart from a few roles like investing your own money, every career involves working with other people as:
 - 1. Superiors
 - 2. Colleagues
 - 3. People who report to you
 - 4. Clients or customers
 - 5. Suppliers

ii. If people don't like you, you will fail.

5. Questions and answers