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Predicting Career Direction and Satisfaction Beyond Secondary Education  
Using the Vocational Interest Questionnaire (VIQ)

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### Abstract

Interest inventories are the most commonly used measure in career counselling practice and research (Spokane & Jacob, 1996). One such inventory is the Vocational Interest Questionnaire (VIQ) (Cross & Simcock, 1994) which has been used by Australian secondary school students since 1994. This is the first study to examine the predictive validity of the VIQ; a process which is considered vital for the effective interpretation of any interest test (Hansen, 1984). The predictive validity of interest tests has traditionally been carried out by examining the match between the interests generated by the test, and those observed at a later date (typically four to ten years). This correspondence of match has been referred to as the 'hit-rate'. 174 students from six Adelaide secondary schools completed the VIQ in 1994 and 1997, and their results were compared to later responses gathered in a follow-up survey. Students' top three interest categories (of eleven) in their VIQ report corresponded to hit-rates of 67 percent with future study, and 64.8 percent with future occupation. These results compare favourably with other, well established interest tests. There were no significant relationships found between a match of interests and future satisfaction in study or occupational areas – a finding mirrored in previous studies on the link between interest and satisfaction.