

What does a social worker do?

Would you make a good Social Worker? Here is an overview of the career description of a social worker.

Points for consideration:

What characteristics and personal features are required of a social worker?

Where do social workers work? What is their typical day? What are their duties?

Do social workers have to cooperate with any other public services?

Where would you like to work?

Write 5 questions which you would like to ask a social worker.

Question 1 Watch the video at [I wanna be a social worker](#) and mark the sentences True or False.

1. Rebecca meets Danielle at the Department for Women Protection and Family Support, Government of Western Australia.

2. In this Department social workers usually go through typical days where they do similar tasks.

3. In this Department social workers never work in the office.

4. The most rewarding part of the social worker job is helping children and making sure they are safe.

5. If you want to be a social worker, it's essential to gain some life experience first.

6. You don't need any special personal characteristics to become a social worker.

Did the video clear your questions about the job of a social worker?

Question 2 Text: <https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/social-worker/> (What does a social worker do)

Read the text about social workers and choose the right answer by writing in a, b, or c.

1. Direct-service social workers typically do NOT do the following

a. research and refer clients to community resources, such as food stamps, child care, and healthcare

b. provide individual, group, family, and couples therapy

c. advocate for and help clients get resources that would improve their well-being

2. Clinical social workers typically do NOT do the following:

a. develop a treatment plan with the client, doctors, and other healthcare professionals

b. diagnose and treat mental, behavioural, and emotional disorders, including anxiety and depression

c. help clients work with government agencies to apply for and receive benefits such as Medicare

3. The workplace of a social worker [3....] schools, colleges and universities.

a. includes

b. does not include

4. A social worker does the following (pick one):

a. collaborates with doctors, develops treatment plans

b. acts as an adviser, identifies and diagnosis mental disorders

c. acts as a client advocate, educator, coordinator of care

5. Social workers will make the most money if they work at

a. providing therapy for veterans via the VA or child assessments for divorce lawyers

b. a homeless shelter

6. Social work students need to realize that

a. all clients will benefit and flourish from their services

b. some clients are unable to change

c. all clients will be grateful for their help

7. The most difficult part of a social worker job is

a. figuring out how to navigate the system

b. dealing with clients

c. dealing with your own feelings

8. Practising social workers say that their jobs

a. only have the bright sides

b. only have negative sides

c. have both positive and negative aspects

9. Social work has been influenced by the various societal and professional trends over the years

a. yes

b. no

10. Social workers are involved in helping victims of trauma caused by

a. hurricanes

b. wars and terrorist attacks

c. both manmade and natural disasters

Question 3 Match the words or expressions to their definitions. They all appear in the text you have read.

1. advocate	A. connected to the mind
2. natural disasters	B. related to the way people act or behave
3. evaluate	C. that cannot be cured and will cause a person to die
4. behavioural (issues)	D. welfare (Am.E.), money or other help that the government gives people who need financial help, for example because they do not have a job
5. substance abuse	E. damages or accidents caused by natural forces, ex. floods or hurricanes
6. benefit	F. publicly support or speak in support of something
7. nursing home	G. something that can be used to help people, such as food stamps, childcare, healthcare, provided by community services
8. mental	H. to judge how good, useful, or valuable something is
9. terminal (illness)	I. a place where people who are old and ill can live and be looked after; an old people's home
10. community resources	J. the habit of taking too many illegal drugs, in a way that harms your health

Role play: Act out a job interview for a social worker.

Student A: You want to be a social worker. Student B: You are the employer.

Search the bookmarks (Salary/Job market/ Jobs, etc.) at <https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/social-worker/> to find a social job opening for yourself.

Writing: Why do you want to become a social worker?