Reading the Want Ads

Your newspaper’s help-wanted section is a great place to start researching after-school jobs, summer jobs or future full-time careers. The jobs are listed alphabetically and often include common abbreviations. For example, an ad seeking a “Photographer, FT, exper. only. Must have recs. Excel. benefits” means that the employer wants a full-time photographer with experience and is offering excellent benefits. The candidate must have recommendations. An ad for a “Cashier, PT eve. Trainee OK. Good for HS student” seeks a part-time cashier to work evenings. The employer is willing to train a high school student.

Take a look at the sample want ads below and then answer the questions that follow.

1. Which job specifically says it’s good for high school students?

2. Which job says that no experience is required? Which one says it is preferred but not necessary?

3. Which job listed here pays the most?

4. Which job requires a college degree?

5. Which job mentions a special perk? What is it?

6. John calls Trendo’s to apply for the salesperson job. What has he done wrong?

7. What pays more—being a child care worker or a salesperson at Trendo’s?

8. Gloria, 16, sounds just like Christina Aguilera. Should she apply for the singing job?

9. Keisha wants a weekend job as a lift attendant. How should she apply?

10. How much does the pizza delivery job pay?

Extra Credit: Would some of these jobs be considered “non-traditional” for men? Would others be unusual for women? Should gender affect the employers’ decision about whom to hire? Explain.
1. Ski lift attendant
2. Pizza deliveryperson, child care worker
3. Systems analyst
4. Systems analyst
5. Ski lift attendants get season passes.
6. Trendo’s wants résumés only, no phone calls.
7. They both get $7 an hour, but the salesperson also gets commissions.
8. No. Singers must be over 18.
9. Call Sally Chapstick between 9 and 5 on Wednesday.
10. $5 an hour plus tips.