

Grade 8 Life Orientation Worksheet

Positive personal qualities - Richard Branson

Passage and questions

RICHARD BRANSON

Richard Branson has become a household name in South Africa. We know him best in South Africa for his “Virgin” brand – from airlines, to music, to credit cards and fitness clubs (gyms). He is a true entrepreneur, constantly looking for new business opportunities, and is never afraid of a good challenge.

Branson is certainly a self-motivated achiever. At the age of 16 he began publishing a student magazine. By the time he was 20 years old, the famous Virgin brand had begun in the form of a discount records mail order business. Branson opened a record store on Oxford Street, London and in 1972 he began a recording label called Virgin Records. He sold Virgin Records to THORN EMI for a whopping one billion dollars.

Branson is passionate about life and lives every minute to its fullest. What many people don't know about Richard Branson is that he is dyslexic and did not do very well academically at school. Instead, he excelled at sports.

Branson has an ability to connect and communicate with others and he has used that to his full advantage.

Questions:

1. Name five positive traits mentioned in the text above. [5]
2. Why do you think it is important to be able to ‘connect and communicate’ with people in order to be a success in life? [2]
3. Do you think that because Richard Branson was dyslexic he may have had to work even harder to reach business and financial success? Give reasons for your answer. [3]

Total marks: 10

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1.	5	He is/has: An entrepreneur Not afraid of a challenge Self-motivated Passionate about life Excellent at sports An ability to connect and communicate with others
2.	2	Own answer.
3.	3	Own answer.

Total marks [10]