Appendix E – Semi-structured interview Guides

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to take VET subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion? You changed from Eng Comm to English and Maths B to Maths A between surveys - what was behind those changes?

How did you choose your other subjects?

The subjects that you rated as 3 4 and 5 were a combination of VET and OP subjects. How do you decide whether a subject is useful for a future career or job?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to get into the construction industry. Tell me about how this industry came to your attention.

What influence do you think Maths A will have on your chances of getting entry?

Fireman, diver, electronics tradesman, cattle farmer

SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Initially you were leaning more towards OP than VET. How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take VET subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices? (2)

How definite are you about doing a trade when you leave school?

What effect did the timetable lines have on your choices? Did you have to change some of your preferences?
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to take academic subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion?

Do you think some subjects will get you a better OP than others? Why do you think that and how does that happen?

You rated a lot of the OP subjects as being more useful (3 and above) than the vocational pathway subjects. Why is that so?

How can a subject be useful to you in later years?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to be a flight attendant or work in a medical department.

Tell me about how you came to decide this.

What influence do you think OP subjects will have on your chances of getting entry?

Chef?

- SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take academic subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices? (6)
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

• STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to take VET subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion?

How did you choose your subjects?

The subjects that you rated as 3 4 and 5 were a combination of VET and OP subjects. How do you decide whether a subject is useful for a future career or job?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to get a trade but undecided as yet. Tell me about the ideas you are considering at this stage.

Tell me about how you came to decide this.

What influence do you think Maths A will have on your chances of getting entry?

Radio announcer, sports commentator, disc jockey

• SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Initially you were half and half about taking VET or OP. How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take VET subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices? (1)

How definite are you about doing a trade when you leave school?

What effect did the timetable lines have on your choices? Did you have to change some of your preferences?
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to change from OP to vocational subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion?

I noticed that you have chosen Religion because you say it will help you in your career. Would you be able to explain how that happens?

Multimedia is a popular subject here at Carmel College - why is that so?

When you rated subjects as being useful in so far as it will give you access to higher paid jobs - how do subjects do this?

How can a subject be useful to you in later years?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to pursue a career in web design. How have you planned for that to happen? What influence do you think your subjects will have on your chances of getting entry?

How would the choice of VET subjects affect your ability to enter the field?

- SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take academic/vocational education subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices?

How definite are you about becoming a web designer when you leave school?
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

• STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to take VET subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion? You changed from English to English Comm but kept Maths A - what was behind those changes?

How did you choose your other subjects?

In the first survey the only subject you rated as a 5 was Maths C. Can you recall why you felt it would be the most useful in later life for a job or career?

The subjects that you rated as 3 4 and 5 were a combination of VET and OP subjects. How do you decide whether a subject is useful for a future career or job?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to be a professional sportsman. Tell me about how this occupation came to your attention.

What influence do you think Maths A will have on your chances of getting entry?

PE teacher, Sports coach, building construction supervisor

• SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Initially you were leaning more towards OP than VET. How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take VET subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices? (4)

How definite are you about becoming a professional sportsperson when you leave school?
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to take academic/vocational education subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion?

I noticed that you have chosen Maths B/Religion because you say it will afford you a better OP. Would you be able to explain how that happens?

Visual Art is a popular subject here at Carmel College - why is that so?

You rated a lot of the OP subjects as being more useful (3 and above) than the vocational pathway subjects. Why is that so?

How can a subject be useful to you in later years?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to go to College of Art. What influence do you think OP subjects will have on your chances of getting entry?

How would the choice of VET subjects affect your ability to enter the College of Art?

- SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take academic/vocational education subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices?

How definite are you about becoming a ‘(data taken from survey)’ when you leave school?
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to take academic/vocational education subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion?

I noticed that you have chosen Maths B/Religion because you say it will afford you a better OP. Would you be able to explain how that happens?

Visual Art is a popular subject here at Carmel College - why is that so?

You rated a lot of the OP subjects as being more useful (3 and above) than the vocational pathway subjects. Why is that so?

How can a subject be useful to you in later years?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to go to College of Art. What influence do you think OP subjects will have on your chances of getting entry?

How would the choice of VET subjects affect your ability to enter the College of Art?

- SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take academic/vocational education subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices?

How definite are you about becoming a ’ (data taken from survey)’ when you leave school?
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to take academic subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion?

Do you think some subjects enable you to get a better OP than others? If so which subjects and how does it happen?

You rated a lot of the OP subjects as being more useful (3 and above) than the vocational pathway subjects. Why is that so?

How can a subject be useful to you in later years?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to be a 3D animator. What influence do you think OP subjects will have on your chances of getting entry?

Architect!!!

- SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take academic subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices? (4)

How definite are you about becoming a 3D animator when you leave school?

What effect did the timetable lines have on your choices? Did you have to change some of your preferences?

What was your biggest obstacle in choosing the subjects you wanted?
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to take VET subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion?
You changed from Study of Religion to R & E - what was behind those changes?

How did you choose your other subjects?

The subjects that you rated as 3 4 and 5 were a combination of VET and OP subjects. How do you decide whether a subject is useful for a future career or job?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to be a boilermaker. Tell me about how this occupation came to your attention.

What influence do you think Maths A will have on your chances of getting entry?

Cricketer, footballer, golfer

- SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Initially you were leaning more towards OP than VET. How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take VET subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices? (4)

How definite are you about doing a trade when you leave school?

What effect did the timetable lines have on your choices? Did you have to change some of your preferences?

What was your MAIN obstacle in choosing the subjects you wanted?
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

• STANDING OF SUBJECTS

Tell me about your decision to take academic subjects for senior.

What is your opinion regarding compulsory subjects - English, Maths, Religion?

You have highlighted that Maths B will help you to get a better OP? Why do you think that and how does that happen?

You rated a lot of the OP subjects as being more useful (3 and above) than the vocational pathway subjects. Why is that so?

How can a subject be useful to you in later years?

What is your opinion of the vocational pathway subjects at this college?

What do you think is the purpose of the vocational pathway subjects?

How useful are they in later years?

You mention that you intend to be an animator. What influence do you think OP subjects will have on your chances of getting entry?

Chef?

• SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

How did the subject selection process affect your decision to take academic subjects?

In addition to your chosen subjects, were there others you would have liked to do but did not include in your choices?

What sort of advice were you given by your teachers regarding your subject choices? (3)

You initially were interested in going to the College of Art and becoming a graphic designer. How definite are you about becoming an animator when you leave school?

What effect did the timetable lines have on your choices? Did you have to change some of your preferences?