

Sam Sample 11 Sep 2025

DECISION MAKER

SALES ROLES







GUIDE TO USING THIS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The sales function is the lifeblood of most organisations. It can exponentially grow revenue and cement a business' success. Studies have consistently shown that the calibre of the sales force is directly related to sales success and organisational growth. Fortunately, sales effectiveness is a skill that can be identified and developed. The sales questionnaire assesses a range of personality and motivational characteristics that represent a tendency towards effective sales behaviour.

This report uses Sam Sample's profile results to investigate the likelihood he may exhibit certain types of sales related behaviour. The report is intended as a tool to inform and support selection decisions, it can be used as a starting point to facilitate behavioural interviews and help elicit evidence of Sam Sample's sales competence based on the dimensions used in this report.

REPORT SECTIONS

The "Selection" report presents Sam Sample's profile results in the following sections:

Sales Process Overview

Provides a summary of Sam Sample's results against the sales process. This section also highlights Sam Sample's potential strengths and areas of potential risk within the sales process phases.

Behavioural Interview Guide

Provides more detailed information regarding Sam Sample's performance on each of the profile's dimensions. The section also provides interview questions which can be used to probe his tendency to exhibit effective sales behaviour and to form a better understanding of the potential risks and whether they pose a real risk.

Sales Culture Fit Overview

Provides a summary of Sam Sample's fit to different types of roles or work environments.

DISCLAIMER

This assessment is only an indicator. Therefore, it is recommended that decisions on recruitment, promotion, career guidance and development are made in conjunction with other relevant information and not solely on the information in this report. The authors and distributors accept no responsibility for decisions made using this tool and cannot be held directly or indirectly liable for the consequences of those decisions.





CONTEXT

The profile arises from a personality questionnaire. It must be interpreted in the context of other relevant factors such as experience, training, and wider skills. For example, Sam Sample's past performance can be assessed through a critical review of references, his work history and previous qualifications, and via a structured interview. His level of job specific knowledge can be assessed via the use of work sample tests and simulations, and behavioural interviews. Finally, his skills can be assessed in greater detail through behavioural observation, role-plays and assessment centre exercises. The profile should also be considered in light of the organisation's sales process and culture.

DIMENSIONS

The behaviours/dimensions used in the questionnaire are derived from a typical sales process framework. This particular model was selected to provide a clear picture of respondents' capabilities within a framework familiar to most sales professionals and trainers.

SALES PROCESS PHASES

Building Contacts (Prospecting)

Investigates the individual's capacity to build contacts. It includes the following dimensions:

- Looks for opportunities Seeking opportunities and taking advantage of them.
- Outgoing and engages others Approaching others and initiating contact in order to build a network of sales contacts and leads.
- Builds close personal relationships Building close personal relationships with clients.

Needs Assessment (Qualifying)

Investigates the individual's capacity to assess customer needs. It includes the following dimensions:

- Seeks to understand needs Attentiveness to the needs of his clients when qualifying leads.
- Seeks to find value Creating value by linking clients' needs to relevant products and services.
- Qualifies opportunities Categorising leads according to practical sales outcomes and identify when to disqualify leads which are not likely to yield results.

Style and Presentation (Pitching)

Investigates the individual's capacity to present ideas and concepts to others. It includes the following dimensions:

- **Social presence** Gaining and holding the attention of others.
- **Persuasive** Persuading and convincing others of his/her point of view.
- Adaptive and conforming Adaptive selling style to closely fit sales situations and buyer expectations.

Negotiation (Closing)

Investigates the individual's capacity to negotiate with customers and close sales. It includes the following dimensions:

- **Assertive** Moving sales situations forward without being aggressive or coercive.
- Conflict handling Dealing with customer objections in a professional and constructive manner.
- Diligent and persevering Pursuing sales until all avenues have been explored and exhausted.

Follow-up (Supporting)

Investigates the individual's capacity to follow-up on the sale after closure. It includes the following dimensions:

- Service and support Showing dedication to customer satisfaction and providing after-sales support to customers.
- Process oriented Working with sales processes and procedures, completing sales related paperwork and tracking sales results.
- Stress management Overcoming difficulties and facing challenges with confidence and optimism.





In addition to describing Sam Sample's likelihood to perform against the sales process model, the report also provides insights into the types of roles or environments he is more likely to be comfortable working in.

SALES CULTURE CONDITIONS

Roles which require salespeople to work under pressure

Roles which require salespeople to exercise diplomacy

Roles which require salespeople to address the public and give presentations

Roles which require salespeople to work with each other

Roles which require salespeople to work in a competitive environment

Roles which require salespeople to work long hours

Roles which require salespeople to maintain high standards

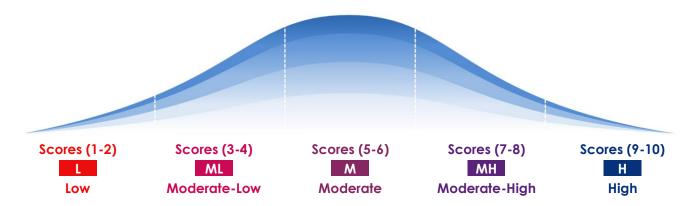
Roles which require salespeople to work under constantly changing conditions

Roles which provide salespeople with financial rewards and incentives

RESULTS SCALE

A reference group is used to evaluate Sam Sample's results and determine his tendency to exhibit effective sales behaviours in the workplace compared to others. His results are presented as standardised scores on a scale of 1 to 10.

The following chart represents a distribution of individuals on a particular scale, where high scores represent greater tendency to behave in a particular manner and low scores represent a reduced likelihood of behaving in a particular manner. An overall level ranging from a "Low" to a "High" tendency is provided to help highlight areas of concern.



REFERENCE GROUPS USED

Personality Dimensions: 481 Professionals and Managers

RESPONSE STYLE

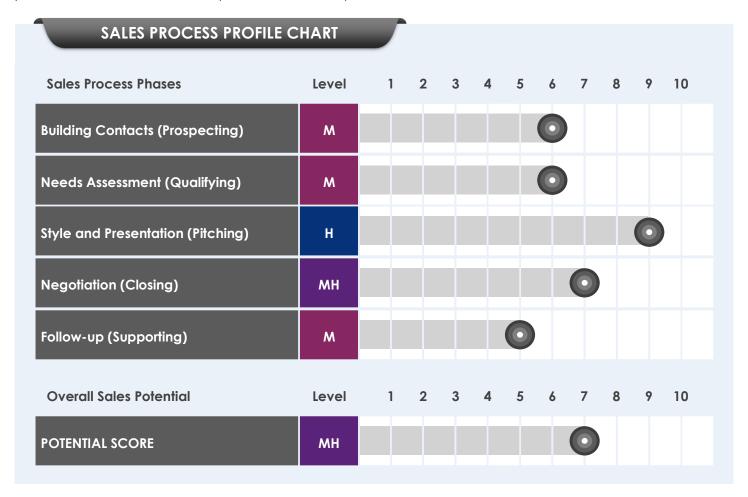
The pattern of responses Sam Sample obtained on the assessment indicates that he may have only been relatively motivated to adjust his behaviour to fit in with social expectations. As a result, his personality profile is not likely to have been biased by a desire to present himself in an unrealistically favourable light.





SALES PROCESS OVERVIEW

The overall sales potential score estimates Sam Sample's tendency to exhibit effective sales behaviours in the workplace. It reflects a combination of personality and motivational characteristics related to sales performance within the various phases of the sales process.







PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables list the major strengths and potential areas of concern that can be inferred from Sam Sample's responses to the questionnaire. Further details are available in the Behavioural Interview Guide.

POTENTIAL STRENGTHS

- Sam Sample is likely to approach others and initiate contact in order to build a network of sales contacts and leads. In addition to this, he should be fairly well suited to selling to cold prospects.
- He is likely to seek to create value by linking his clients' needs to relevant products and services.
- He is likely to have a strong social presence and is more likely than most to seek to gain and hold the attention of others.
- Sam Sample is likely to be a very persuasive speaker.
- He is likely to be as diplomatic and tactful as most and is likely to adapt his selling style to closely fit whatever sales situation he finds himself in.
- Sam Sample is likely to be keen to move sales situations forward and close deals. Consequently, his style is likely to be assertive without crossing the boundary into being overly aggressive or intimidating.

POTENTIAL RISKS

■ No potential risks could be derived from Sam Sample's profile.







BEHAVIOURAL INTERVIEW GUIDE

The report provides structured behavioural interview questions to attempt to help elicit information about a respondent's past behaviour. Such a technique is based on the premise that past behaviour is seen as the best predictor of future behaviour. Interviewees' responses are generally considered reliable because they are based on what they actually did, as opposed to offering opinions or hypothetical responses.

INTERVIEW MODEL

The interview model follows the STAR behavioural interviewing method in which evidence must be gained to indicate the context of the behaviour, the nature of the behaviour and the consequences of the behaviour. STAR is an acronym for:

Situation	T ask	A ction	Result
What was the context of the behaviour?	What needed to be achieved?	What behaviour resulted from the situation?	What was the outcome?

PROBING

The STAR interview questions are used to probe the individuals' responses from multiple angles. However, in most situations interviewers need only ask the "Situation" question as it is the main question which attempts to elicit examples from past behaviour. Interviewers are only encouraged to use the other questions if the response to the "Situation" is unclear or incomplete. In such cases interviewers can use the remaining STAR questions to further probe respondents and gain a better understanding of their behaviour, context of the behaviour and outcomes.

Two lines of questions are provided for each dimension of the sales process framework. Each line provides a full list of questions to complete the STAR interview model. Interviewers are encouraged to use both lines of questions as they attempt to elicit evidence from different sources and often complete each other.

While the STAR interviewing method provides valid interview questions as well as further structure to how interviews are conducted and how responses are evaluated, interviewers are encouraged to:

- Identify which dimensions listed in the report are related to the organisation's sales roles.
- Develop their own list of questions and not rely solely on the interview questions provided.
- Determine what other job related factors are not covered in the report and prepare additional questions to cover those areas.
- Gather additional information about respondents from other sources such as background checks, references, sales role plays, past sales performance, etc.
- Utilise the evidence gathered from all the sources in order to make a decision.

SCORING

Scoring forms are provided as part of the interview guide. Interviewers are encouraged to use the forms to take notes and are advised to score responses using the following 5-point scale:

1	2	3	4	5
Only circumstantial evidence gained, or evidence gained which supports a low ability.	No explicit evidence gained, or little evidence gained which supports a low ability.	Explicit evidence gained which supports a moderate ability.	Explicit evidence gained which supports a strong ability.	Detailed evidence gained which supports a strong ability.





M INTERVIEW GUIDE: BUILDING CONTACTS (PROSPECTING)

M A. Looks for opportunities - Seeking opportunities and taking advantage of them.

The pattern of results Sam Sample obtained on the assessment indicates that he has a lively and enthusiastic nature. Consequently, he is more likely than most to grasp opportunities as they arise. Having said this, his profile also indicates that he may not be as driven as some when it comes to pursuing opportunities.

	Situation	T ask	Action	Result
Q1	Can you give me an example of working to acquire new sales leads?	■ Why did you work to acquire new leads?	■ What sources did you rely on and how did you utilise these sources?	 What were the best sources and why? Were there any sources that you felt you overlooked or that you could have utilised better and why?
Q2	Give me an example of contacting leads from a list.	■ Where did you get the list from and why did you use it?	What was your process for contacting the leads?	 How many leads did you have to contact and how many were you able to convert to sales? Do you consider that your efforts were well worth it in the end?

MH B. Outgoing and engages others - The ability to approach others and initiate contact.

Having obtained a pattern of results that indicates that he is more outgoing and socially bold than most, Sam Sample is likely to approach others and initiate contact in order to build a network of sales contacts and leads. In addition to this, he is not likely to be disheartened by rejection, which should make him fairly suited to selling to cold prospects.

	S ituation	T ask	A ction	Result
Q1	■ Tell me of a situation where you used your networks to generate sales leads.	How did you decide who to contact and why?	How did you approach people?	 How effective was your network in generating more leads/sales? Give me an example.
Q2	■ Tell me of a time when you faced rejection while contacting leads.	■ Why were you rejected?	■ What did you do to overcome the rejection?	■ How does constant rejection affect you in the long-term and how do you handle it?

C. Builds close personal relationships - The ability to build close personal relationships with clients.

His profile indicates that he is as likely as most to project a friendly and personable nature and to show concern for others. Consequently, Sam Sample is likely to be as good as most at building close personal relationships with clients. In addition to this, others are likely to recognise his friendly nature and are likely to warm to him reasonably quickly.

	S ituation	T ask	A ction	Result
Q1	■ Tell me of some of the relationships you have built with clients.	How would you characterise these relationships?	How did you establish contact and build rapport?	How have these efforts helped with your sales objectives?
Q2	 Can you give me an example of the types of clients you like to sell to? Please give me an example. 	■ What typifies these clients?	How do you generally approach such clients?Can you give me an example?	What about difficult types of customers?How do you approach them and build rapport?





M INTERVIEW GUIDE: NEEDS ASSESSMENT (QUALIFYING)

M A. Seeks to understand needs - The ability to be attentive to the needs of his clients when qualifying leads.

Sam Sample's responses on the questionnaire indicate that he has as much of an interest in others as most people. As a result, he is likely to be as attentive as most to the needs of his clients when qualifying leads.

	Situation	T ask	A ction	Result
Q1	■ Tell me of a situation where you had to establish your client's needs.	Explain what you aimed to achieve.	■ What did you do to define their needs?	How did you use the information you gained from the client?
Q2	Give me an example of using open-ended questions in initial sales calls.	Explain what you were trying to achieve.	Can you list some of the open-ended questions you used in this situation?	What do you gain generally from using such questions?

MH B. Seeks to find value - The ability to create value by linking clients' needs to products and services.

Having a profile which indicates that he has a preference to view things from a materialistic/value-based perspective, Sam Sample is likely to seek to create value by linking his clients' needs to relevant products and services.

	S ituation	T ask	A ction	Result
Q1	■ Give me an example of different types of customers you encountered and what you offered each type of customer.	How did the clients' needs differ?	■ What did you offer each customer?	Can you tell me why your offered these and what impact it had?
Q2	Can you list some of your major competitors?	Why are these your major competitors?	What benefits do the products, services or solutions you offer have over what your competitors offer?	 How and when do you get into feature and benefit comparisons with clients? Give an example.

M C. Qualifies opportunities - The ability to categorise leads according to practical sales outcomes.

Sam Sample's results suggest that he is as likely as most to adopt a calculating and Machiavellian approach to qualifying his leads, whereby he is as likely as most to categorise his leads according to practical sales outcomes. In addition to this, his preference to be relatively practical and shrewd should enable him to be as capable as most of realising when to disqualify leads which are not likely to yield results in order to focus his resources on leads with more potential.

	Situation	T ask	Action	Result
Q1	Give me an example of qualifying leads.	Why do you qualify your leads?	How do you categorise and qualify your leads?	What abilities do you think are essential to being able to properly qualify leads?
Q2	■ Can you give me an example of where you couldn't justify spending more time and effort on a prospect who wasn't likely to buy?	■ Why did decide to give up on the prospect?	■ What did you cover with the prospect before deciding they weren't worth your time of effort?	 Was there anything you feel you could have done more? What positive results can you draw from this example?





H INTERVIEW GUIDE: STYLE AND PRESENTATION (PITCHING)

H A. Social presence - The ability to gain and hold the attention of others.

The results of the questionnaire indicate that Sam Sample is likely to have a strong social presence as he is likely to be seen by others as being relatively self-assured and lively in social settings. Consequently, he is more likely than most to seek to gain and hold the attention of others.

	S ituation	T ask	A ction	Result
Q1	Give me an example of presenting to a large group.	Why did you have to present and what was the size of the group?	How did you prepare for the presentation and how confident did you feel while presenting?	How did your audience respond to your presentation?
Q2	Give me an example of making a sales pitch to a client.	What were you pitching?And how did you decide the time was right?	How did you make your pitch and how did you grab and hold the attention of the client?	Can you describe your general presentation style and how it works with what you sell?

B. Persuasive - The ability to be a persuasive speaker and convincing others of his point of view.

Sam Sample's profile suggests that he is likely to greatly enjoy convincing others of his point of view. Consequently, he is likely to be a very persuasive speaker.

	S ituation	T ask	A ction	Result
Q1	Describe the sales pitch you are most proud of.	■ What were you pitching and why?	■ What did you do especially well to make this pitch stand out?	■ What was the outcome of the pitch?
Q2	Give me an example of selling a product or service you weren't fully convinced of.	What was the product or service and why were you not fully convinced of it?	Give me an example of how you pitched this product or service to clients.	How did you overcome your inhibitions?

MH C. Adaptive and conforming - The ability to adapt his selling style to closely fit buyer expectations.

His profile indicates that he is inclined to be quite adaptable. In addition to this, he is likely to be reasonably sensitive to the nuances of social settings and motivated to conform to others' social expectations of him. As a result, Sam Sample is likely to be as diplomatic and tactful as most and is likely to adapt his selling style to closely fit whatever sales situation he finds himself in. He is also likely to be relatively concerned to present himself to others in a positive light and as keen as most not to say things which others might find offensive or consider to be odd or out of place.

	S ituation	T ask	A ction	Result
Q1	■ Tell me of a situation where you were able to accurately read the customer's cues.	■ What were the cues?	How did you respond to the cues?	What was the outcome of the pitch?
Q2	Give me an example of having to adapt and change your approach with a customer.	Why did you have to adapt your approach?	How did you adapt your approach?	What affect did this have on your pitch?

MH INTERVIEW GUIDE: NEGOTIATION (CLOSING)

H A. Assertive - The ability to move sales situations forward without being aggressive or coercive.

Inclined to be relatively assertive and as competitive as most, Sam Sample is likely to be keen to move sales situations forward and close deals, though is not as prone as some sales people to using aggressive sales tactics to coerce clients into agreeing with him. Consequently, his style is likely to be assertive without crossing the boundary into being overly aggressive or intimidating.

	S ituation	T ask	A ction	Result
Q1	 How competitive do you consider yourself to be? Give me an example of a sales situation that best characterises your answer. 	What was the situation and what were you required to do?	■ How were you competitive?	Keeping your previous responses in mind, how do you think your clients would describe you as a sales person?
Q2	■ Tell me of the most assertive/aggressive you have had to be with an uncertain client.	■ Why was the client uncertain?	■ How were you assertive?	What affect did your actions have on the client?

M B. Conflict handling - The ability to deal with customer objections in a constructive manner.

The results Sam Sample obtained on the assessment indicate that he is, by nature, likely to be as calm and collected as most. As a consequence, he is as likely as most to be patient when dealing with customer objections. As his results suggest that he is as tactful and diplomatic as most, he is as likely as most to face conflict in a constructive manner.

	S ituation	T ask	Action	Result
Q1	Describe one or two of the most difficult interactions you have had with aggressive or reproachful clients.	What happened?Why was the client was being so aggressive?	■ How did the client's behaviour make you feel and how did you respond?	How do such incidents affect you in the long run?
Q2	■ Tell me of a situation in which you had to compromise while negotiating with a client.	■ What did the client want?	What did you compromise and how did you present it?	Did the client accept the deal?Who got the most from the deal?

M C. Diligent and persevering - The ability to pursue a sale until all avenues have been exhausted.

Inclined to be as resilient and achievement orientated as most, Sam Sample is as likely as most to work towards closing sales, though he may give up on more difficult sales, especially if he faces strong rejection from the customer.

	Situation	T ask	Action	Result
Q1	■ Tell me of a situation where you had to go to great lengths in order to close a deal.	Why did you feel you had to go to such great lengths?	■ What lengths did you have to go to?	Was the effort you put in worth it?How would you justify putting in so much effort?
Q2	Tell me about having to work against sales targets.	How do you track your progress against your targets?	 How often do you follow-up on clients and how do you follow-up? Can you give me an example? 	■ How does all this help you with your targets?



M INTERVIEW GUIDE: FOLLOW-UP (SUPPORTING)

M A. Service and support - The ability to show dedication to customer satisfaction.

Sam Sample's responses to the questionnaire indicate that he is as likely as most to provide after-sales support to customers in order to ensure they are satisfied with the products or services provided.

	Situation	T ask	Action	Result
Q1	Do you have many return customers?Please tell me of one such customer.	How did the relationship begin?	How did they become return customers?Is there anything special that you did?	 Is there anything you do to maintain the relationship? What do you benefit from such relationships?
Q2	■ Tell me of a situation where you upsold a customer on a product or service.	What did they originally intend to buy?	■ What did you further offer them and how did you present it?	 Has a customer ever complained over a product or service you sold them? How did you deal with that?

M B. Process oriented - The ability to deal with customer objections in a constructive manner.

His responses to the questionnaire suggest that he is as likely as most to believe it is important to work with sales processes and procedures. As a consequence, he is likely to be as inclined as most to complete sales related paperwork and he is as likely as most to track the progress of sales.

	Situation	ion T ask		R esult
Q1	 Give me an example of working with sales processes or procedures. 	 What processes or procedures do you like the most? What processes or procedures do you dislike the most? 	How do you manage to work with them?How do you manage to work in spite of them?	■ Please list some of the advantages or disadvantages of the sales processes and procedures you work with.
Q2	What sales reports or paperwork do you have to complete as part of your job?	Why do you have to complete these?	How do you approach such tasks?	What benefits are there to completing the reports/paperwork?

M C. Stress management - The ability to face challenges with confidence and optimism.

His profile indicates that he is likely to be as relaxed and composed as most. As a consequence, he is unlikely to become overly irritable if things go wrong or when faced with difficult targets. As his results further suggest that he has an average belief in his ability to overcome difficulties, he is as likely as most to face challenges with confidence and optimism.

	S ituation	Result		
Q1	■ Tell me of a situation where you felt you had been assigned difficult sales targets.	How were the targets established?	How did you deal with them?	■ What did you learn from them?
Q2	■ Tell me about the greatest challenge you faced as a salesperson.	■ What was the challenge?	■ How did you face it?	■ What was the outcome?





INTERVIEW SCORING

Use the following forms to calculate the overall interview score. Check (\checkmark) the box corresponding to the appropriate score for each competency/dimension being assessed.

Dimonsion	Score							
umension	1	2	3	4	5			
cores measured through the behavioural inte	erview guid	de:						
UILDING CONTACTS (PROSPECTING)								
IEEDS ASSESSMENT (QUALIFYING)								
TYLE AND PRESENTATION (PITCHING)								
IEGOTIATION (CLOSING)								
OLLOW-UP (SUPPORTING)								
cores from additional measures not included	as part of	the behav	ioural inter	view guide):			
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Comments





SALES CULTURE FIT OVERVIEW

The culture fit scores estimate Sam Sample's preference to work under certain workplace conditions. Not all the conditions provided are relevant to all organisations, which is why it is recommended to identify which conditions best fit the culture of the organisation before exploring Sam Sample's specific workplace preferences.

The results of the culture fit profile can help determine the types of motivators and environments that stimulate Sam Sample and which, in turn, can help him perform at his best.

Workplace Conditions	Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Roles which require salespeople to work under pressure	М					0					
Roles which require salespeople to exercise diplomacy	М					0					
Roles which require salespeople to address the public and give presentations	мн							0			
Roles which require salespeople to work with each other	МН							0			
Roles which require salespeople to work in a competitive environment	М						0				
Roles which require salespeople to work long hours	М					0					
Roles which require salespeople to maintain high standards	М					0					
Roles which require salespeople to work under constantly changing conditions	МН							0			
Roles which provide salespeople with financial rewards and incentives	н									0	





SALES CULTURE PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS

M Roles which require salespeople to work under pressure

Sam Sample's results suggest that he is likely to function as well as most in a pressured environment in which tight deadlines have to be met and demanding targets are routinely set. He would be expected to enjoy working in a setting that presents him with a lot challenges to overcome and problems to resolve, as most people would, and is likely to deal with these with as much optimism as most.

M Roles which require salespeople to exercise diplomacy

He likely to be as well suited as most to settings which demand degree of tact and diplomacy.

MH Roles which require salespeople to address the public and give presentations

He would be expected to be more comfortable than most in roles which require public speaking and giving presentations to large groups of people.

MH Roles which require salespeople to work with each other

His profile suggests that he is likely to feel fairly comfortable and at ease in work settings which require him to develop close working relationships with colleagues.

M Roles which require salespeople to work in a competitive environment

He is likely to be as content as most to work in reasonably competitive environments.

M Roles which require salespeople to work long hours

Sam Sample's profile suggests that his work ethic is in the average range. As a result, he is likely to believe work is reasonably important, and he would be expected to be as committed to work as most other people are. Consequently, he is likely to fit as well as most in working environments that have a long-hours culture. He is likely to prefer settings where there is a fair amount to do and where he is kept reasonably busy.

M Roles which require salespeople to maintain high standards of accuracy

Sam Sample's profile suggests that he is as achievement orientated as most and would be expected to be relatively motivated to produce work of a fairly high standard. He is likely to gain some sense of satisfaction from knowing others consider him to be good at his job. As a result, he is likely to function as well as most in settings where fairly high standards of accuracy are expected.

MH Roles which require sales to people to be able to work in a changing environment

Being fairly unconventional and having relatively strong levels of drive and energy, Sam Sample is more likely than many to welcome variety and change in his work.

H Roles which provide salespeople with financial rewards and incentives

He would be expected to be happy in a culture where employees are motivated by financial rewards.