

A

Navigating the competing information on the effect of attractiveness in the workplace is pretty impossible. If you're not attractive enough, they say, you're less likely to get past the interview stage. And if you get the job it's less likely you'll receive that promotion, less likely that your opinion will be respected and less likely that you'll get paid the same. If you are too attractive, many will assume your good looks got you where you are, and consequently, your ideas and hard work won't be valued as highly as someone who's considered to have a more "normal" appearance, on the other hand. The question "Is it possible to be too attractive?" — although a natural one to ask when considering the beautyism bias — creates what we call a **catch-22**, a blessing and a curse, a double-edged sword, but perhaps it's more accurate to call it a false dilemma.

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A

1. There is not one single view as to the influence of someone's charm in the workplace. T / F
2. The author is of the opinion that one's chances of receiving a promotion is pretty low unless the person in question is beautiful enough. T / F
3. That one is admitted to a position does not necessarily mean she will enjoy the same esteem or benefits offered to a good-looking colleague. T / F
4. Jealousy and greed are the driving motives behind what attractive people suffer in the workplace. T / F
5. Being attractive runs the risk of being underestimated or taken too lightly. T / F
6. Even well-deserved achievements may not be viewed as such when beauty comes in. T / F
7. An example for a **catch-22 situation** can be when a football player decides to score a goal using his hand, though not acceptable, to win the league title for his team. T / F

The best title could be ----.

- A) Don't Judge a Book by its Cover
- B) Beauty is in the eye of the Employer
- C) How Beauty Paves the Way for a Career
- D) The Prerequisites of Finding a Good Job
- E) What Matters Most in the Workplace?

8. The author uses the phrase **a catch-22** to make an analogy as to the downsides of attractiveness not to fully support the notion that this is the case. T / F

B

Questioning “Is it possible to be too attractive?” places the **agency** on a person’s arbitrary genetics and use of cosmetics instead of on where the issue really lies — with how people choose to treat one another (and, ultimately, themselves). I tend to side with Russell Brand when it comes to people’s appearance in the workplace: Focus on what actually matters (people’s attitude and effectiveness in the workplace) rather than making a comment or supposition based on the way someone looks.” Not only is it potentially damaging, but it’s a massive waste of brainpower. I’m reminded of a Mad Men advertisement where the character Joan is being **ogled** on a New York City street corner. The well-dressed men staring stealing **surreptitious** gazes seem completely entranced by her form, and she’s wearing a **wry** smile on her face that comes off as a subtle wink: “I know what’s happening here, and can take full advantage of it.”

B

1. Making a supposition based on the way someone looks is not potentially detrimental but a huge waste of brainpower. T / F
2. The underlined word “**agency**” emphasizes the mental efforts rather than the person who tries to understand what is behind the idea of attractiveness. T / F
3. The underlined “**ogled**” is close in meaning to watched. T / F
4. The underlined “**surreptitious**” is close in meaning to overt. T / F
5. The underlined “**wry**” is close in meaning to ironic. T / F

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C

When our baser instincts are given into and we allow our productive time to be consumed by distractions, everyone loses. The work suffers. So, maybe instead of asking "Is it possible to be too (un)attractive for work and life?" we should ask ourselves a more direct question: "How are my assumptions and the way I choose to treat people affected by the way they look?" and figure out a better way to practice living.

C

1. There is not one single loser when we yield to our instincts in our decision making processes. T / F
2. The author makes use of a set of questions to point to the need for looking beyond the horizon and questioning our very assumptions. T / F
3. The underlined word "consumed" may come to mean "a wasted". T / F

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