

Working with behavioral scientists at the University of Phoenix, I have devised a series of carefully crafted questions that will help determine whether you should be seeking employment elsewhere.

For anyone in the golf industry who has disavowed the use of astrologers or psychics in favor of gut instincts, this exam provides a fast and simple way to determine if the new boss is going to make your life hell. While the test is about green chairmen this time, the scientists see this exam as a practical application for better understanding superiors in all fields of golf course maintenance and design.

Here's how it works.

If the answer to any of the following questions is "yes," expect possible conflict. Two "yes" answers, and resume refreshing is recommended. Three "yes" answers should compel you to start scouring job listings immediately, while four or more "yes" replies suggest that you start cleaning out your desk ASAP.

Good luck!

Question 1: Does your new boss speak of wanting to play a pro-am round with Phil Mickelson? If the answer is an enthusiastic "yes" and he mentions Phil's devotion to family and Exxon-Mobil, count it as three "yes" votes.

Question 2: Does the new man in charge either A) smoke cigars in your presence, B) spit regularly, C) try in any way to act like a cowboy while either, 1) wearing a \$150 golf shirt 2) typing on a Blackberry or 3) driving a car valued at more than \$75,000? ("Yes" to any combination counts as one "yes.")

Question 3: Has the new man in charge called more than two times on a non-emergency basis in the same day?

Question 4: Does he only take a golf car when he plays golf? (Medical exemptions are accepted only in the event of lost limbs or having been operated on more than three times.)

Question 5: Is the new boss either, A)

Answer 'Yes' and You're in Trouble

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



HAS YOUR NEW
BOSS EVER ASKED
WHERE HE COULD
BUY HIS OWN
STIMPMETER?

retired, B) working from home near the course or, C) in-between jobs? ("Yes" to more than two counts as five.)

Question 6: Does the new chairman speak of his love for Harley Davidson motorcycles only to reveal that he has a bike shipped to Sturgis, S.D., for the annual rally? (If he ships the bike, that counts as six "yes" answers.)

Question 7: Has the new man in charge ever looked at your retro half-and-half fairway cut style and asked why mowers missed part of the hole?

Question 8: Has he ever asked where he could buy, A) his own Stimpmeter or, B) his own TruFirm green firmness measuring device, the relatively new gadget developed by the USGA's Matt Pringle for use at major championships but not yet available on the market? One "yes" for the Stimpmeter request, four "yeses" if he asks about TruFirm.

Question 9: Does he claim to be a vegetarian out of protest for animal cruelty while wearing alligator-skin Footjoys or driving a car with leather seats?

Question 10: Has he ever admitted to reading golf magazine instruction? (Worth one "yes.") If he's rumored to have a collection of all of Golf Magazine's tips filed in orderly fashion, that's the equivalent of five "yes" replies.

Question 11: Have you ever heard the new honcho reveal the exact number of golf architecture books he owns or has read?

Question 12: Does his spouse, partner, girlfriend, life partner or beloved niece play golf? If so, that's worth six "yes" answers. If she beats him regularly or has a lower handicap than him, then put down your pen immediately and flee the building.

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