



Sample Teacher Interview Questions

Relationships with Students

- What kind of students do you like to work with? What type of students could you teach most effectively?
- You give an assignment. A student ridicules the assignment, saying it doesn't make sense. What would you do?
- How do you help students experience success?
- How would you individualize instruction for students?
- What procedures do you use to evaluate student progress besides using tests?
- How would you challenge the slow learner and the advanced learner within the same class?
- What would your students say about you?

Relationships with Colleagues

- What kind of teachers would you prefer to work with? Why?
- What activities would you like to work with in our school?
- What quality or qualities do you have that would enhance our teaching staff?
- What are some personality characteristics you find undesirable in people?
- Who should be responsible for discipline in a school? Why?
- What needs and/or expectations do you have of the school administration?
- How do you collaborate with your colleagues?

Relationships With Parents

- What do you feel is the most effective way to communicate with parents? Describe how you have used this/these technique(s).
- Describe the reasons why you would contact parents.
- What would you include in your Open House presentations to parents?
- What community activities would you like to be associated with? Why?

Instructional Techniques

- Describe any school experience you have had, particularly in student teaching (or in another teaching position) that has prepared you for a full-time position at our school.

- How would you integrate technology into the curriculum you would teach?
- Describe any innovative projects you have been involved in developing.
- Give an example of how you have used cooperative learning in your classroom.
- What four words would students use to describe your teaching strategies?
- What rules do you have for your classroom?
- Describe your teaching style and how you accommodate the different learning styles of the students in your classes.
- What do you consider to be your strengths and how will you use them in your teaching?
- In what ways do you keep students on task and well behaved during collaborative group activities?

A Potpourri of Topics and Background Information

- Why did you choose to become a teacher?
- What are your hobbies and interests?
- What are your plans for continuing your professional growth?
- Tell me about an interesting article you have read recently in a professional journal.
- What contributions can you make to our school?
- What current trends in public education please you? Displease you?
- Tell me about the three people who have most influenced your own education and educational career.
- Tell us about a golden teaching moment?
- Tell us about yourself, and specifically what brought you to want to be an English, math, science teacher?
- What is your philosophy about teaching English, math, science?

Questions for Management Expertise

- Describe the management strategies and techniques you use to maintain an effective classroom environment.
- In what ways do you keep students on task and well behaved during collaborative group activities?
- Describe your expectations for student behavior? In other words, if I were to enter your class on an average day, what should I expect to see with regard to student behavior?
- Keith is your busy seventh-grader. He is constantly moving in your class and always ready to throw spitballs. Although his behavior is not seriously disruptive, it is annoying. He is especially active when he believes that you cannot see him. How would you deal with this situation?

Personal Characteristic Questions

- How would a colleague describe you?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses as a teacher?
- As a teacher, how do you relate to students, colleagues, and parents?
- What do you consider to be a major issue in public education today?

Questions for Content Area Expertise

- Describe your knowledge and experience with the California content standards applicable to your content area.
- Describe any specific areas of strength within your content area (e.g., Physical Science, Writing Workshop, Algebra)
- If you could teach one grade level and subject within your content area, what would you choose? Why?
- What sorts of assessment, both formal and informal, do you view as being important indicators of successful performance for students learning your content area?
- If you could teach any novel, what would it be and what would your students be doing?
- How do you adjust for reading level differences within your classroom?

Questions for English Learner Expertise:

- We have a large number of English learners in our district. What knowledge and experience do you have that is representative of your ability to teach English learners?
- What knowledge and experience do you have regarding the California English Language Development Standards?
- Imagine that you are teaching a “regular” mainstream class in your content area. A new student arrives in your class one day, and you soon find out that this student possesses only limited English fluency (that is, some oral fluency but very limited reading and writing fluency). You realize that this is probably not the correct placement for the student, so you approach the counselor in charge of scheduling students. You are told that there is no room in the other classrooms for the foreseeable future and that you will just have to do the best you can. What would you do to accommodate this student until a better placement comes up?

- In what ways, both formal and informal, might you assess a student with limited English fluency to be sure the student is *truly* learning the content of your course curriculum?

Short Interview Questions

- Discuss a curriculum project you developed which generated high motivation and engagement among your students. Tell us what the project looked like and what resources you used to develop it.
- How do you feel about participating in an advisory period or other master-scheduled differences?
- What kinds of strategies do you use to challenge students to have an in-depth understanding of mathematics, science, English literature?
- What strategies do you use to make curriculum meaningful and relevant to students?
- Since we will be held accountable for standardized test results, what will you do in the area of curriculum development to ensure that students do well on the test without teaching the test?
- Describe the evaluation instruments you use to assess student learning.
- Describe your ideas for ensuring that you have positive communication with parents and the larger community.
- What do you envision will be your biggest challenge this year?
- How do you excel in working with students from diverse populations?
- Why are you interested in working at this school?
- Share with us your philosophy of teaching and learning?
- What is the role/responsibility of a teacher in a classroom?
- Tell us about a time when a student really got what you were hoping they would - An “Ah HA” moment.
- Why do you think students from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds do not excel in school in comparison to more traditional students?
- What kinds of things can be done to compensate for inadequacies in English or prior knowledge?
- Tell us about your approach to classroom discipline – how do you ensure your students are on-task, and what steps do you take when they are not?

- What do you think was your most successful lesson you have taught and why?
 - What was the most challenging lesson you have had to teach, and how did you overcome the obstacles?
 - What would the ideal teaching position be?
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*Consider coming into the Center for Academic Advising & Career Planning
to practice these questions in a mock interview with a Career Specialist.
Don't let your actual interview be the setting for practicing these questions.*