

EDUCATIONAL CAREER SERVICES

General Questions

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why do you want to become a teacher?
- What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
- With so many qualified applicants, why should I hire you rather than someone else?
- What do you expect of an administrator?
- What can you contribute to our school?
- What is the responsibility of public schools?
- How would your friends describe you?
- Describe yourself using five adjectives.
- Describe your working relationship with your cooperating teacher.
- What is the name of the latest professional book or article you have read that was not required reading? What prompted you to select this particular book/article?
- What is the greatest challenge for teachers today?
- What is your philosophy of education? Assessment? Parent involvement?

Development, Learning, and Motivation

- What other experiences, besides classroom teaching, have you had working with children/youth?
- What obstacles have you overcome while attaining your teaching degree? Why did you choose to become a teacher?
- What qualities do you possess that will enable you to become an effective teacher?
- Why do you want to teach in our district?
- What type of planning is necessary to teach a lesson?
- How will you determine the sequence of skills that are to be taught?
- Have you developed a unit of study that was not in the text? If so, how did you determine the objectives?
- Does your college transcript adequately reflect your knowledge base?
- How does motivation impact learning?
- Do you consider yourself an organized person? Would your friends agree? Your college professors?
- What subjects/grade levels do you feel most comfortable teaching?
- What experiences have you had working with a diverse population?
- Do you use computers/internet on a regular basis for personal use? Why or why not?
- What is your personal teaching vision statement?

Curriculum

- Describe how you would integrate our state learner outcomes/standards in your classroom.
- How will you develop a curriculum that is motivating for students?
- How will you meet the individual skills/needs of students in your class?
- What makes a lesson successful for the learners?
- What things do you consider when planning lessons?
- How would you integrate technology into lessons?
- Tell me about some specialized learning programs with which you are familiar.
- What are the basic parts of any lesson you teach?

Instruction

- If I walked into your classroom, what would I see?
- How does the physical environment of a classroom enhance/detract from learning?
- What is your preferred teaching style?
- When would you use individualized, small-group/whole-group teaching approaches? Why?
- Describe an activity when you used cooperative groups.
- How do you maximize *time on task* in your classroom?
- What are some classroom rules that you like?
- What role does homework play in your class?
- What graphic organizers have you used when presenting lessons?
- What different teaching strategies have you used that have been successful?
- Explain the elements of effective instruction.
- How do you keep students on track during a classroom discussion?
- Do you think interdisciplinary learning has merit? Why or why not?
- What are some techniques you have used to motivate students to learn?
- Has inclusion of special education students helped or hurt the regular classroom?

Assessment

- Is it ever appropriate to give a student an F grade?
- While teaching a 2-week unit, describe some assessment techniques you might use.
- How will you communicate students' progress to parents?
- How would you prepare students for taking a standardized test?
- Name some various types of grading plans. Which ones do you feel are most effective? Why?
- How will you evaluate your own teaching effectiveness?
- What percentage of your class do you think will fail?
- Have you designed a performance or behavioral objective for a class? If so, what prompted you to do so?
- What steps would you take before recommending a student be screened for special-education evaluation services?
- How would you design a rubric to evaluate a specific classroom skill?
- Do you keep anecdotal records on student behavior/performance? If so, how do you manage them?
- What are the strengths/weaknesses of norm-referenced tests?
- After giving a test, you discover that more than half of the students have failed. What would you do?
- What type of questions do you include on a unit test? True/False? Multiple choice? Short answer? Discussion?

Classroom Management

- How do you feel about retaining students?
- What is the cause of most discipline problems?
- Describe your student teaching successes and failures.
- What is one accomplishment of which you are particularly proud? Why?
- Describe a perfect teacher.
- Describe your discipline plan and how you would implement it.
- What rules do you like to use in your classroom?
- Suppose a student broke one of those rules, what are some appropriate consequences for breaking that rule?
- How would you communicate classroom expectations to parents?
- Tell me about a difficult confrontation you had with a student and how you resolved it.
- What factors contribute to an excellent classroom environment?
- Name some nonverbal ways you can *quiet* a classroom.
- What would you do if a student continues to challenge you with disruptive behavior?
- What role does the teacher plan in establishing a productive learning climate?
- When would you definitely send a student to the principal?

Professionalism

- What things will you do to ensure continued professional growth?
- How will you develop healthy interpersonal relations with your colleagues?
- Are you a member of professional organizations? If so, which ones?
- Do you subscribe to professional journals and magazines? Name them.
- What things will you do to earn the respect of your students, parents, and peers?
- What steps will you take to ensure parent involvement in our schools?
- Visualize teachers who are real *professionals*. What characteristics do they have? What do they say? What do they do? What do they look like? What are they involved in?
- How will you demonstrate respect for the diverse cultures within your classroom?
- What would you like students to say about their classroom experience with you as their teacher? What do you hope is your teaching legacy?
- Discuss ethics in the educational setting.

Elementary School Questions

- What reading/math programs have you experienced? (basal, phonetic, Saxon)
- Why would knowledge about child development cause you to reflect about appropriate instruction from Pre-K through fourth grade?
- What is an appropriate discipline plan for kindergarten? (insert grade-level vacancy)
- Explain how you might teach a *Frog Unit* across the curriculum.

Middle School Questions

- Why do you think so few teachers select the middle school as their first choice of teaching assignment?
- What are some characteristics unique to middle school students?
- Do you think middle school students would learn more or less working in small groups? Justify your answer.

Secondary School Questions

- What is an acceptable failure rate in high school courses? Explain.
- How would you engage high school students in learning?
- Justify to a parent your homework policy.

Situational Questions (some examples follow)

- You discover that one of your students has been cheating on his/her homework. How do you respond?
- A student who has been labeled as a *troublemaker* has been reassigned to your class. What do you do?
- What would you do if you discovered that a teacher in your building was having a sexual relationship with a student?

Taken from *So You Have to Have a Portfolio, A Teacher's Guide to Preparation and Presentation* by Robert Wyatt III and Sandra Looper. Prepared by Educational Career Services Office (ECSO), October, 2000.