

Sample Interview Questions and Situations

Questions you may be asked in an employment interview for a teaching position

- Tell us about yourself?
- Describe yourself, your background and why you are interested in being a teacher?
- What was the nicest thing that happened to you during student teaching?
- What characteristics do you possess that will make you a successful teacher?
- What are some of the ways you got your students to participate during student teaching?
- What is most important when presenting new information to students?
- During student teaching what gave you the most satisfaction?
- Could you help with extra-curricular activities?
- Are you willing to relocate?
- What are you looking for in a starting salary?
- What are you looking for in a school district?
- Of what importance is the amount of money this district spends for each child?
- How do you feel about tracks and levels?
- Why do you think you deserve this job?
- When did you decide you wanted to be a teacher?
- During student teaching, were you in a heterogeneous or homogenous classroom?
- What classroom management theory did you use in student teaching?
- How do you motivate students who you know are capable?
- What is the most important thing you can bring to a teaching position?
- Do you want your students to understand the material first or be on page__by March?
- Where do you want to be 10 years from now?
- Where do you think you will make a mark in the field of education?

- How do you teach values in a classroom?
- How often were you late for class?
- When were homework assignments given?
- What subject and what grade are you most comfortable teaching?
- Why would we be glad if we hired you?
- Who are you?
- Where do you come from?
- And where are you going to?
- What grades do you want to teach and why?
- How do you handle power in the classroom?
- What discipline methods did you use during student teaching?
- Give me an example of the rules or procedures you would have in your classroom.
- Do you use cooperative learning when you were teaching?
- How do you monitor when students are helping each other?
- When putting students in groups, how do you monitor whether or not the higher level students is being challenged?
- Are you aware of how teacher expectations can affect student performance?
- Other than paper/pencil tests, what kinds of assessments do you use?
- What is outcome based education?
- What is inclusion?
- What is main streaming?
- Do teachers have to pay attention to individual student differences?
- As an elementary teacher, what kind of reading programs would you use?
- What have you read lately?

- How would you grow professionally while working here?
- What, if any, education publications do you read?
- Would you be comfortable with teachers evaluating each other's classroom performance?
- What do you do in your spare time?
- What do you have to offer children as an elementary education teacher?
- What are the two most important things you learned at the University of Scranton?
- What sport would you like to coach?
- Do you have any questions?
- Do you use standardized tests or write your own?
- How do you get quiet/shy students to participate in class?
- What is unique about you?
- What qualities do you have that will help with teaching?
- What would you change about the educational system?
- How would you bring cultural diversity to the classroom?
- Are you aware of teacher sexual bias in the classroom?
- What do you see as the most pressing concerns in the field of education today?
- Why should we hire you?

Sample Situational Interview Questions

- Some of your students always finish their assignments early. How would you deal with the free time that they have?
- How would you work with students who perform below grade level, especially those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds?
- How would you use teacher aides and parent volunteers?
- A student is consistently late to your class. How do you handle this situation?
- What would you do, or how would you treat a student who refused to do the work you assigned?
- How would you handle a student who continually "acted up" in your class?
- You know that a staff member has been talking behind your back about what he or she sees as your ineffective teaching methods. What would you do?

Sample Questions to ask the Interviewer/Employer

- What is the level of support for faculty by administration?
- Does administration have complete control of course contents?
- What is the teacher/student ratio?
- How many guidance counselors are in this school, and what is their role?
- How do you get parents involved in their children's education?
- What reading program is used in this school?
- Do you have a mentoring program for new teachers?
- What is the district's philosophy of education?
- How does this district handle disciplinary problems?
- What kind of extra-curricular activities does this district provide to students?
- What kind of students attend school in this district?
- What do you see as the most pressing concern for this district?