

TEACHER TRAINING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Questions you may be asked at an interview are likely to be based on:

- Career motivation
- Self-awareness
- Academic record
- Relevant work experience
- Training route
- Educational issues
- In the classroom

CAREER MOTIVATION

You will need to be able to demonstrate your enthusiasm and motivation for teaching. The interview panel will be looking for a genuine interest in working with young people and helping them to reach their potential. Think carefully about why you want to be a teacher.

Common questions

- Why do you want to be a teacher?
- When did you begin to think about becoming a teacher?
- What sort of schools would you like to work in? Why?
- What other careers have you considered?
- Why have you chosen this particular age range to teach?
- What, in particular, appeals to you about teaching in a primary/secondary school?
- Who was your favourite teacher? Why?

SELF AWARENESS

Think carefully about the skills and personal qualities that make a good teacher. You can research these by reading [occupational profiles](#) or by speaking to teachers. You may also be able to reflect on the teaching skills and attributes that you observed during your classroom experience.

Before your interview, spend some time thinking of specific examples from your education, work experience and extra-curricular activities that demonstrate relevant skills. Also consider what aspects of teaching you think you will find most challenging and rewarding and what you can offer as a teacher.

Common questions

- Why would you make a good teacher?
- What weaknesses will you need to work on to make a successful teacher?

- Are there any special skills that you could offer to the teaching profession?
- What qualities do you think a successful teacher should have?
- Do you have any hobbies or interests that could be useful for extra-curricular activities?
- What would you find most difficult in teaching and how would you deal with it?

ACADEMIC RECORD

Being able to demonstrate your enthusiasm for teaching your subject/s is essential at interview. Look back through your degree and think about how this has equipped you to teach the [National Curriculum](#) for your chosen Key Stage/s. Apart from subject knowledge, your degree will have also provided you with a range of skills as outlined in [Prospects: Options with your subject](#).

Common questions

- How does your degree relate to the National Curriculum requirements?
- Why did you choose your degree subject? Which module was the most inspiring?
- How did you feel your degree has prepared you for teaching?
- Are there any areas in the National Curriculum that you feel you have any weaknesses in?
- How could you make your degree subject interesting to children?
- What are the most important skills you developed while studying for your degree?

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Review your classroom experience and reflect on your observations. Think about the good and not so good aspects of what you observed. You can also use examples from other relevant experience but the majority of your answers should be from your classroom experience.

Common questions

- Can you tell us about any classroom experience you have had?
- Give an example of a good lesson you observed during a school visit? What did you notice about the way it was run?
- Give an example of a bad lesson you observed during a school visit? Why was it bad?
- Give an example of a time when you helped a child in the classroom. Why was it memorable?
- What experience do you have of working with children?

TRAINING ROUTE

Training providers will be interested in why you have chosen a particular [training route](#). You will need to demonstrate a good understanding of what the training route involves and challenges you might face.

Common questions

All routes:

- Why did you apply for this training route?
- Which other training routes did you consider?
- How did you prepare for this interview?
- What aspects of the training are you most looking forward to? Why?
- Teacher training is very demanding. How will you cope with the workload?
- What aspect of starting your training concerns you the most?
- What would you do if you didn't get on with your school mentor?

EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

Make sure you keep up to date with current educational issues. Think about which issues particularly interest you **and why**. You won't be expected to have an in-depth knowledge but you should have a good general awareness. The [Times Educational Supplement](#), [The Guardian](#) and the [BBC](#) are good sources for education news.

Common questions

- Comment on an educational issue that interests you.
- What makes a good school?
- In your opinion, what is the most challenging aspect of teaching today?
- What are the most important issues facing schools today?
- What do you know about different learning styles?
- How do children learn?
- What makes a good lesson?

IN THE CLASSROOM

Classroom management is an important aspect of teaching and teacher training. Questions will often be designed to gain an insight into your teaching principles, as well as your reflections of the good, and less good, examples you observed during your work experience.

Common questions

- How would you build effective working relationships in your classroom?

- How would you deal with a disruptive child in your class?
- How would you deal with a child who is being bullied?
- How would you stop a high ability child from getting bored when taught in a mixed ability class?
- How is good classroom management achieved?
- How would you ensure, that children whose first language is not English, feel included?
- How would you motivate an unmotivated pupil?
- What makes a successful lesson?