

# SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

## PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS/SKILLS/STRENGTHS

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why are you interested in this position?
- Why did you choose teaching as a career?
- Who most influenced your decision to become a teacher?
- What passions do you bring to teaching?
- What grade level do you prefer? Why?
- What unique qualities do you possess that we should consider?
- What activities or clubs would you be willing to advise?
- What is your strongest personal asset?
- Name 3 of your strengths.
- What would your cooperating teacher/supervisor say about you?
- What three words would your students use to describe you as a teacher?
- What are your interests outside of teaching?
- Is there anything we haven't discussed today that you feel is important for me to know about you as a teaching candidate? What sets you apart from others interviewing for this position?
- Describe your technology skills.

## WEAKNESSES

- What is one of your weaknesses?
- What would you say is an area in which you need improvement?
- What would you change about yourself and why?

## PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY

- What is your philosophy of education?
- How do you feel about thematic (unit) planning?
- What are your thoughts about PTA and other community organizations?
- Please give me your thoughts on a recent educational issue.
- What constitutes an effective classroom? An effective study hall?
- What is "right" about American education today?
- What should be improved in American education as it exists today?
- Describe an effective teacher for me.
- What do you consider an ideal class size?
- How do you personally feel students learn?
- What motivates you?
- What is your philosophy on homework?
- What is your philosophy on team teaching?
- What is the toughest aspect of teaching today? What are some of the challenges of being an educator?
- What are your concerns and outlook for the future of public education?
- Describe your ideal classroom.

## EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT:

- Describe the ways you assess student performance.
- How do you evaluate your teaching performance? How do you determine if your students are learning?
- What evaluation techniques do you use? Do you grade on ability or effort?
- How do you feel about observations by supervisors?
- How do you assess whether your curriculum is appropriately matched to your students' needs?
- How does standardized testing affect your teaching?
- Should students have a part in the evaluation of teachers? Why or why not?

# SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

## TEACHING TECHNIQUE

- What teaching methods do you find most effective?
- How do you know when students are engaged?
- How would you differentiate your instruction to accommodate the varied needs of students?
- How did you incorporate technology during your student teaching?
- Describe your typical teaching style. What teaching techniques do you use?
- Describe a teaching strategy you have used to maximize the learning potential of all students.
- What innovative ideas would you like to initiate in your classroom?
- Define cooperative learning and give an example of how you have used it.
- How do you motivate students? Name 3 effective ways to motivate students.
- What are the components of an effective lesson plan?
- Describe a lesson that was particularly successful. Describe each stage from planning through delivery.

## CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT/ORGANIZATION

- What classroom management system do you use?
- How would you handle cheating?
- Explain the structure of your discipline plan. What rules do you establish in your classroom?
- How would you handle a student who is a consistent behavioral problem in your classroom?
- How would you handle a student who refused to do what you asked?
- How do you handle discipline?
- What is the toughest aspect of discipline?
- How would you handle controversial issues as they came before your class?
- How is your classroom organized?
- What type of learning environment do you try to create?
- How do you structure your class to achieve maximum benefit from student/teacher contact?
- How would you develop student independence and self-discipline in your classroom?
- If you are having classroom management difficulties when and who would you ask for help?

## HUMAN RELATIONS/INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- How would you utilize the services of the guidance and counseling staff? Parents and teacher aides?
- As a teacher in our district, what would be your role in our community?
- What, in your opinion, is the best way to communicate with parents?
- What is your concept of the role of the administration in relation to teachers? To students?
- What are your expectations of a building principal?
- What are the best ways to establish rapport with students?
- How would you develop a good working relationship with your colleagues?
- How do you facilitate collaboration between home and school?
- When confronted by a parent on an issue, how do you best respond?

## GOALS/DIRECTION

- What are your plans for furthering your education?
- How have you recently improved your professional skills? What are your plans for future skill development?
- What are your short-term and long-term goals?
- How do you see this position fitting into your career goals?
- What do you believe to be the major trends in your career field at this time?