

**Garden City Public Schools
Sample Interview Questions**

Sample Teacher Interview Questions

I. Introductory and Closure

1. Why did you apply to the Garden City School District?
2. Many people have applied for this position. Why should you be the successful candidate for this position?
3. Describe the strengths you would bring to our department/school if you were to be the successful candidate.
4. What are the three most important qualities a teacher (chairperson, administrator, etc.) should possess?
5. Briefly describe or summarize your previous teaching or student teaching experiences.
6. What made you choose teaching as a profession? In what ways have you been pleased and disappointed in your career choice?
7. What questions have I not asked that you wished I had?

II. Professional Knowledge and Skills

A. Subject Knowledge and Cognitive Ability:

8. What is the most exciting thing happening in the area of education today? Your subject area?
9. Cite the criteria you would use to evaluate a textbook for possible adoption.
10. Which curriculum areas are of special interest to you and why?
11. What battery of diagnostic tests would you use for initial evaluations of students for the Committee on Special Education?
12. What criterion reference tests would you use to assist in preparing an Individual Education Plan for students? What other information, if any, would you use to prepare an effective IEP in addition to standardized tests results?

13. Describe something innovative that you espouse and tell us about its instructional dividends.
14. In what area of curriculum are you most knowledgeable? Least knowledgeable?
15. Which specific courses would you like to teach and why?
16. Are you computer literate? How can you use your computer ability to help the students in your class?
17. What experience do you have in teaching (subject)?
18. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of a basal reading program vs. a Whole Language Program vs. a balanced literacy approach as it relates to current research and theory on literacy instruction.
19. Could you speak for a few minutes on the more current research in the areas of your curriculum area?

B. Instructional Technique and Methodology:

20. Of what use are behavioral learning objectives in the teaching/learning process?
21. State in formal terms the objective for a lesson on (ex. Solids, Liquids and Gases).
22. What techniques could you use to assess student mastery of a particular topic?
23. Thinking of the various teaching techniques you have used in your class, what has been most effective and why?
24. What is the role of homework?
25. Describe a lesson plan that you have developed. What were the objectives, the format of the lesson, and how did you evaluate whether or not the objectives were achieved?
26. How would you motivate a student who is not performing up to his/her ability?

27. While you are implementing a lesson, how do you evaluate the success of the lesson as it is being implemented? If you feel that you are not meeting the lesson's goal, how do you adjust the lesson implementation?
28. Tell me about one of the best lessons that you have ever implemented. Why do you think it was a good one?
29. A large number of students are continually failing your class tests though you have tried several changes in both your teaching methods and tests. What do you do as the quarter draws to a close and many students are failing?
30. How would you provide instruction to meet the individual needs of students?
31. How do you make learning fun?
32. How would you go about improving reading instruction in content area subjects and/or classes?
33. What techniques would you use in helping students who have been classified as learning disabled?
34. How would you integrate teaching writing skills into the (subject) curriculum?
35. What could you do in your classes to interest students in (subject) research?
36. What techniques would you use to motivate a student, or group of students who are showing a lack of interest in your subject?

C. Organization and Management Skills:

37. What have you found to be the toughest aspect of discipline?
38. Describe the physical appearance of your classroom.
39. You are having discipline problems with a youngster in your class. What are the steps that you would take to bring the problem to a solution?
40. How would you organize your classroom for effective classroom management?

41. You have been assigned to a kindergarten class. Briefly describe a typical day's plans.
42. How would you handle a disruptive student who consistently distracts students with talking and comments and refuses to do his/her own work?

D. Communications (Staff/Parents):

43. How would you establish and maintain communication with the parents of your students?
44. You have been assigned to teach a first grade class. During the second week of school, a parent comes to your classroom at the end of the day and tells you that you have placed her child in an inappropriate reading group. How would you respond? What steps would you take next?

III. Understanding and Empathy for Students

45. How do you handle the different ability levels of students in classes?
46. What do you think makes students succeed in school?

IV. Judgment and Flexibility

47. Fifteen minutes before school starts, a parent appears at your classroom door. He/she does not have an appointment. His/her child is scheduled to take a unit test during first period. He/she lost his/her notebook two days ago and could not borrow one to study for the test. How would you handle this situation?

V. Congruence with District Philosophy

48. Identify the characteristics of a good teacher.
49. What is your philosophy of education as it applies to a (secondary) school?
50. What is the school's role in helping students to develop a positive self-concept?

VI. Potential for Growth

51. What has been your most positive teaching experience? Negative?
52. What are your strengths as a teacher?
53. What are your immediate and long-range goals?
54. What do you do to keep abreast of recent trends in (subject) teaching?
55. If I were to ask students with whom you are presently teaching to describe and assess you, what would they say? Faculty? Parents?
56. Tell me about two or three professional accomplishments of which you are particularly proud.

VII. Interest in Total School Program

57. How have you, or would you, contribute toward the development of the total school program in your current position?
58. What co-curricular or extracurricular activities, if any, would you be qualified for and/or be willing to sponsor if you are hired for this position?
59. What special talents do you have which could enhance the department and/or school?
60. Would you be willing to volunteer your time to chaperone or supervise a school activity? Why or why not?