

Mock Interview Questions

1. What is your teaching philosophy? Give an example of how you enact it in your teaching.

My core teaching philosophy is that students will learn best from a teacher with whom they feel they have a connection with. An example of how I enact this is standing outside the classroom greeting students as they come in, checking in on each one of them during work time, and engaging in conversation about topics other than school.

2. What adjectives would others use to describe your presence in the classroom? Why?

Some adjectives others would use to describe my presence in the classroom are calm, caring, and prepared. Calm because I have a naturally calm energy. I'll raise my voice to get the students' attention when needed, but in general, I have a calm and approachable energy always. Caring because I excel in one-on-one interactions. When a student is unsure of something or has a predicament, I feel confident in my ability to help them out in an effective and educational manner. And prepared, because I have a plan for every day, and I make sure the students know it, and I stick by it.

3. Tell me about a time when students responded positively to one of your Indigenously inspired activities. What was the activity? What did students take away in their learning?

The activity I did was in my Physics 11 class, where we went over a number of Secwepemc tools and objects and discussed which forces would be at play in each one of them. This allowed the students to relate their learning of forces to real-world objects, as well as appreciate the Indigenous Peoples for the things they created and the learning they passed down.

4. Tell me about a time when you overcame a difficult challenge in your teaching practice. What was the challenge? How did you overcome it?

The challenge I faced in my teaching practice was teaching the Biology section of Science 10, as I hated biology as a student and wasn't educated on it in the slightest. I overcame this challenge by seeking help from my student teacher cohort, studying up on each topic I was teaching, and finding resources online to help me out.

5. Tell me about a time when someone gave you constructive but challenging feedback about your teaching practice, and how you handled that.

From the beginning of my teaching practice, I struggled with presenting myself as confident in front of the classroom. I got constructive feedback on this from both my teacher mentor and my faculty mentor. And this feedback challenged me, as even though I was able to grow from the other feedback I received, that piece of feedback continued to come up. However, I handled it by being persistent in trying to present myself as more confident. And that persistence paid off, as one day my faculty mentor's first comment was that they noticed my confidence was much better. And for the rest of the practicum, a consistent piece of feedback I received was that my confidence continued to be excellent.

6. How do you manage students with challenging behaviour in the classroom?

The main way I manage students with challenging behaviour is by calling on them to answer a question about what I was just teaching. I have found this to be a very effective method of settling them down and getting them on track.

7. How do you acknowledge Indigenous worldviews in your teaching?

I acknowledge Indigenous worldviews in my teaching by integrating the First Peoples' Principles of Learning into my lesson planning, as this allows me to be conscious of how I can shape my lessons to follow that worldview.

8. How do you cultivate positive relationships with your students and create a sense of class community?

The main ways I cultivate positive relationships with my students is what I said previously, where I stand outside the classroom greeting students as they come in, check in on each one of them during work time, and engage in conversation about topics other than school. For creating a sense of class community, I find that my calm energy and caring attitude build a naturally empathetic environment where all my students can feel comfortable.

9. Give evidence through an example which shows how you design learning environments which address diversity and support all learners in a class.

During practicum, I would often teach a concept with short notes, then follow that with a discovery activity, whiteboard practice, or a worksheet so that students had different entry points into the lesson. I found that this helped support students with different learning styles, as this addresses listening, doing, or working with others. I also checked in with every student during work time, that way if I noticed someone was struggling, I could support them one-on-one or adjust the task to better meet their needs.

10. How do you keep your students engaged and motivated in your lessons?

I keep my students engaged and motivated in my lessons by chunking what I teach and including student-centred learning where appropriate. I primarily have experience teaching upper-level Science and Math, where, for the most part, I have a concept to teach and a worksheet to give them for practice. So, I will teach this concept either during notes for a bit of time, or give them a discovery activity or whiteboard work. I'll make sure when doing notes that we won't spend too long on them to the point that the students lose focus. Then I will give them a worksheet that they have time to work on, and if there is too much time for it that I anticipate the students will lose focus, I'll make sure to plan some sort of game with them.

11. What do you do to maintain your own professional development? What areas would you select for your personal growth?

I maintain my own professional development by being reflective about my teaching practice and by staying open to feedback from others. During practicum, I found that I grew the most when I took in feedback from my mentor teachers and faculty mentor and then actively tried to improve on it. I also am naturally reflective, so I am constantly thinking about what went well and what could change in my teaching. For personal growth, I would focus on continuing to build my

confidence in the classroom, strengthening my classroom management strategies, and expanding the range of teaching strategies I use so I can better support different kinds of learners.

12. What does collaboration mean to you? How do you engage in collaboration to improve your teaching practice and, relatedly, student learning?

To me, collaboration means being willing to work with others, listen to their ideas, and use that knowledge to become a better teacher. I don't think teaching is something you should try to do completely on your own. Some of the best learning I had during practicum came from talking through lessons with my teacher and faculty mentor, especially when I was unsure about how to teach a topic or manage a situation. I engage in collaboration by asking questions, taking advice seriously, and being open to different approaches.

13. What are some assessment methods you use to check for understanding as you are teaching?

Some assessment methods I use to check for understanding while I am teaching are asking students questions during the lesson, doing a thumbs up/sideways/down check, walking around and checking their work as they go, and looking at how they are doing on worksheets. Quizzes and tests are also a necessary assessment method for me to test their understanding. I also have used exit tickets if there is a core concept I want to check understanding on. And if I notice a lot of students are confused, I know I need to slow down and re-teach the concept differently.

14. Which extra-curricular activities, clubs, or sports are you willing to be involved in if you are offered a position?

I would be willing to get involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities depending on the needs of the school. I would be the most open to being involved in school events or supervision. I also think I would enjoy helping with any clubs, but I would lean towards the indoor clubs, such as the chess club, a book club, or a movie club. For me, being involved in extra-curriculars is a good way to build relationships with students outside the classroom, which is extremely important to their growth and learning.

15. What would you do if there was a situation unfolding in your classroom that compromised student safety?

If there was a situation unfolding in my classroom that compromised student safety, my first priority would be to protect the students. I would make sure to remove students from immediate danger if needed and get help right away from administration or other staff. And I would also make sure I stayed composed, because students need to see that the situation is being handled safely and seriously.