

Chapter 1 Motivation, Preparation, and Conditions for the Entering Teacher

Essay

1. Teacher testing is an oft-debated practice and a controversial topic. What are the primary reasons for supporting, and the primary reasons for opposing, the use of standardized tests for teachers?

ANSWER: Supporters emphasize the need to ensure a high-quality teaching force whose members are competent in basic knowledge and skill areas, whereas opponents focus on the absence of clear indicators that the tests are relevant to effective teaching practice.

2. As a result of a five year study on "Educating School Teachers," recommendations were made. Describe one of these key elements and how you would support it.

ANSWER: Any of the following points can be addressed with supporting points to how improvement can be made in the school district: 1) Inadequate curricula, 2) low standards, and 3) faculty out of touch with schools.

Multiple Choice

3. Minority groups in the teaching profession

- a. are expanding at a rate similar to the school-age population.
- b. are likely to become a larger proportion of the teaching force in the near future.
- c. are likely to decline as a proportion of the total teaching force.
- d. are in proportion to their numbers in the larger U.S. population.

ANSWER: c

4. Potential difficulties teachers are unprepared for include

- a. special-education populations.
- b. racial and ethnic minority groups.
- c. English as a second language students.
- d. all of the above.

ANSWER: d

5. Which of the following is likely to increase the demand for more new teacher positions?

- a. reductions in class size
- b. staff development programs
- c. innovative alternative certification programs
- d. fewer teachers leaving the profession

ANSWER: a

6. In which field of study has there been a persistent shortage of teachers?

- a. Math and science
- b. English
- c. Physical education
- d. Social science

ANSWER: a

7. To what degree does a teacher's salary vary among and within the states?

- a. not at all
- b. only slightly
- c. moderately
- d. considerably

ANSWER: d

The American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) states that the low proportion of minority teachers constitutes

8. The American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) states that the low proportion of ...

- a. a calm pattern.
- b. a devastating crisis.
- c. no need for concern.
- d. a future trend that is decreasing.

ANSWER: b

Based on recent trends in teacher certification, certification requirements for secondary teaching certificates vary from one state to the next in

9. Based on recent trends in teacher certification, certification requirements for secondary teaching c...

- a. the number of teacher education courses only.
- b. the number of credit hours in specific content areas only.
- c. the number of general education courses only.
- d. all of the above.

ANSWER: d

You have just finished college and obtained certification in a northeastern state, but you have decided that you would like to teach in the Southeast. What do you most need to know if you want to become employable in a southeastern state?

10. You have just finished college and obtained certification in a northeastern state, but you have deci...

- a. whether your college adhered to CAEP requirements for teacher education
- b. which southeastern states have arrangements for alternative certification
- c. whether the college from which you graduated is a five-year or a fifth-year program
- d. which reciprocity agreements are currently valid in the state in which you are now certified

ANSWER: d

11. When considering the average salary range of teachers, _____ can be expected.

- a. \$10-\$25,000
- b. \$25-\$35,000
- c. \$45-\$55,000
- d. above \$65,000

ANSWER: c

Programs that provide intense supervision and compressed formal coursework during the first few years of assignment to a teaching position can best be termed

12. Programs that provide intense supervision and compressed formal coursework during the first few year...

- a. alternative certification.
- b. competency-based teacher education.
- c. teacher empowerment.
- d. school-based field centers.

ANSWER: a

13. "Teach for America" is

- a. a controversial reform report on the conditions of teaching in the United States.
- b. a program to recruit non-education majors into temporary teaching service in urban school districts.
- c. a new national scholarship program to encourage college freshmen to major in education.
- d. a federally sponsored award program to honor outstanding teachers across America.

ANSWER: b

14. In the acronym HOUSSE, the "O" stands for which of the following?

- a. Obligatory
- b. Objective
- c. Occupational
- d. Omnibus

ANSWER: b

Which of the following statements represents findings about teacher-preparation programs from recent reports (Educating School Teachers)?

15. Which of the following statements represents findings about teacher-preparation programs from recent...

- a. Teachers have become experts in the subjects of math and science.
- b. More than half of teacher-preparation programs excel at developing new teachers.
- c. A majority of programs have inadequate curriculum and low standards.
- d. Alternative certification programs are providing teachers where the needs are greatest.

ANSWER: c

Which of the following statements describes developments that have occurred over the

last decade in teacher education and certification?

16. Which of the following statements describes developments that have occurred over the last decade in ...

- a. There is greater emphasis on methods for teaching students with disabilities and other populations.
- b. There is greater attention paid to developing teachers' ability to think reflectively.
- c. There is an increased emphasis on the use of technology in teacher training.
- d. All of the above.

ANSWER: d

17. The SAT and ACT scores of prospective teachers

- a. increased every year during the 1970s.
- b. are significantly lower than those of other college-educated adults.
- c. have increased since the early 1980s.
- d. are higher than those of students majoring in business, psychology, and the health professions.

ANSWER: c

18. The trend in college students entering the teaching profession in the 1980s to today has

- a. increased nearly 100 percent.
- b. stayed steady with no change.
- c. increased nearly 10 percent.
- d. decreased nearly 20 percent.

ANSWER: a

To become certified in his state, Bill had to pass a test that included reading, writing, and mathematics. What is the reasoning that is most likely to have led to this requirement?

19. To become certified in his state, Bill had to pass a test that included reading, writing, and mathem...

- a. Prospective teachers who know they do not perform well in those subjects are less likely to seek certification in that state.
- b. Teachers must be competent in basic skill areas if they are to perform effectively in their jobs.
- c. Testing requirements help to reduce the teaching force during times of excess supply and low demand.
- d. Reading, writing, and math performance are closely associated statistically with on-the-job measures of teaching effectiveness.

ANSWER: b

20. The minimum educational requirement that all states require of teacher is a(n)

- a. associate's degree.
- b. master's degree.
- c. basic certification.

d. bachelor's degree

ANSWER: d

21. A common trend in alternative certification is for _____ to reenter the work force as teachers.

- a. retirees
- b. armed forces servicemen
- c. administrators
- d. businessmen

ANSWER: b

A recent emphasis on improving students' thinking and comprehensive skills emphasizes _____ as a central theme in teacher education.

22. A recent emphasis on improving students' thinking and comprehensive skills emphasizes as a ce...

- a. technology
- b. rote learning
- c. reflective teaching
- d. written focus

ANSWER: c

23. The first three Teacher Residency programs established in America were in which three cities?

- a. Los Angeles | Miami | San Diego
- b. Atlanta | Cleveland | Portland
- c. Seattle | New York | Detroit
- d. Boston | Chicago | Denver

ANSWER: d

24. How have state governments responded to reforms recommended through HOUSSSE and mandated in the No Child Left Behind Act?

- a. They largely ignored the reports.
- b. They listened sympathetically but had little response.
- c. They took actions consistent with the reports.
- d. They implemented reforms even beyond those recommended in the reports.

ANSWER: c

25. Technology and electronic media have become a primary focus in _____ areas.

- a. critical thinking
- b. social and civic development
- c. digital and visual literacy
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: d

The growing trend towards caring for students with special needs is increasing. The practice of _____ in a regular classroom is a growing trend for full inclusion.

26. The growing trend towards caring for students with special needs is increasing. The practice of in ...

- a. isolation
- b. mainstreaming
- c. alternative buildings
- d. limited services

ANSWER: b

27. Counselors point to all of the following as meaningful ways for teachers to reduce on-the-job stress levels, except:

- a. meditation
- b. pharmacological intervention
- c. vacations
- d. efficient scheduling

ANSWER: b

More than forty states have adopted the use of the _____ exam to test for basic professional knowledge in reading, mathematics, and communication.

28. More than forty states have adopted the use of the exam to test for basic professional knowledge in ...

- a. basic skills test
- b. SAT
- c. Praxis
- d. ACT

ANSWER: c

29. Recent polls taken in 2008 indicated that the level of job satisfaction of teachers since 1984 has _____.

- a. increased
- b. decreased
- c. shown no change
- d. remained steady

ANSWER: a

30. The term "highly qualified teacher" implies a teacher must have _____.

- a. full state certification and licensure
- b. a bachelor's degree
- c. demonstrated competency in each core subject taught
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: d

Subjective Short Answer

31. Identify and describe aspects of the job environment that lead to teacher dissatisfaction during the beginning of a teaching career.

ANSWER: Answers should include items such as insufficient time for counseling students or planning for instruction; unresponsive administrators; decrepit facilities; lack of supplies or equipment; extensive paperwork; insufficient opportunity to participate in organizational decisions; and lack of preparation for the student population that they are instructing (special needs, economic status, language barriers).

32. Explain why two teachers in the same district might be earning different salaries in a given year.

ANSWER: Base pay may be different in the district; the teachers may have different numbers of years of teaching experience and different numbers of graduate credits, which would affect their placement on the salary schedule; and one of the teachers may earn more pay by taking on additional professional responsibilities, such as serving as the faculty advisor of a student organization or as a coach.

33. What indicators suggest that there might be an impending shortage of teachers? What indicators suggest that no shortage will occur?

ANSWER: Indicators of an impending shortage include mandated reductions in class sizes, increased student enrollment, expanded preschool education, a number of teachers nearing retirement age, and a reduced number of prospective teachers because of higher standards for teachers. Indicators of no shortage include declining attrition rates; recent increases in teacher's salaries, which may cut attrition and increase teacher supply; the leveling off of increases in enrollment; and alternative certification.

34. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having alternative certification for teachers?

ANSWER: Alternative certification might help bring talented candidates into teaching and supply teachers quickly for teaching fields in which there are shortages. An important disadvantage is that alternative certification undercuts efforts to improve the quality of the teaching force. Participants in alternative certification frequently do not receive the supervision and training that should accompany such efforts, and thus they are often overwhelmed by the demands of the certification program and have high attrition rates.

35. Explain what is meant by the No Child Left Behind requirement that school districts hire "highly qualified teachers."

ANSWER: The basic requirements are (1) a bachelor's degree, (2) full certification from the state, and (3) demonstrated competency in core academic subjects. Some mention should also be made of how states can interpret these requirements.

36. After completing Chapter 1, consider the current employment trends and discuss your

personal goals for what type of employment opportunities you would like to pursue.

ANSWER: Personal to student but should include a general grade level, geographic location, demographics of specific population of students (rural, urban, bi-lingual), and personal motivations.

37. Describe two factors that analysts predict as a need for additional teachers in the upcoming years.

ANSWER: 1) Post-World War II baby boomer's children, 2) current work force reaching retirement age, 3) educational reform for smaller class size, preschool and increase of mathematics and science, 4) new charter schools, 5) current teachers are leaving the profession, and 6) many migrant families are entering the United States.