

CHAPTER 1 WHY TEACH

Multiple Choice

1. Denise, a sales representative, is considering a career switch to become a teacher. She is bright and outgoing and likes the high pay she has earned in sales. Yet she has felt drawn to teaching because of the positive contribution she could make to students' lives. If she makes the career switch, which reward is Denise least likely to experience in teaching?

- a. A lively intellectual atmosphere with colleagues and students
- b. A work schedule offering generous personal time
- c. The satisfaction of contributing positively to others' lives
- d. A salary that rivals other professional salaries

ANSWER: d

Telly, the president of the senior class at State U., thinks he would enjoy teaching civics because he finds politics fascinating and has always taken a prominent role in student-government. If Telly decides to become a teacher, which of Telly's interests would least likely be satisfied in a teaching career?

2. Telly, the president of the senior class at State U., thinks he would enjoy teaching civics because he finds politics fascinating and has always taken a prominent role in student-government. If Telly decides to become a teacher, which of Telly's interests
- a. His pleasure in working with other people
 - b. The opportunity to learn more about history and civics
 - c. His attraction to status
 - d. The opportunity to help create change in people's lives

ANSWER: c

Juan, a talented young artist, has already had some of his watercolors displayed at showings. In addition to painting, he also enjoys teaching young children how to paint. He feels strongly that art should be part of every child's education. If Juan decides to become an art teacher, which of the following extrinsic rewards will he most certainly experience?

3. Juan, a talented young artist, has already had some of his watercolors displayed at showings. In addition to painting, he also enjoys teaching young children how to paint. He feels strongly that art should be part of every child's education. If Juan decide
- a. The status and recognition of being an accomplished teacher
 - b. A generous work schedule, providing him time to paint
 - c. A secure and high salary
 - d. The sense of power that he will be able to change curriculum

ANSWER: b

4. Tai is a college sophomore with numerous interests. Public service has always appealed to her, yet she is not sure if teaching will be the most satisfying career. Which of

the following would be the best indicators that Tai would find satisfaction in teaching?

- a. She feels a strong desire to contribute to society and wants a secure salary.
- b. She wants recognition for her work, and she enjoys working with people.
- c. She enjoys intellectual stimulation and wants to perform a service to society.
- d. She wants to work with others and desires a work schedule with ample personal time.

ANSWER: c

5. Of the following extrinsic rewards, which is most closely associated with teaching?

- a. A competitive salary
- b. High status and prestige
- c. Power over one's subordinates and associates
- d. A work schedule allowing generous time for oneself

ANSWER: d

6. Which of the following is the best indicator that you will be satisfied teaching?

- a. Listening to your parents, friends, and others who know you well communicate that teaching would be a good career for you
- b. Being attracted to performing an important social service
- c. Knowing that children usually like you very much
- d. Enjoying the power and influence you can have upon others

ANSWER: b

7. Intrinsic rewards in teaching include which of the following?

- a. The close work with young people, the actual teaching, and the power
- b. Performing a significant social service and the flexible work schedule
- c. The salary, the actual teaching, and the status
- d. The actual teaching and satisfaction from the performance of an important social service

ANSWER: d

During Noam's twelve years of teaching, he has coached an award-winning chemistry team, successfully taught advanced placement chemistry, chaperoned numerous overnight camping trips, coached the girls' volleyball team, and worked as a class advisor. In his career, Noam is probably most rewarded by

8. During Noam's twelve years of teaching, he has coached an award-winning chemistry team, successfully taught advanced placement chemistry, chaperoned numerous overnight camping trips, coached the girls' volleyball team, and worked as a class advisor. In his
- a. his actual work with adolescents.
 - b. the prestige of being a chemistry teacher.
 - c. the power he has over the lives of so many.
 - d. his salary and stipends earned as a coach and advisor.

ANSWER: a

9. Perhaps the best, most direct way to find out if you will enjoy the realities of teaching is to

- a. get frequent, long-term baby-sitting jobs.
- b. seek the services of a career placement counselor, who can then direct you.
- c. volunteer several hours a week at a school or supervise extracurricular activities.
- d. study the teachers' benefits and salaries where you would like to teach.

ANSWER: c

10. After reading several novels about teaching, Jameel has become fascinated with teaching as a career. According to Ryan and Cooper, what else would be a fruitful way to help him decide if teaching is the right career for him?

- a. To work in a variety of part-time jobs to see if teaching is still appealing
- b. To get advice from his former teachers about the realities of teaching
- c. To take a career preference test
- d. To read some more novels and watch movies about teaching

ANSWER: b

11. Tina suffered a vicious assault when she was a college senior and still feels the aftereffects. Now, several years later, she actively organizes rape awareness seminars for her high school students. During a recent class discussion about date rape, one student raised the possibility that people can be, at times, wrongfully accused. Tina barely contained her anger and dismissed the student's comment immediately. What does this scenario suggest?

- a. Tina's effectiveness as a teacher may be diminished because of her unresolved personal problems.
- b. Tina must continue to work to raise students' awareness levels.
- c. Tina must include more material in her curriculum about violence in contemporary society.
- d. Tina needs to improve her classroom management skills.

ANSWER: a

12. One of the most effective ways teachers can aid in the renewal of society is to

- a. pick a service project for their classes and require that all students participate.
- b. work on political campaigns with fellow teachers.
- c. enthusiastically teach their favorite subjects.
- d. teach students to become involved and informed citizens.

ANSWER: d

13. Cleo, an earth science teacher, spends considerable time working with her students on environmental projects that demand their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Most recently, they have been working on a project exploring groundwater contamination and its effects on the environment. Cleo most likely sees the purpose of her teaching as a means of

- a. aiding in the renewal of society.
- b. preparing her students for the expectations of college.
- c. gaining recognition for her innovative teaching methods.

d. helping students memorize important facts in science.

ANSWER: a

14. According to Ryan and Cooper, the question “Why teach?” is important because our answer is a good indicator of

a. what kind of institution is best for our training.

b. what subjects we will teach.

c. what we will accomplish as teachers.

d. whether we will be effective teachers.

ANSWER: c

15. A person who enters teaching because of an overwhelming love of a certain subject matter (e.g., art, history, must guard against

a. impatience with students who don't share that passion.

b. arrogance for knowing more than his or her students.

c. choosing teaching for the wrong reason.

d. There is nothing this person should guard against.

ANSWER: a

Subjective Short Answer

16. In most respects, teaching ranks rather low in all extrinsic rewards except for one. Name this extrinsic reward exception and describe how teachers may consider it a benefit.

ANSWER: Suggested Answer: The one extrinsic reward most noted in teaching is the work schedule. Because of the frequent vacations throughout the school year and during the summer, teaching offers a work schedule that allows the teacher more personal time than most other professions. Professional development and planning ahead for the next school year are two constructive ways to use the time.

17. One way of deciding if a teaching career is for you is through vicarious experience. Although very helpful, vicarious experiences also have limitations. Name and explain the strengths and limitations of using vicarious experiences in your decision to become a teacher.

ANSWER: Suggested Answer: Vicarious experience can help by providing you with experience you may not have had. Therefore, reading a book or watching a movie about teachers may show you intriguing aspects of the profession. However, one must also remember that the vicarious experience you gain from reading a book or watching a movie may not always be completely realistic. In literature, movies, and other art forms, particular facets are emphasized to create interest, so the actual book or movie may not be factually correct in every detail.

18. In one of the short narratives in the text, Julia recognized that her deep interest in science was both an advantage and a disadvantage. Describe at least one advantage and one disadvantage of teachers' deep commitment to their subject area as well as how Julia

could change her instruction to solve her problems.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

19. In the text, Fred repeatedly asks for “low-achieving” classes in history because he has a strong commitment to helping those students become involved, reflective citizens. He fervently believes that preparing those students to become participating citizens is vital for the renewal of society. In the teaching field you are considering, what could you do in your classes to enhance students' abilities in active citizenship? How does that relate to the renewal of society?

ANSWER: Suggested Answer: Answers will vary, but ideas should clearly demonstrate how a teaching strategy or activity helps enhance students' critical thinking. Also, educating students to become active, reflective citizens aids in the renewal of society, because participating citizens are fundamental for the maintenance of a democracy. Active citizens can successfully work toward the improvement of society.

Essay

20. Many would argue that the rewards of a task are what propel people to become actively engaged in their work. Rewards, both intrinsic and extrinsic, reside in all occupations to some degree. What are the extrinsic rewards of an occupation, and to what degree would you claim that teaching supplies those extrinsic rewards? What are the intrinsic rewards associated with teaching? Identify and explain them.

ANSWER: Suggested Answer: The extrinsic rewards are salary, status, power, and work schedule. Teaching does not typically reward teachers with high salaries; however, some could argue that teachers' salaries are improving in certain geographical areas, based on the attention to education and the increased expectations for teachers. In the United States, teaching has never been considered a high-status job, perhaps partly because of the lack of power a teacher has in comparison to other professions. A teacher's work schedule, with its frequent vacations, is the strongest extrinsic reward. The intrinsic rewards in teaching are teaching itself, working with students, working in a collegial atmosphere, and performing a vital social service.

21. For someone attracted to teaching, what are some useful sources of experience to help in the career choice? Analyze three types of useful experience, explaining the benefits of each.

ANSWER: Suggested Answer: The authors contend that actual work with children and adolescents is a very useful way of determining if one would be happy as a teacher. Several possibilities exist for prospective teachers to test out their interest in the profession. They are baby-sitting; serving as a camp counselor; working at the Y or other club as an instructor; serving as an assistant coach for Little League or other athletic team; either assisting or working as a religious teacher at a church or temple; serving as a Big Brother or Big Sister; working at a preschool, day care center, or the like; and tutoring a younger student. With each possibility selected, the answer should demonstrate how that particular experience adds to one's useful knowledge of teaching. For example, tutoring or baby-sitting usually involves only one or two children, whereas coaching a Little League team requires work with many children. Another distinction is that tutoring, coaching, or instructing involves actual teaching, whereas baby-sitting or serving as a Big

Brother or Sister may not involve direct teaching.

22. Which of the motives (three or four) described in this chapter come closest to your thoughts about a career in teaching? Thinking about these motives, what does this tell you about yourself?

ANSWER: Answers will vary.