

Chapter 01 - Why Teach?

1. Shanay, 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 contributions she could make to her students' lives. If she makes the career switch, which reward is Shanay *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

2. Ahmed thinks he would enjoy teaching civics because he finds politics fascinating and has always taken a prominent role in student government. If Ahmed decides to become a teacher, which of Ahmed's interests would *least* likely be satisfied in a teaching career?

- 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

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. If Juan decides to become an art teacher, which of the following extrinsic rewards will he most certainly experience?

- 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 the curriculum

ANSWER: b

4. Tai is a college sophomore with numerous interests. Public service has always appealed to her, but she is not sure if teaching will be a satisfying career. Which set of motivations would be the best indicator that Tai would find satisfaction in teaching?

- a. She feels a strong desire to contribute to society and wants a professional salary.
- b. She wants public recognition for her work and 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 flexible work schedule.

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?

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- a. Hearing your parents, friends, and former teachers tell you 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

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 career, Noam is probably most rewarded by:

- 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 babysitting jobs.
- b. seek the services of a career placement counselor who can 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, Jameela has become fascinated with teaching as a career. According to the authors, what else would be a good way to help her decide if teaching is the right career for her?

- a. Work in a variety of part-time jobs to see if teaching is still appealing.
- b. Get advice from her former teachers about the realities of teaching.
- c. Take a career preference test.
- d. Read more novels and watch movies about teaching.

ANSWER:

b

11. 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

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12. Cleo, an earth science teacher, spends a great deal of time working with her students on environmental projects that demand 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

13. According to the authors, the question “Why teach?” is important because your answer is a good indicator of:

- a. what kind of institution is best for your training.
- b. what subjects you will teach.
- c. what we will accomplish as teachers.
- d. whether we will be effective teachers.

ANSWER: c

14. 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 that they know more than their students.
- c. choosing to teach for the wrong reason.
- d. There is nothing this person should guard against.

ANSWER: a

15. What do most teachers offer as their main reason for becoming a teacher?

- a. Education’s value to society
- b. An interest in sharing knowledge of a subject
- c. The desire to work with young people
- d. Service to the greater society

ANSWER: c

16. An intrinsic reward associated with a career in teaching is:

- a. the salary.
- b. the benefits.
- c. the enjoyment of young people.
- d. the job security.

ANSWER: c

17. Power is considered a reward of teaching because teachers:

- a. belong to unions.
- b. earn high salaries.
- c. impact students’ futures.
- d. catch students unprepared.

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ANSWER:

c

18. Which of these is an example of a common extrinsic reward for teachers?

- a. Positive influence on students
- b. Desire to share knowledge
- c. High salary
- d. Flexible schedule and summer vacations

ANSWER:

d

19. Why do teachers feel they deserve high prestige and power?

- a. They earn a high salary and benefits.
- b. They exert influence on their students' lives.
- c. They replace parents in an important role.
- d. They enjoy exercising power over their students.

ANSWER:

b

20. A good source of experience for those who are considering teaching as a career is:

- a. working as a teacher's assistant.
- b. interacting with people in a retail business.
- c. reading *Goodbye, Mr. Chips* and other stories about teaching.
- d. watching films like *Freedom Writers* and *Dead Poets Society*.

ANSWER:

a

21. Experiential knowledge of teaching as a career can be expanded through:

- a. reading books about schools.
- b. listening to stories about children.
- c. engaging in real encounters with children.
- d. watching films and videos featuring teachers.

ANSWER:

c

22. What does the case study of Fred Harvey, Curriculum II freshman history teacher, best illustrate?

- a. Teachers give up on students who exhibit poor behavior.
- b. School is hypocritical, and students are not afraid to point out the hypocrisies.
- c. Effective teachers are committed to high-quality education for all students.
- d. Students complain about being pushed too hard.

ANSWER:

c

23. When asked to select which profession provides the most benefit to society, the public selected:

- a. lawyers
- b. physicians
- c. teachers
- d. politicians

ANSWER:

c

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24. Surveys show that most teachers perceive the most rewarding aspect of working with elementary school students to be:

- a. keeping young children interested.
- b. influencing young children's lives.
- c. sharing knowledge with children.
- d. having time off in the summer months.

ANSWER: b

25. What do teachers say is their prime motivation for selecting teaching as a career?

- a. Interest in subject-matter field
- b. Desire to work with young people
- c. Value or significance of education to society
- d. Influence of teacher or family

ANSWER: b

26. The most important factor to consider when deciding on teaching as a career is:

- a. the salary and benefits.
- b. other people's opinions about teaching.
- c. vacation and holiday time off.
- d. one's own inclinations and talents.

ANSWER: d

27. Why would a prospective teacher be very interested in other teachers' reasons for choosing a career in teaching?

- a. Knowing others' reasons helps clarify one's own motivations.
- b. Knowing how much teachers are valued by society is important.
- c. Understanding financial compensation is essential.
- d. Identifying occupational rewards is interesting.

ANSWER: a

28. Keon is considering a career as an elementary school teacher. Which action will most help Keon decide if he should teach?

- a. Reflecting on his own career aspirations
- b. Evaluating his desire for a high salary
- c. Talking to teachers about their reasons for becoming teachers
- d. Watching movies like *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*

ANSWER: a

29. Which characteristics are intrinsic rewards of a career in teaching?

- a. Psychic satisfaction
- b. Prestige
- c. Power and influence
- d. Salaries and benefits

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ANSWER:

a

30. Which characteristics are extrinsic rewards of a career in teaching?

- a. Psychic satisfaction
- b. Work schedule
- c. Satisfaction of helping children
- d. Status in public opinion

ANSWER:

b

31. Which experiences are considered real encounters that can expand one's knowledge of teaching?

- a. Working and observing in schools
- b. Talking to family members about teaching
- c. Discussing one's own elementary school experiences
- d. Listening to a young people's chorus

ANSWER:

a

32. Which of the following is considered a vicarious experience that can expand one's knowledge of teaching?

- a. Visiting a classroom
- b. Watching a *TeacherTube* video
- c. Substitute teaching
- d. Being a camp counselor

ANSWER:

b

33. If a person saw the movie *Bad Teacher*, which negatively portrays teachers as villains, their perception of teachers has been influenced by a:

- a. psychic reward.
- b. real encounter.
- c. vicarious experience.
- d. nonfictional account.

ANSWER:

c

34. What does the case study of fifth-grade science teacher Julia Tucker illustrate?

- a. Fifth-grade students are unable to memorize any facts about science.
- b. Students need to be engaged to understand the subject matter.
- c. Subject-matter specialists are more effective than generalists in teaching elementary school science.
- d. Teachers need to be passionate about their subject matter to teach effectively.

ANSWER:

b

35. In the case study of Fred Harvey, what was his primary motivation to teach the Curriculum II freshman history class?

- a. To help the lower track students in his class advance to the higher track
- b. To have fun taking the students on field trips to historical monuments
- c. To develop the literacy skills of his students in a content subject
- d. To help his students become good citizens and contribute to society

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ANSWER:

d

36. What is NOT a typical reason for teachers to choose teaching as a career?

- a. To gain a sense of fulfillment
- b. To earn a high salary and benefits
- c. To make a contribution to society
- d. To find meaning in helping others learn

ANSWER:

b

37. What are teachers' primary sources of satisfaction?

- a. Establishing a strict, highly disciplined environment
- b. Taking vacations each June, July, and August
- c. Seeing students work and learn independently
- d. Belonging to a strong teachers' union

ANSWER:

c

38. Mr. Garcia is a second-grade teacher, and his student asks him to explain his reasons for becoming a teacher. He explains that, like many teachers, he was drawn to teaching:

- a. to earn a high salary with great benefits.
- b. to ensure he has a high status in the community.
- c. to help others achieve their potential.
- d. to establish a prestigious place in society.

ANSWER:

c

39. 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: Answers will vary. 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 months, 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.

40. One way of deciding if a teaching career is for you is through vicarious experiences. Although they can be 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: Answers will vary. Vicarious experiences can help by providing you with information you may not have had earlier. 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.

41. 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.

ANSWER: Suggested answer: Love for a particular subject matter or content is an important and commendable motive for teaching. A teacher who has a passion to convey the subject matter is effective at both of these goals. But carrying love for a particular subject to an extreme can cause trouble. The teacher's interest in or love of

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learning can be blunted when the teacher is too overpowering or insistent. It is unfair to both the students and their later teachers who will expect students to have a command over the avoided or neglected content.

42. In the text, Fred repeatedly asks for “low-achieving” classes in history because he has a strong commitment to helping students become involved, reflective citizens. He fervently believes that preparing these 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: 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.

43. 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, occur in all occupations to some degree. What are the extrinsic rewards found in various occupations, and to what degree would you claim that teaching supplies some or all of these extrinsic rewards? What are the intrinsic rewards associated with teaching? Identify and explain them.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. The extrinsic rewards associated with various occupations 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 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.

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

ANSWER: Answers will vary. 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 babysitting, serving as a camp counselor, working at some club as an instructor, serving as an assistant coach for Little League or another 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 or daycare center, 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 babysitting usually involves only one or two children, while coaching a Little League team requires work with many children. Another distinction is that tutoring, coaching, or instructing involves actual teaching, while babysitting or serving as a Big Brother or Sister may not involve direct teaching.

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

ANSWER: Answers will vary. Motives may include: To make a difference in students’ lives, to help students reach their full potential, to share enthusiasm for the subjects one teaches, and to make a difference in the larger community.

46. Which of the following is a danger that can await teachers who are distracted by their love of a subject?

- The teachers may not share the most important skills and knowledge.
- The teachers may be distracted from emphasizing a love of learning.
- The teachers may be so busy teaching what they enjoy that the rest of the curriculum gets shortchanged.

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d. The teachers may be overly interested in day-to-day learning progress and disregard more long-term goals .

ANSWER:

c