

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

ESSAY

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

ANS:

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. A number of commission reports and studies of teaching and the teaching profession were released in the 1980s. The studies collectively proposed reform in teacher preparation and in the teaching profession. Identify key recommendations from the studies in both of these areas. Discuss the intended effects of reforms in each area.

ANS:

Answers should focus on increased rigor in preparation programs, teacher testing, professional development schools, and standards for teaching performance, as well as on ways to alter the teaching career (lead teachers, career ladders, NBPTS certification, and so forth

3. 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.

ANS:

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

1. The primary reason that ninety percent of the surveyed teachers stated they entered the teaching profession was
 - a. for job security.
 - b. for high wages.
 - c. helping children grow and learn.
 - d. passion for community service.

ANS: C

KEY: WWW

MSC: New

2. 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.

ANS: C

3. 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.

ANS: D KEY: WWW MSC: New

4. 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

ANS: A

5. Minority students make up forty percent of the population in public schools, but elementary and secondary minority teachers only make up
- a. fifteen percent.
 - b. five percent.
 - c. twenty five percent.
 - d. two percent

ANS: A KEY: WWW MSC: New

6. Of the following nonpublic schools, which has shown the largest increase in enrollment in recent years?
- a. Catholic schools
 - b. Evangelical schools
 - c. Fundamentalist schools
 - d. Independent schools (nonreligious)

ANS: D KEY: WWW

7. 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

ANS: A

8. 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

ANS: D

9. The American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) states that the low proportion of minority teachers constitutes
- a. a calm pattern.
 - b. a devastating crisis.
 - c. no need for concern.
 - d. a future trend that is decreasing.

ANS: B KEY: WWW MSC: New

10. At one time, teaching certifications were issued for life. Most states now issue certificates valid for _____ years, based on the need for increased standards.

a. 1-3 c. 10-12

b. 8-10

d. 3-5

ANS: D

KEY: WWW

MSC: New

11. Based on recent trends in teacher certification, certification requirements for secondary teaching certificates vary from one state to the next in
- the number of teacher education courses only.
 - the number of credit hours in specific content areas only.
 - the number of general education courses only.
 - all of the above.

ANS: D

12. 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?
- whether your college adhered to NCATE requirements for teacher education
 - which southeastern states have arrangements for alternative certification
 - whether the college from which you graduated is a five-year or a fifth-year program
 - which reciprocity agreements are currently valid in the state in which you are now certified

ANS: D

13. When considering the average salary range of teachers, _____ can be expected.
- \$10-\$25,000
 - \$25-\$35,000
 - \$35-\$50,000
 - above \$55,000

ANS: C

MSC: New

14. Programs that provide intense supervision and compressed formal coursework during the first few years of assignment to a teaching position can best be termed
- alternative certification.
 - competency-based teacher education.
 - teacher empowerment.
 - school-based field centers.

ANS: A

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

ANS: B

16. The economic stimulus legislation of 2008 expects to _____ the salaries of teachers.
- decrease
 - improve
 - reduce by 15 percent
 - freeze

ANS: B KEY: WWW MSC: New

17. Which of the following statements represents findings about teacher-preparation programs from recent reports (*Teaching at Risk* and *Educating School Teachers*)?
- 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.

ANS: C

18. Which of the following statements describes developments that have occurred over the last decade in teacher education and certification?
- a. There is greater emphasis on extending the education of teachers beyond the traditional four-year degree.
 - b. There is greater attention paid to developing teachers' ability to think reflectively and to increasing the intensity of their field-based education while in college.
 - c. There is an increased emphasis on the use of technology in teacher training.
 - d. All of the above.

ANS: D

19. 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.

ANS: C

20. 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.

ANS: A KEY: WWW MSC: New

21. 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?
- 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.

ANS: B

22. 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

ANS: D MSC: New

23. Which of the following best describes the nature of the satisfaction and dissatisfaction with which teachers view their work?
- a. Because of many factors (low pay, problems in schools, and lack of recognition), teachers have a difficult time gaining any satisfaction from their work.
 - b. The stress caused by administrative and bureaucratic concerns in teaching basically goes unnoticed, given the level of satisfaction derived from increased teacher autonomy.
 - c. Teachers have historically never been able to gain enough satisfaction from their work to consider it to be a lifetime career.
 - d. Although administrative and bureaucratic inadequacies create a great deal of stress, teachers are generally satisfied with watching children learn as the primary satisfaction gained through teaching.

ANS: D

24. 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

ANS: B KEY: WWW MSC: New

25. A recent emphasis on improving students' thinking and comprehensive skills emphasizes _____ as a central theme in teacher education.
- a. technology
 - b. rote learning
 - c. reflective teaching
 - d. written focus

ANS: C MSC: New

26. The Urban Teacher Residency approach lies _____ traditional and alternative approaches.
- a. above
 - b. below
 - c. equal to
 - d. somewhere in between

ANS: D MSC: New

27. What is the intended purpose of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards?
- a. to arrange for alternative teaching certificates
 - b. to influence content in teacher-education programs across the nation
 - c. to issue certificates to those meeting board-identified standards
 - d. to provide guidance for state departments of education that grant teaching certificates

ANS: C

28. The Holmes Group is a consortium of
- a. deans at colleges of education.
 - c. presidents of state teacher associations.

- b. governors.
- d. state superintendents of education.

ANS: A

29. Professional development schools (PDSs) are consistent with which of the following trends in preservice teacher education?
- a. early field experiences and school-based field centers
 - b. fifth-year or five-year programs
 - c. alternative certification programs
 - d. all of the above

ANS: A

30. How have state governments responded to reforms recommended in such reports as *A Nation at Risk* 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.

ANS: C KEY: WWW

31. 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

ANS: D MSC: New

32. The term *teacher empowerment* refers to
- a. physical fitness programs for teachers.
 - b. the influence of teachers on legislation.
 - c. the role of teachers in decision making.
 - d. the strength of teacher associations.

ANS: C

33. 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.
- a. isolation
 - b. mainstreaming
 - c. alternative buildings
 - d. limited services

ANS: B MSC: New

34. Even as reform efforts have focused on the empowerment of teachers and on increased autonomy for teachers, some attempts at reform have conflicted with those goals. Which of the following reflects a conflict with teacher empowerment and increased autonomy?
- a. standardized testing of teachers
 - b. state-mandated, standardized evaluations of teachers
 - c. standardization and simplification of curriculum and appropriate instruction
 - d. all of the above

ANS: D

35. The fifth-year approach to teacher education allows the student _____.
a. additional time at the college c. the ability to attend school part-time
b. one full year of professional preparation d. all of the above
ANS: B MSC: New
36. More than forty states have adopted the use of the _____ exam to test for basic professional knowledge in reading, mathematics, and communication.
a. basic skills test c. Praxis
b. SAT d. ACT
ANS: C MSC: New
37. Recent polls taken in 2008 indicated that the level of job satisfaction of teachers since 1984 has _____.
a. increased c. shown no change
b. decreased d. remained steady
ANS: A MSC: New
38. 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
ANS: D MSC: New

SHORT ANSWER

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

ANS:

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).

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

ANS:

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.

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

ANS:

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.

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

ANS:

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.

5. Explain what is meant by the *No Child Left Behind* requirement that school districts hire “highly qualified teachers.”

ANS:

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.

6. List several issues that teachers might be involved in that are related to “teacher empowerment.”

ANS:

Answers could focus on selection of instructional methods and materials, establishing school policies and practices, helping determine how funds should be spent in individual schools, development of in-service training, staffing, class size, and length of school day.

7. 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.

ANS:

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.

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

ANS:

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.

9. Variations from _____ to _____ in professional teacher education courses have lead to difficulty in maintaining a nationwide standard of teacher preparation.

ANS:

state; state

10. Professional teacher organizations are attempting to develop nationwide approaches to ease the movement of teachers. This is known as “_____ mobility.”

ANS:

geographic

11. Easing interstate movement of teachers would help _____.

ANS:

Any one of the following responses would be allowed: 1) balance supply and demand. 2) improve opportunities. 3) reduce inbreeding in local school systems. 4) increase morale among teachers.

12. Why are most states requiring that all future teachers complete one or more courses in education for students with special needs?

ANS:

Laws demand that mainstreaming be available for students with special needs. They are placed in a traditional classroom during the school day with a goal of full inclusion.