

Practicum in Education and Training

Sample Assessment Questions

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25 Recall/Reproduction Assessment Questions

1. "Best practice" in teaching consists of those practices that:
 - a. are firmly grounded in other professions, such as law
 - b. are based on nurturing attitudes toward children
 - c. are based on the common sense and traditions of experienced teachers
 - d. have been shown to produce student learning
2. One type of bias that a teacher should be especially sensitive to in using personal communication assessment is:
 - a. students often lie
 - b. issues of language and cultural bias or misunderstanding
 - c. parents generally do not like their children being interviewed
 - d. issues of confidentiality
3. What percentage of a teacher's time is spent on assessment?
 - a. 10%
 - b. 15%
 - c. 20%
 - d. 25%
4. A school system is concerned that they are meeting the mandates of "No Child Left Behind." What type of assessment is the district probably most interested in?
 - a. Formative for each student
 - b. Summative for each student
 - c. Classroom
 - d. Program/District
5. Collaboration with community can be achieved in the following way(s):
 - a. community service hours through volunteerism
 - b. providing necessary social services, such as a health clinic, in the school
 - c. strengthening ties with community agencies for smoother referrals for students and teacher families
 - d. all of the above
6. Through professional development programs, teachers may do all of the following except:
 - a. satisfy state requirements for renewal of a teacher's license
 - b. earn an additional endorsement or license in a second teaching field
 - c. earn board certification
 - d. earn a higher salary
7. A teacher whose use of technology in the classroom consists of giving students timed quizzes on the computer is at which stage of "instructional evolution?"
 - a. Appropriation
 - b. Adoption
 - c. Invention
 - d. Entry

8. The use of computer software to individualize instruction and enable students to learn at their own pace is a technologically enhanced form of:
- mastery learning
 - assistive learning
 - direct teaching
 - problem-based learning
9. More money is spent on:
- training teachers how to use technology
 - hardware and software
 - maintaining official school websites
 - none of the above
10. The percentage of all public school classrooms connected to the Internet is approximately:
- 100%
 - 75%
 - 50%
 - 25%
11. If a teacher has allocated time to do seatwork on spelling, and the students appear to be working, this would be called:
- planned time
 - time-on-task
 - time needed
 - academic learning time
12. Methods used to organize classroom activities and instruction, creating a happy and productive learning environment are known as:
- cooperative learning
 - methods of loci
 - lesson planning
 - classroom management
13. Students with this disability have difficulties that occur across all areas -- "learning, communication, social, academic, vocational, and independent living skills."
- mental retardation
 - giftedness
 - specific learning disability
 - ADHD
14. What has been the most successful and popular technique for integrating exceptional children into general classrooms?
- Cooperative learning
 - Peer-directed learning
 - Self-directed learning
 - Teacher directed learning

15. Which of the following has not been identified as a possible cause of learning disabilities?
- Lack of structure in the home
 - Lack of stimulation
 - Excessive, chaotic stimulation
 - All of the above are possible causes of learning disabilities
16. Focusing on the use of nonverbal cues, maintaining momentum of activity, and redirecting behavior are strategies of which type of intervention?
- Minor
 - Moderate
 - Severe
 - Acute
17. Wilson is really upset with Jennifer. Wilson confronts Jennifer and shares his displeasure and says he doesn't want her to take his book anymore without asking. In turn, he promises not to exclude her from working on his team. Which mode of communication is Wilson using?
- Aggressive style
 - Manipulative style
 - Passive style
 - Assertive style
18. Which of the following strategies for professional development involves gaining experience with students whenever the opportunity arises?
- Observing to learn
 - Writing to learn
 - Participating to learn
 - Collaborating to learn
19. All of the following are dimensions that differentiate a professional role from other occupations except:
- specialized body of knowledge
 - control over licensure
 - autonomy of practice
 - code of conduct
20. The thoughts and actions of a professional are guided by all of the following except:
- extrinsic rewards
 - values
 - commitments
 - responsibilities
21. Be friendly, listen, be clear, be honest, and provide and coordinate information are practices for which of the following?
- Effective communication
 - Good quality of life
 - Good school relationships
 - Disability-related support

22. Beyond certification, teachers are expected to:
- know everything about educational research
 - know everything about their content area
 - serve as a liaison for their school district
 - seek professional growth
23. Classroom dialogue, communication patterns, and power relationships are most influenced by a teacher's use and management of _____.
- time
 - space
 - activities
 - daily plans
24. When using remote communication, it is best to:
- use concise, accurate and clear statements
 - use unexplained jargon
 - use spoken expression and construction
 - avoid checking spelling and grammar
25. Effective communication requires:
- connection, a common purpose and mutual understanding
 - receiving and understanding
 - understanding of environmental factors
 - understanding of non-verbal communication

Recall/Reproduction Assessment Key

1. d
2. a
3. d
4. d
5. d
6. c
7. b
8. a
9. b
10. a
11. b
12. d
13. a
14. a
15. d
16. a
17. d
18. c
19. d
20. a
21. a
22. d
23. b
24. a
25. a

25 Skill/Concept Assessment Questions

1. When Nathaniel Gage talks about the “art of teaching,” he is using the word “art” to describe:
 - a. the beauty that can be observed when skillful teachers are teaching well
 - b. the teacher who is creative in an artistic sense, as when designing bulletin boards
 - c. the way teaching departs from formulas and includes moment-by-moment considerations
 - d. the way creative teachers include principles from the arts in their approach to teaching
2. Working effectively with twenty-first-century student populations will require teachers to:
 - a. learn a second language, probably Spanish
 - b. master a larger repertoire of strategies than was needed formerly
 - c. obtain additional certification in special education
 - d. cope with fewer students who find the curriculum difficult or irrelevant
3. The National Academy of Education recommended which of the following about what teachers should know and be able to do?
 - a. Understand how social systems work
 - b. Be able to understand and use data
 - c. Foster meaningful learning and creativity in students
 - d. All of the above
4. Which of the following does not represent one of the several current trends in relation to teaching?
 - a. Extended schooling for teachers
 - b. Easier access into teaching
 - c. Required testing for certification
 - d. Demonstrated knowledge of pedagogy.
5. When the word “accountability” is used in relation to teachers and their teaching, it means:
 - a. teachers are responsible for knowing and using best practice
 - b. teachers are responsible for every student who does not learn
 - c. teachers are responsible for school drop-outs
 - d. teachers are responsible for doing the best they can
6. Which of the following does not represent one of the important attributes effective teachers should possess?
 - a. Effective teachers should have a repertoire of best practices
 - b. Effective teachers should be actively engaged in research on teaching
 - c. Effective teachers should take a reflective, problem-solving stance toward teaching
 - d. Effective teachers should consider learning to teach a lifelong process
7. What is a key component of assessment reliability?
 - a. A reliable test measures what it says it is measuring
 - b. A given student will be consistent when taking the assessment
 - c. Students will find the test of medium difficulty level
 - d. Teachers and students should have input in creating the assessment
8. Which type of assessment probably should not be communicated to parents?
 - a. If the student is meeting state standards
 - b. How other students in the class are doing
 - c. If the student requires additional remedial help to reach learning goals
 - d. If the student is operating at, below, or above grade level

9. Which statement is probably not true?
- Learning and effectiveness of a school are connected and related
 - The teacher is the most important person responsible for student learning and assessment
 - Assessment for students should take place on a variety of levels
 - Many types of assessment are needed to adequately serve children
10. Which is not an example of assessment for learning?
- Administer both a pretest and posttest for students
 - Administer a marking period midterm and final exam
 - Provide students with appropriate product samples
 - Allow students to administer drafts for teacher to read before the final product
11. In order for schools to have truly successful partnerships with families:
- they should be implementing after school programs for families
 - they should tailor their practices to fit the needs of their schools, students and families
 - they should concentrate on shared decision making
 - they should offer parenting classes
12. One concrete way that teachers can keep the special needs of single- working- parent families in mind is by:
- being careful about days like Mother's Day and Father's Day
 - scheduling some homework more for weekends when single parents can be more available to help
 - not expecting much from single parents
 - all of the above
13. How is technology being used in U.S. schools today?
- Teachers use computers to help with administrative tasks such as grade-keeping
 - Students with disabilities use wheelchairs, voice-activated software, and touch screens
 - Students exchange e-mail with students in other schools, states, and countries
 - All of the above
14. Initial studies indicate that computer use in the classroom may improve:
- basic skills
 - scores on standardized tests
 - students' writing
 - a and b only
15. Which of the following statements is not true about teacher planning?
- Most teacher planning is hidden from public view
 - Teacher planning is driven by the desire to make activities purposeful
 - A fair amount of teacher planning takes too much time
 - Teacher planning makes up 10 to 20 percent of a teacher's workload
16. Which of the following seems to be a positive consequence of teacher planning? Teacher planning tends to eliminate:
- student boredom
 - many management problems
 - student unrest
 - student failure

17. What is one reason learning to plan for teaching may be difficult?
- Most experienced teachers ignore planning tasks
 - Planning can only be learned through experience
 - Experienced teachers and inexperienced teachers don't think the same way about planning
 - The research base is very weak on teacher planning
18. Which of the following statements about unit planning is most true?
- Unit planning is not as important as daily lesson planning
 - Content for a unit should cover a complete chapter in the textbook
 - Usually you can plan on completing a unit in one or two lessons
 - Unit plans link a variety of goals, content, and activities together
19. When planning to choose which content to cover, which of the following should be considered?
- Basic ideas and structures of knowledge
 - Students' prior knowledge
 - Students' interests and abilities
 - All of the above
20. In planning for activities to establish routines, the teacher should:
- write down the details for routines, such as taking roll and collecting homework
 - consider student interests
 - determine available materials
 - all of the above
21. The most important time for a teacher to define and implement his or her classroom management plan:
- is right after report cards come out
 - is during the second week of school, once the composition of the class has stabilized
 - at the last day of each grading period
 - is during the first few days of the school year
22. To maintain momentum in the classroom, the best thing a teacher can do is:
- avoid interruptions or slowdowns, keeping task engagement high
 - walk around and engage the students in their work
 - provide frequent breaks in the lesson, keeping task engagement high
 - have all the lesson materials prepared in advance
23. Which of the following is not a teaching style associated with teachers competent to teach a diverse range of students?
- Emphasize academic instruction
 - Ensure that all students meet the same high standards regardless of their ability
 - Provide specific feedback on both correct and incorrect responses
 - Redirect students when they are off-task
24. Which of the following is the question most identified with the proficient teacher?
- Am I cut out to be a teacher?
 - How can I grow in competence and confidence?
 - What will I do to improve with experience rather than diminish my effectiveness?
 - What impact has my life had on the lives of children and families?

25. All of the following are common worries of student teachers and beginning teachers except:
- a. relationships with children and families
 - b. relationships with adults
 - c. learning activities
 - d. current career

Skill/Concept Assessment Key

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. b
5. a
6. b
7. b
8. b
9. b
10. b
11. b
12. b
13. d
14. d
15. c
16. b
17. c
18. d
19. d
20. a
21. d
22. a
23. b
24. c
25. d

25 Strategic Thinking Assessment Questions

1. Role expectations for teachers changed between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This statement is:
 - a. true, because student needs and school goals changed
 - b. true, because basic skills are more important now
 - c. false, because teachers still must teach large numbers of children
 - d. false, because the teaching profession is still dominated by women
2. Some of the factors that characterized changes in schools throughout the twentieth century include:
 - a. most states passing laws requiring students to be in school until age 18
 - b. immigration patterns slowing and allowing for less extensive literacy instruction
 - c. much of the responsibility for helping youth to make the transition from family to work falling to the schools
 - d. all of the above
3. A teacher has a number of students with disabilities in class. What is probably the best assessment plan for these students?
 - a. Compare each student to the grade level of the class
 - b. Compare the students with disabilities to one another
 - c. Monitor each child's individual progress
 - d. Make the course work easier for these students to help insure that they will pass
4. One interesting outcome of giving students assessment feedback on both what they need to know and how well they are doing on an on-going basis is an increase in:
 - a. student trust in the teacher
 - b. student confidence in their capabilities
 - c. school-wide achievement scores
 - d. parent participation in the education process
5. Teacher-parent relationships can enhance student learning experiences as well as:
 - a. encourage mutual support by and for adults involved
 - b. provide the opportunity for mutual learning by parent and teacher
 - c. renew appreciation for both parents' and teachers' efforts on behalf of learning
 - d. all of the above
6. Working class and lower-class parents who are uneasy about helping their children with their homework:
 - a. could benefit from adult education classes
 - b. simply feel intimidated by what they see as the teacher's superior knowledge
 - c. should have their self-appraisal accepted by the teacher and not be pushed to do more than they are comfortable doing
 - d. a and b above
7. It is particularly important for teachers to communicate frequently with middle and high school students' families, because:
 - a. parents need to be informed about course options that have short- and long-term effects for higher education and career choices
 - b. parents of young girls need to know that they opt out of more advanced Math and Science course at this point in schooling, thereby limiting the choices available to them later
 - c. older students can get into more trouble than younger students
 - d. a and b above

8. Technology, computers, and the Internet have been used for many classroom and educational purposes. Which of the following is not a reason offered for computer use?
- Drill and practice on specific skills, often the same skills required in state assessment tests
 - Promote higher order thinking through simulations and collaborative action research
 - Reduce violence by refocusing students on individual computer tasks and assignments rather than on each other
 - Strengthen teacher resources by offering a greater array of instructional tools for the classroom, like Power Point presentations
9. Channel One, a televised educational news program, is controversial because:
- schools must provide and pay for the television monitors and satellite dish to receive the program
 - the 30-minute program causes a considerable disruption in the school day
 - the program has not been shown to improve students' knowledge of current events
 - the program includes advertisements for commercial products
10. All of the following are true except:
- schools were wired for the Internet using existing classroom telephone lines provided for teachers
 - students often arrive at school knowing far more than their teachers do about technology
 - people over 45 years of age exhibit the highest levels of anxiety about technology
 - teachers seldom receive professional rewards, such as salary increases, for technological mastery
11. Which of the following seems to be a negative consequence of teacher planning? Teachers become:
- less sensitive to students' ideas
 - more sensitive to students' ideas
 - less creative in their teaching
 - less concerned with subject matter
12. Which of the following best describes the differences between the ways experienced and inexperienced beginning teachers plan?
- Experienced teachers tend to spend more time planning how to give verbal instructions, whereas inexperienced teachers focus on ways to assess student learning and give them feedback
 - Inexperienced teachers tend to spend more time planning how to give verbal instructions, whereas experienced teachers focus on ways to assess student learning and give them feedback
 - Experienced teachers tend to spend more time thinking about how to use their time than inexperienced teachers
 - Inexperienced teachers tend to think less about classroom management while planning than do experienced teachers
13. Which of the following is not specified by a teacher's yearly plans? Yearly plans do not specify:
- the overall themes and attitudes the teacher wants to get across
 - making sure that all important topics get sufficient coverage
 - making sure that specific objectives are included and timetabled
 - how instruction can be tailored to cycles of the school year
14. Which of the following is an example of a classroom activity planned specifically to build group cohesion?
- A weekly lesson on current events
 - A weekly meeting where students discuss how the class is going
 - Listing weekly objectives on the chalk board
 - Listing weekly activities on the chalk board

15. Teachers can eliminate much routine classroom misbehavior without breaking the momentum of the lesson:
- by isolating potential troublemakers from the rest of the class
 - by the use of simple nonverbal cues to students
 - by setting up a token economy whereby students are rewarded for staying on task
 - by talking fast and moving the lesson along
16. When it comes to classroom management, teachers of older students who are struggling in school should:
- use principles of operant conditioning to foster academic achievement
 - keep in regular contact with the student's parents or guardians in order to foster their child's academic achievement
 - keep in regular contact with the student's guidance counselor
 - focus on motivating them toward more self-regulation in observing rules and procedures
17. Consider these three teaching strategies: (1) giving students an opportunity to plan ahead by letting them know about upcoming assignments well in advance, (2) giving students choices about how to do some of their assignments, (3) having regular procedures that students should always follow for routine activities. What do all three of these classroom management strategies have in common?
- They give students a sense of control about certain aspects of classroom life
 - They are the three most effective ways of handling transition times
 - They make it unnecessary for teachers to set limits
 - They facilitate teacher-student interaction
18. Which of the following is not an affective characteristic associated with giftedness?
- Persistent, goal-directed behavior
 - Earlier development of an inner locus of control and satisfaction
 - Advanced level of moral judgment
 - Social maladjustment
19. In what way are most children with behavior disorders similar to those with specific learning disabilities?
- Both are almost always of above average intelligence
 - Both have a pattern of poor academic performance despite an average range of cognitive ability
 - Both have a pattern of high academic performance despite low intelligence
 - Both have a pattern of low academic performance due to low intelligence
20. Ms. Rogers makes sure to intermittently restate what students have to say when they come to her with a concern. She feels this is the most effective way to show students that their concerns are important to her as well. Mrs. Henley is using what listening skill?
- Paraphrasing
 - Using "I" messages
 - "You" messages
 - Synthesizing
21. A teacher with declarative and procedural knowledge who can plan instruction that will work for the majority of the class, maintain order, implement the planned instruction, assess child progress, and make some adaptations of instruction exhibits what type of knowledge?
- Stable procedural
 - Situated, can-do procedural
 - Expert, adaptive
 - Reflective, organized, analyzed

22. Which of the following is not a descriptor of reasons why teacher-preparation programs cannot fully prepare teachers for what they will encounter in a classroom?
- Change versus status quo
 - General versus specific
 - Textbook versus Internet
 - Promise versus perfection
23. Which of the following is a practical way to build rapport with parents and families?
- Increase families' concerns about children's adjustment
 - Focus on who should take the blame when problems arise
 - Be sensitive to some family members' discomfort in the school setting
 - Identify and meet the special concerns that are shared with the majority of families
24. One attribute seems to be characteristic of outstanding teachers: intentionality. What do intentional teachers do?
- They have a vast knowledge of the subject
 - They are creative
 - Intentional teachers are those who are constantly thinking about the outcomes they want for their students and about how each decision they make moves children toward those outcomes
 - They are dedicated
25. Which of the following is not a purpose served by non-verbal communication?
- It lets us know what people feel and intend
 - It can be used to regulate the beginning and the end of a sentence
 - It is something that we want make very apparent to others
 - It can help people to achieve their goals

Strategic Thinking Assessment Key

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. b
5. d
6. c
7. d
8. c
9. d
10. a
11. a
12. b
13. c
14. b
15. b
16. d
17. a
18. d
19. b
20. a
21. a
22. c
23. c
24. c
25. c

25 Extended Thinking Assessment Questions/Tasks

1. Identify and describe the foundations of ensuring quality personal communication assessment. What can/should the teacher do to ensure such quality?
2. Name and define four types of assessment questions. What is the purpose of each type of assessment? What are the main characteristics of the four types of assessment?
3. Describe and discuss the positive and negative consequences of careful teacher planning.
4. List the three phases of the instructional cycle, and give examples of planning tasks associated with each.
5. Why has student tracking generated so much controversy?
6. Name at least one technological advance and explain how it assists students in learning.
7. Compare and contrast two instructional/managerial strategies that contribute to effective classroom management.
8. What is the impact of time on learning? Evaluate two strategies teachers can use to get the most instruction out of a typical school day.
9. When teaching students with special needs, there are ways to accommodate them. What are they?
10. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of labeling children. How should teachers approach this?
11. Discuss the relative merits of the various ways in which children with disabilities are integrated into the general classroom (e.g. peer-directed learning, cooperative learning, peer tutoring, buddy system, self-directed learning).
12. Discuss the 9 provisions that are to be ensured under IDEA. These provisions do not apply to gifted and talented children. Should they? Why or why not?
13. Create a situation where you are the teacher (e.g., classroom, workshop, and presentation). What types of management strategies did you use? Assess these management strategies and determine your management style. Were you authoritative, authoritarian, or permissive? Why?
14. The physical layout of a classroom and the strategies teachers employ should facilitate learning. Write down five descriptive statements of general activities that you would like to employ in your classroom. Next, draw the physical environment of a classroom that would facilitate the use of your general activities. What aspects of this environment are essential and what aspects are merely desirable?
15. Using the following list, choose two skills you consider particular strengths you possess. Describe how these strengths will be assets to you as a teacher. What kind of professional development opportunities can help you develop skills in other areas?
 - Goal-setting skills
 - Management skills
 - Motivational skills
 - Communication skills
 - Experience with others from diverse backgrounds
 - Technological skills

16. Effective teachers appropriately incorporate technology into the classroom. Describe the best ways for teachers to gain adequate preparation in educational technology.
17. Describe why it is so important for teachers to build and sustain their commitment and motivation to teaching. Discuss potential outcomes if they don't.
18. Describe four strategies that can help contribute to a teachers' personal and professional development.
19. How does knowledge relate to being a professional in the teaching and training profession?
20. One strategy for effective classroom management is to foster communication among teachers and students. Being an "active listener" is one way for teachers to become good communicators. Reflect upon your education experiences. To what degree were you encouraged to discuss ideas and speak out in class? Describe a classroom environment and the kinds of activities that would support open communication in class. What are the challenges to implementing this kind of classroom?
21. Describe the communication environments provided by the Internet.
22. Describe the four principles of communication and how they are readily applicable to life beyond the classroom.
23. Discuss four items that could be included in a portfolio.
24. Reflection plays a particularly critical role in the teaching profession. Reflect on your attitudes and dispositions, knowledge base and performances in order to explain who you are and how effective you would be as a teacher.
25. Designing an effective Professional Development Portfolio requires answering the specific question; "What do I want to do?" Using the listed questions, create a sample portfolio.
 - "Why do I want to do it?"
 - "How am I going to do it?"
 - "What do I need to do it?"
 - "How will I know I've done it?"

Extended Thinking Assessment Key

1 – 25 Student responses will vary