



10 COMMON TA INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

**And How To
Answer Them!**



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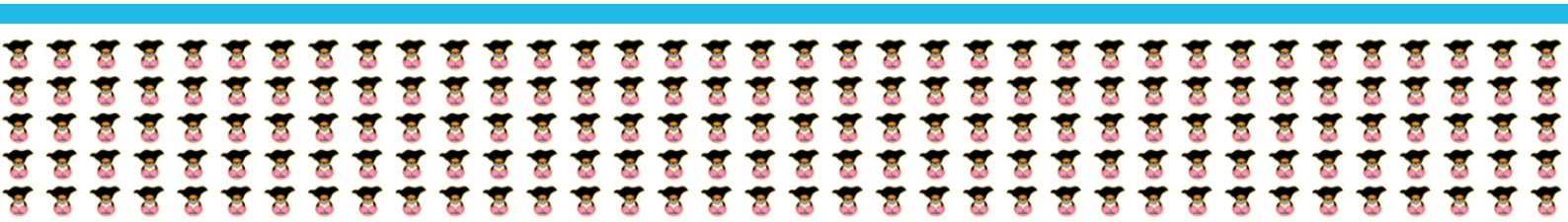
WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A TEACHING ASSISTANT?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

"I have always had great enthusiasm for education and really want to make a positive impact on the lives of young people. As a student myself, I had a few teachers who were particularly inspiring and supportive, and they played a major role in shaping my own academic and personal development. This helped me to see first hand the importance of education in shaping young people's futures and I'd love to contribute to that process."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

This question is often asked as a way to get to know the candidate better and to understand their motivation for pursuing a career in education.



In responding to this question, it's important to convey a genuine passion for working with students and a desire to support their growth and development.

You could expand on this answer in the following ways:

- Describe any experiences outside of school that led you to become interested in education, such as volunteering with youth organisations or working with children in other settings
- Explain your motivation for pursuing a career as a teaching assistant, such as a desire to make a positive difference in the lives of students or a passion for supporting student learning and development
- Emphasise the personal qualities or skills that make you well-suited for the role of teaching assistant, such as patience, communication skills, or a love of learning
- Describe any relevant education or training that you have completed, such as courses in child development, education, or psychology
- Provide examples of times when you have worked with students or supported their learning and development, such as tutoring, mentoring, or coaching

By expanding on your answer in these ways, you can demonstrate your suitability for the role of teaching assistant and show the interviewer that you have the knowledge, and skills to succeed in the field of education.



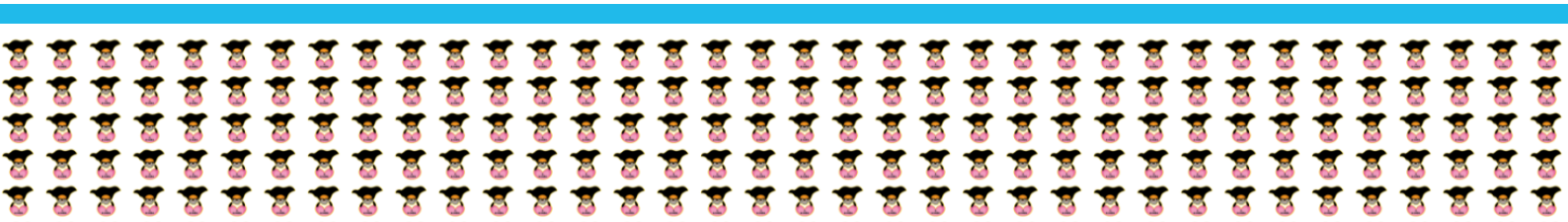
HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE A DISRUPTIVE STUDENT IN THE CLASSROOM?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

"I would first try to understand the root cause of the student's behaviour and address any underlying issues. Then, I would calmly redirect their attention and behaviour to the task at hand. If necessary, I would involve the classroom teacher or Special Educational Needs Coordinator to develop a behaviour plan."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

In this question, the interviewer is asking you how you would handle a disruptive student in the classroom. Your response should demonstrate your ability to manage student behaviour in a calm and respectful manner, while also ensuring that learning is not disrupted for other students in the class.



The suggested answer acknowledges the importance of understanding the root cause of the student's behaviour and addresses any underlying issues, before calmly redirecting their attention and behaviour to the task at hand. If necessary, the candidate would involve the classroom teacher or SENCO to develop a plan to better support the student.

To expand on this answer, you might provide more specific details about your approach to managing student behaviour, such as:

- Your understanding of different behaviour management techniques (e.g. positive reinforcement, redirection, modelling)
- Your ability to adapt your approach for different students and situations
- Your experience working with students with behaviour challenges, and any strategies or techniques you have found effective
- Your ability to work collaboratively with teachers, parents, and other stakeholders to develop and implement behaviour plans and interventions

By providing more details about your approach to managing student behaviour, you can demonstrate your suitability for the role of teaching assistant and show the interviewer that you have the skills and knowledge to support students with a range of needs and challenges.



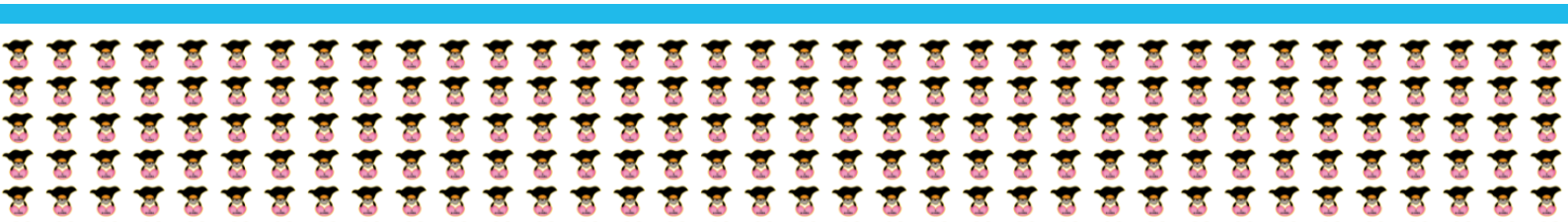
HOW DO YOU DIFFERENTIATE YOUR TEACHING APPROACH FOR STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT LEARNING NEEDS?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

"Every student has unique learning needs, so it's important to create an inclusive learning environment that caters to the individual needs of each student. I would identify the student's learning style and strengths, and then adjust my teaching approach to accommodate these needs. This might include visual aids, hands-on activities, or additional support through one-on-one instruction."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

In this question, the interviewer is asking you how you would differentiate your teaching approach for students with different learning needs. Your response should demonstrate your understanding of the importance of creating an



inclusive learning environment and your ability to adapt your teaching to meet the needs of individual students.

The suggested answer emphasises the importance of creating a learning environment that caters to the individual needs of each student. The candidate would first identify the student's learning style and strengths, and then adjust their teaching approach to accommodate these needs. This might include visual aids, hands-on activities, or additional support through one-on-one instruction.

To expand on this answer, you might provide more specific details about your approach to differentiating instruction, such as:

- Your understanding of different learning styles (e.g. visual, auditory, kinaesthetic) and how you adapt your teaching to meet these needs**
- Your experience using technology and other tools to support student learning (e.g. interactive whiteboards, educational apps)**
- Your ability to provide differentiated instruction while maintaining a cohesive classroom environment**
- Your experience working with students with specific learning needs, such as those with learning disabilities or English language learners**

By providing more details about your approach to differentiating instruction, you can demonstrate your suitability for the role of teaching assistant and show the interviewer that you have the skills and knowledge to support a diverse range of learners in an educational setting.



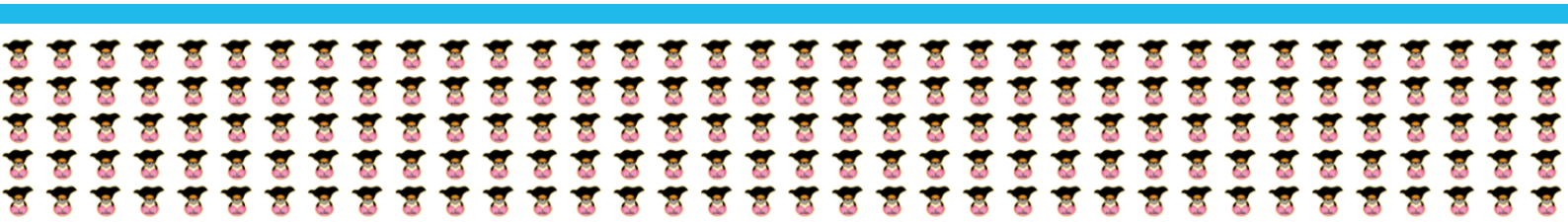
HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN INVOLVING A STUDENT?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

"If I had a safeguarding concern involving a student, I would follow the school's safeguarding policy and report the concern immediately to the designated safeguarding lead. I would also ensure that the student is supported and any necessary actions are taken to address the concern."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

In this question, the interviewer is asking how you would handle a safeguarding concern involving a student. Your response should demonstrate your understanding of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures and your commitment to ensuring that appropriate action is taken to address any safeguarding concerns.



The suggested answer emphasises the importance of following the school's safeguarding policy and reporting any safeguarding concerns immediately to the designated safeguarding lead. The candidate would also ensure that the student is supported and any necessary actions are taken to address the concern.

To expand on this answer, you might provide more specific details about your approach to handling safeguarding concerns, such as:

- Your understanding of the different types of safeguarding concerns that may arise (e.g. abuse, neglect, online safety)
- Your ability to recognise and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns
- Your experience communicating with students about safeguarding concerns, and your ability to do so in a sensitive and respectful manner
- Your understanding of confidentiality and data protection requirements related to safeguarding concerns, and how you would ensure that these requirements are met

By providing more details about your approach to handling safeguarding concerns, you can demonstrate your suitability for the role of teaching assistant and show the interviewer that you take the safety and well-being of students seriously.



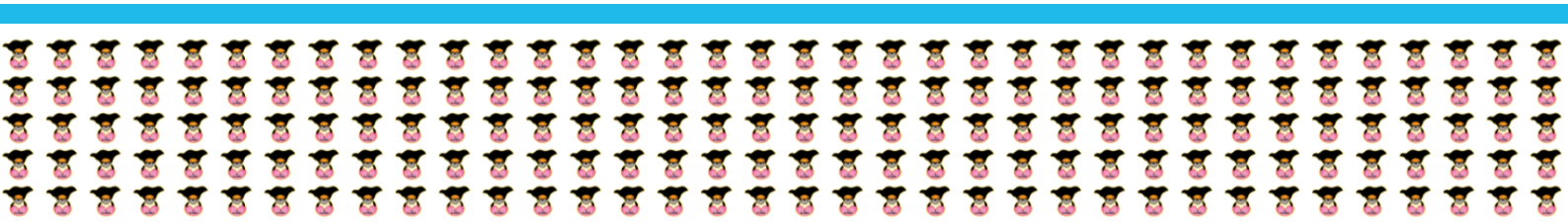
HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

"I believe building a strong relationship with parents and carers, based on mutual respect and trust. I would regularly provide updates on the student's progress and seek feedback from parents and carers to ensure that their needs and concerns are being addressed."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

In this question, the interviewer is asking how you would maintain a positive relationship with parents and carers. Your response should demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with parents and carers, build trust and rapport, and work collaboratively to support the student's learning and development.



The suggested answer emphasizes the importance of open and honest communication with parents and carers. The candidate believes in building a strong relationship based on mutual respect and trust, regularly providing updates on the student's progress, and seeking feedback from parents and carers to ensure that their needs and concerns are being addressed.

To expand on this answer, you might provide more specific details about your approach to building positive relationships with parents and carers, such as:

- Your ability to communicate effectively and respectfully with parents and carers, including those with diverse backgrounds or communication styles
- Your understanding of the importance of active listening and seeking to understand the parent or carer's perspective
- Your experience providing regular updates to parents and carers on the student's progress, including academic, social, and emotional development
- Your ability to work collaboratively with parents and carers to identify and address any challenges or concerns related to the student's learning or well-being
- Your experience building positive relationships with parents and carers in previous roles, and any feedback you received about your communication or relationship-building skills

By providing more details about your approach to building positive relationships with parents and carers, you can demonstrate your suitability for the role of teaching assistant and show the interviewer that you have the skills and knowledge to work effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders to support student learning and development.



HOW DO YOU SUPPORT STUDENTS WHO ARE STRUGGLING ACADEMICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

"I would first identify the underlying causes of the student's struggles and work with the classroom teacher and any relevant professionals to develop a tailored support plan. This might include additional one-on-one support, referrals to external services, or adaptations to the curriculum."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

In this question, the interviewer is asking how you would support students who are struggling academically or emotionally. Your response should demonstrate your ability to identify and address the root causes of the student's struggles, and to work collaboratively with the classroom teacher and other professionals to develop and implement a tailored support plan.



The suggested answer emphasises the importance of identifying the underlying causes of the student's struggles, working with the classroom teacher and relevant professionals to develop a support plan, and providing additional support through one-to-one instruction or referrals to external services if necessary.

To expand on this answer, you might provide more specific details about your approach to supporting struggling students, such as:

- Your ability to recognise the signs of academic or emotional struggles, and to respond appropriately and sensitively
- Your understanding of the importance of building a positive and supportive relationship with the student, and of providing regular encouragement and feedback
- Your experience working with students with specific academic or emotional needs, and any strategies or techniques you have found effective
- Your ability to work collaboratively with the classroom teacher and relevant professionals (e.g. special education teacher, school counsellor, speech therapist) to develop and implement a tailored support plan
- Your understanding of the confidentiality and data protection requirements related to supporting struggling students, and how you would ensure that these requirements are met

By providing more details about your approach to supporting struggling students, you can demonstrate your suitability for the role of teaching assistant and show the interviewer that you have the skills and knowledge to support students with a range of needs and challenges.



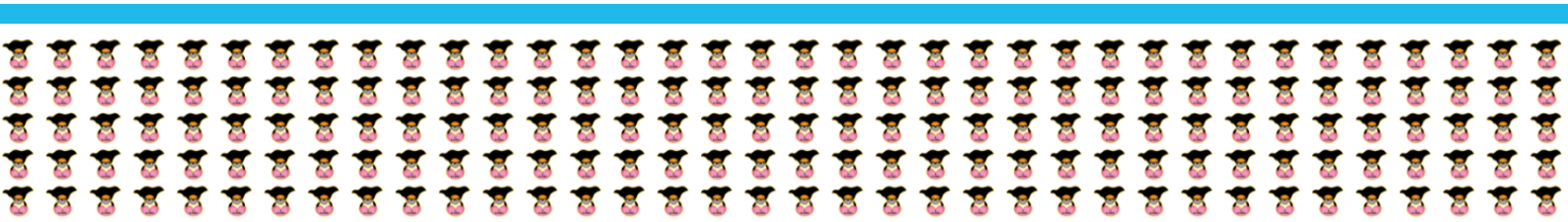
HOW DO YOU PROMOTE INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

"I believe in creating a safe and welcoming environment where all students feel valued and respected. This might involve incorporating diverse perspectives and experiences into the curriculum, using inclusive language, and celebrating cultural and religious holidays."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

In this question, the interviewer is asking how you would promote inclusivity and diversity in the classroom. Your response should demonstrate your understanding of the importance of creating an inclusive and welcoming learning environment for all students, and your ability to incorporate diverse perspectives and experiences into the curriculum.



The suggested answer emphasises the importance of creating a safe and welcoming environment where all students feel valued and respected. The candidate would incorporate diverse perspectives and experiences into the curriculum, use inclusive language, and celebrate cultural and religious holidays.

To expand on this answer, you might provide more specific details about your approach to promoting inclusivity and diversity in the classroom, such as:

- Your understanding of the benefits of an inclusive and diverse learning environment for all students, and for promoting equity and social justice
- Your ability to incorporate diverse perspectives and experiences into the curriculum, such as by using literature or historical examples from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Your understanding of the importance of inclusive language, such as avoiding gendered or ableist language
- Your experience celebrating cultural and religious holidays and promoting understanding and respect for different cultural traditions
- Your ability to create a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students, such as by addressing any incidents of discrimination or harassment and promoting respectful communication and behaviour

By providing more details about your approach to promoting inclusivity and diversity in the classroom, you can demonstrate your suitability for the role of teaching assistant and show the interviewer that you have the skills and knowledge to support a diverse range of learners in an educational setting.



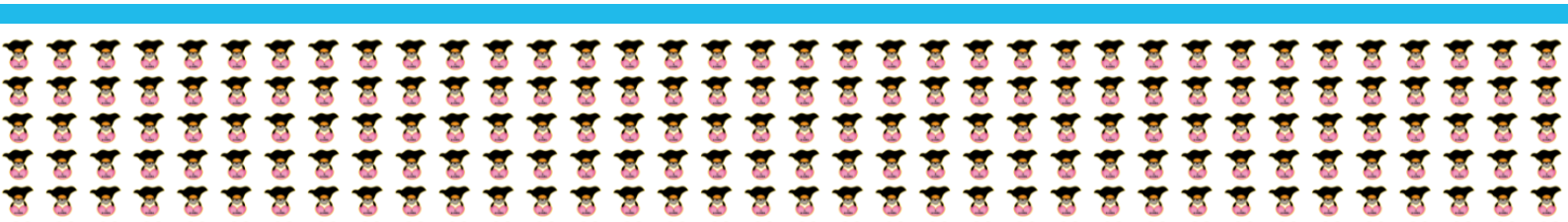
HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR WORKLOAD AS A TEACHING ASSISTANT?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

"I prioritise my workload by setting clear goals and deadlines, and by communicating regularly with the classroom teacher to ensure that my work is aligned with the overall objectives of the class. I also stay organised and make use of technology and other tools to streamline my work."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

In this question, the interviewer is asking how you would manage your workload and prioritise tasks as a teaching assistant. Your response should demonstrate your ability to manage your time effectively, prioritise tasks based on their importance and urgency, and seek help and support when necessary.



The suggested answer emphasises the importance of managing workload and prioritising tasks in order to be effective and efficient in the role. The candidate would use tools such as to-do lists or prioritisation matrices to help manage their tasks, and would communicate with the classroom teacher or other staff members when additional support or guidance is needed.

To expand on this answer, you might provide more specific details about your approach to managing workload and prioritising tasks, such as:

- Your ability to assess the importance and urgency of different tasks, and to prioritise them accordingly
- Your experience using tools or strategies to manage your workload, such as to-do lists or calendar reminders
- Your ability to work efficiently and proactively, such as by anticipating upcoming tasks or deadlines and preparing in advance
- Your willingness to seek help or guidance when necessary, such as by communicating with the classroom teacher or other staff members
- Your understanding of the importance of maintaining professionalism and confidentiality in all aspects of your work as a teaching assistant

By providing more details about your approach to managing workload and prioritising tasks, you can demonstrate your suitability for the role of teaching assistant and show the interviewer that you have the skills and knowledge to work effectively in a fast-paced and dynamic educational environment.



CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH CHILDREN?

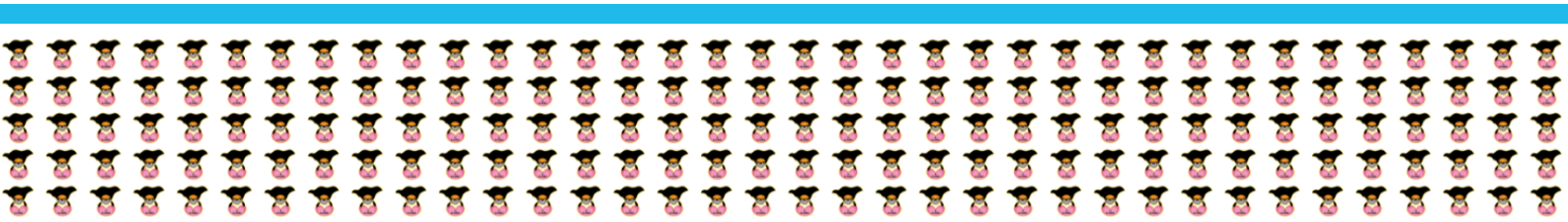
SUGGESTED ANSWER

"I have experience working with children in a variety of settings, including volunteering at a local youth center and completing a placement in a primary school. During these experiences, I have developed strong communication and interpersonal skills, as well as the ability to adapt to the needs of different children."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

In this question, the interviewer is asking you to describe your experience working with children. In your response, you should highlight any relevant experiences you have that demonstrate your ability to work with children in an educational setting.

The suggested answer provides a brief overview of the



candidate's experience and skills, emphasising their ability to communicate effectively and adapt to the needs of different children.

To expand on this answer, you might provide more specific details about your experience, such as:

- The types of activities you led or assisted with (e.g. tutoring, arts and crafts, sports)**
- The age ranges of the children you worked with and how you adapted your approach for different age groups**
- Any challenges you encountered and how you overcame them (e.g. behaviour issues, language barriers)**
- Any specific training or certifications you have related to working with children (e.g. First Aid, Child Protection)**
- Any feedback you received from colleagues, supervisors, or parents about your work with children**

By providing more details about your experience working with children, you can demonstrate your suitability for the role of teaching assistant and show the interviewer that you have the skills and knowledge to work effectively with students in an educational setting.



HOW DO YOU APPROACH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

"I believe in the importance of lifelong learning and staying up-to-date with the latest developments in education. I would actively seek out professional development opportunities, such as attending conferences or workshops, and would regularly reflect on my practice and seek feedback from colleagues and supervisors."

WAYS TO EXPAND THIS ANSWER

In this question the interviewer is asking the teaching assistant to describe their approach to ongoing learning and development in the field of education. This question is designed to assess the candidate's commitment to professional growth and their willingness to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field.



The suggested answer provides a concise and effective response to this question, emphasising the importance of lifelong learning and the candidate's proactive approach to seeking out professional development opportunities. The answer also demonstrates the candidate's willingness to reflect on their practice and seek feedback from others, which is an important aspect of ongoing learning and growth.

Here are some possible ways that a teaching assistant could expand on this answer:

- Discuss specific professional development opportunities that you have pursued in the past, such as attending conferences or workshops, participating in online training programs, or pursuing advanced degrees or certifications.
- Explain how you have applied the knowledge and skills gained through professional development to your work as a teaching assistant, and provide specific examples of times when you have put these skills into practice.
- Discuss any specific areas of interest or expertise that you have developed through ongoing learning and development, and explain how these areas of expertise can benefit the students and the school.
- Talk about any challenges or obstacles that you have faced in pursuing ongoing learning and development, and explain how you have overcome these challenges to continue growing and improving as a teaching assistant.
- Emphasise the importance of collaboration and teamwork in ongoing learning and development, and explain how you have worked with colleagues and supervisors to seek feedback and support for your professional growth.

- Discuss any goals or aspirations that you have for your career as a teaching assistant, and explain how ongoing learning and development will play a role in achieving these goals.

By expanding on the answer in these ways, the teaching assistant can demonstrate a deeper understanding of the importance of ongoing learning and professional development, and showcase their commitment to personal and professional growth in the field of education.

HOW THIS RESOURCE WILL SUPPORT YOUR INTERVIEW PERFORMANCE

There are several reasons why teaching assistants might want to use a resource that provides suggested answers to common interview questions and tips on how to expand on those answers:

- 1.Preparation:** Having access to a resource that provides suggested answers to common interview questions can help the teaching assistant to prepare effectively for their interview. By reviewing the suggested answers and thinking about how to expand on those answers, the teaching assistant can feel more confident and prepared for the interview.
- 2.Understanding interviewer expectations:** The suggested answers can help the teaching assistant to understand what the interviewer is looking for in a candidate. By reviewing the suggested answers and thinking about how to expand on those answers, the teaching assistant can gain a better understanding of what the interviewer expects in terms of knowledge, skills, and experience.
- 3.Consistency:** Using a resource that provides suggested answers can help the teaching assistant to ensure that they are providing consistent responses to each question. This can help to demonstrate their professionalism and attention to detail, and can also help to ensure that they



are providing a comprehensive response to each question.

- **Confidence:** By using a resource that provides suggested answers, the teaching assistant can feel more confident and prepared for the interview. This can help them to perform better during the interview and to showcase their knowledge, skills, and experience in the best possible light.

Using this resource will provide you with suggested answers to common interview questions and tips on how to expand on those answers to enable you to prepare effectively for your interview, understand interviewer expectations, ensure consistency in your responses, and feel more confident and prepared during the interview.



YOUR TO DO LIST BASED ON WHAT YOU'VE READ IN THIS PDF

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ABOUT the author!

Hello there, I'm Lauren Riesner and I help Teaching Assistants with their daily routines, mindset, the interview process and much much more...

Having previously been a TA/HLTA/1:1 TA for 20 years, I've noticed that there isn't very much out there for Teaching Assistants to improve your working routines, to support your teaching or to assist you with the challenges of behaviour, intervention sessions, subject knowledge, attending interviews etc.

My writing is all about improvement and my books are written with the intention to make the job of TA easier. Being a Teaching Assistant can be tough and so many of you make a huge effort for the children you work with and you ask for so little in return. Think of my books as friendly helping hands and use them to help you work smarter rather than even harder!

I am a one woman set up. I do not have a publishing team to proof-read my books or to edit them and set them out so that everything looks symmetrical etc. I do all this myself and because of that, you may detect the odd typo, missing punctuation or misalignment of text etc, although I try hard to avoid this!

I keep the prices of my books at a level that I hope Teaching Assistants can afford, but again, because I am not part of a bigger machine it is impossible for me to place my books at a super-low price. I pay Amazon to print and deliver my books which means I earn somewhere between £1-£3 for every book sold, depending on the price I've set it at.

EVERYTHING I create is completed with the intention of supporting TAs with your work. I hope this FREE resource fulfils that intention for you.

Lauren Riesner



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