



Pop Quiz:

Is Teaching Right for You?

by Mary Clement

You think you might want to be a teacher — but how do you know for sure? Take this quiz to learn if teaching is right for you.

1. Many educators are motivated to teach by at least one wonderful teacher who served as a role model and inspiration. In my case:

- a. I haven't had any great teachers.
- b. Some of my teachers were okay.
- c. Yes! I had a teacher who changed my life and inspired me.

2. People tell me I am "too smart" to be a teacher. I say:

- a. Teaching is the profession that makes all others possible, so smart people should become teachers.
- b. I'm worried about that. Maybe I should think about another profession.
- c. I may teach for a few years and then choose another profession.

3. Many people say that teachers can't earn a living. I say:

- a. On average, teachers make between \$35,000 and \$80,000 a year, and I can live on that.
- b. Maybe I should think about another career so I can make more money. I have to be able to pay my bills.
- c. Don't just make a living. Make a difference!

4. Teaching has been called the family-friendly profession. To me, that means:

- a. It's a better career for women.
- b. A teacher's schedule gives all parents more time to raise their own children.
- c. I will have to spend less time at work than other professionals do.

5. Today's classrooms are filled with diverse students. They come from different backgrounds, speak different languages, and have different levels of skills and knowledge. How do I feel about this?

- a. It sounds overwhelming. How can I teach all these students at the same time?
- b. I can try to meet the needs of all my students.

c. I can be very open-minded and take classes to prepare me to handle this challenge.

6. High school teachers make the same salaries as elementary teachers with the same education and experience. I say:

- a. Maybe this will change one day.
- b. This is unfair, but it happens.
- c. Have you ever taught elementary school? Those teachers teach everything!

7. My family says that teaching is not a real professional career. I say:

- a. Teaching requires a bachelor's degree and continual training.
- b. Teaching requires education and a license. It is also monitored by professional and governmental organizations.
- c. It's tougher to earn a teaching license than ever before.

8. Teachers have to take work home. They often have to grade papers and write lesson plans after the school day ends. How will I handle this?

- a. Teachers can choose when they do their work. They can stay late or take work home and do it while they are with their family. There is some flexibility.
- b. I will try to minimize my work at home.
- c. A lot of professionals have to work outside of the office. It's not a big deal.

9. Teachers have to continue their education after graduation. I say:

- a. Yes, but teachers do not have to have a master's degree in most states.
- b. Most of the time, professional development is free in school districts or through regional offices of education.
- c. Yes, and the added training provides teachers with many more skills and often higher salaries.

10. When all is said and done, I want to be a teacher because:

- a. I won't have to travel or commute very far, since teachers are needed in every town.
- b. There are more weeks of vacation than any other job.
- c. I love children/young people and my subject matter.

ADD UP YOUR POINTS

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. a=1, b=2, c=3 | 6. a=2, b=1, c=3 |
| 2. a=3, b=2, c=1 | 7. a=2, b=3, c=1 |
| 3. a=2, b=1, c=3 | 8. a=3, b=1, c=2 |
| 4. a=2, b=3, c=1 | 9. a=1, b=2, c=3 |
| 5. a=1, b=2, c=3 | 10. a=2, b=1, c=3 |

While the answers to these questions are just your opinion, they may provide some insight for you about the teaching profession.

IF YOUR SCORE IS 25-30 points, you are not only familiar with the teaching profession, but it sounds as if you are already committed to a long teaching career.

IF YOUR SCORE IS 19-24, you have decided on teaching and are ready to learn more.

IF YOUR SCORE IS 14-18, you are still thinking about teaching. Talk with your teachers and your FEA advisor to get the real story about being a teacher.

IF YOUR SCORE IS 10-13, talk to your teachers and guidance counselors about teaching and other careers, too. Learn more about all the careers that interest you before making a choice.

Follow FEA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/futureeducators. We'll post some questions from this quiz and you can see what other students said.



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