



INTEREST INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Hobbies & Interests (Core):

1. ***What's something you're an expert in? What makes you an expert at it? (Describe in two to three sentences.***¹

2. What are your favorite subjects in school? [You can select more than one].
 - a. Math
 - b. Science
 - c. Social Studies
 - d. English Language Arts
 - e. World Language(s)
 - f. Physical Education
 - g. Music
 - h. Drama
 - i. Fine arts (painting, drawing, photography)
 - j. Web design
 - k. Computer science(s)
 - l. Other (please specify)

3. How do you use math in your everyday life outside of school? Write two to four sentences.

Hobbies & Interests (Potential Additions):

Closed-ended

- a. What are your favorite social media apps?
 - a. Instagram
 - b. TikTok
 - c. YouTube
 - d. Snapchat
 - e. Twitter
 - f. Other (please specify)
 - g. I don't use social media

- b. Do you work a part-time job?
 - a. Yes
 - b. Not currently, but I had one in the past
 - c. No

¹ The questions in bold italics are questions that we suggest including. We like this question because it communicates to students that they are already experts/have expertise and that their teacher recognizes their expertise (or is open to doing so).

- c. What extracurricular activities are you involved in? List them all here.

Open-ended (short response)

- a. What are your favorite stores to shop at? Name one to three.
- b. What are your favorite movies or shows to watch on TV? Name one to three.
- c. Who are your favorite music artists? Name one to three.
- d. What are your favorite restaurants to eat at (ex. McDonald's, White Manna, Cubby's BBQ)? Name one to three.
- e. What kind of athletic, workout, or exercise activities do you enjoy? Name one to three.
- f. What career(s) are you interested in pursuing?

Home Life, Family, & Friends:

1. What is a daily/weekly ritual (or a yearly tradition) that you have with your family? Describe it in two to three sentences.
2. How do your family members use math in their lives (besides school)? Write one to three sentences.
3. Outside of your teacher, who helps you when you get stuck with math?
 - a. *Follow-up:* How do those individuals help you in math?

Community (Core):

1. ***What's something that just isn't right in your school that you would like to change? Discuss what isn't right about it in one to three sentences.***
2. ***What's something that just isn't right in your community that you would like to change? Discuss what isn't right about it in one to three sentences.²***
3. Where do you like to go in your community with family/friends? Name one to three places. For each place, briefly describe what you like to do there.
4. If I was going to walk from school to your house, what are some things/places I would see? Name three to five things or places.
5. Who is one of the most important people in your community? How do they use math in what they do? Write ____ to ____ sentences.
6. What are some of the places in your community (besides school) where people do or use math? Name one to three places, and provide a brief description of how math is used there for each.

² We like these two questions because they could give you really important insight into what students are passionate about. If you can connect math to those passions, it would really increase students' connection to mathematics as a discipline and how it relates to their lives.

Community (Potential Additions):

Closed-ended questions:

- a. Rate each of the following social issues based on their importance to you, with 1 being "Not at all important" and 10 being "Extremely important".
 - a. Racism & racial justice
 - b. Sexism & gender inequality
 - c. LGBTQ+ rights
 - d. Immigration & citizenship
 - e. Climate change & the environment
 - f. Poverty
 - g. COVID-19 (e.g., vaccinations, lockdowns)
 - h. Legal system (e.g., police brutality, mass incarceration)
 - i. Healthcare availability (physical & mental health services, addiction treatment)
 - j. Animal welfare
 - k. Local water/air quality
 - l. Free speech (censorship, book banning)
 - m. Road Quality
 - n. Public Transportation Access
 - o. Minimum Wage
 - p. Education (curriculum, school building quality, availability of resources)
 - q. Food deserts/access to high-quality, healthy food
 - r. Gun violence
 - s. (the list doesn't need to be this extensive... these are just some ideas)

- b. Are there any other social issues that are important to you that weren't included in the list above? If yes, list it/them here. If no, type "None".

Math-specific:

1. What are some things that you really like about math? Name one to three things.
2. What are some things that you really don't like about math? Name one to three things (if applicable).
3. How important do you think it is to learn math? Why do you think it's important/unimportant? (Write two to three sentences).
4. Have you learned math in a different school, state, or country? How was it similar or different? (Write two to three sentences).
5. Think about your responses to the questions above, what are some ways in which math might be related to your responses (e.g., "I love ordering food from Dominos and when I do I have to use math to decide on a tip and to make sure I have enough to pay for everything").