APE/PE Position Interview Questions
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Professional Interview: Prepare, Professional & Portfolio Think 3Ps:

**Proactive: Prepare for your interview**
- **Study the job description**: do you have the necessary credentials? Know the program level of the position.
- **Know the district’s/school** demographics, student population, program schedule (traditional or block), time of instruction, curriculum (go to the district or school website).
- **Alumni** from your university who are teaching in district/school, can help you.
- **Confirm interview time**, location, who will conduct the interview (number of people) and be sure any necessary material is sent beforehand or will need to be brought. Will you be demonstrating a lesson as part of the interview, if so bring a change of PE clothes.
- **Practice questions** with a friend put potential questions on index cards or what works best for you.
- **Arrive early** at least 15 minutes.
- **Dress and conduct yourself in a professional manner**. The interview team will may be from a different generation than you (i.e., tattoos piercing, low cut shirts)
- **Shake everyone’s hand and make eye contact. Be poised.**
- **Don’t tell me, show me, let your work speak for you** bring your portfolio, paper and electronic samples of your work (i.e., professional vitae, notebook, tablet, lap top, sample teaching clips).
- **Follow up** after the interview with a thank you note, phone call.

**Potential Interview Questions**

Both General Physical Education and APE

- **Educational background** and experience teaching.
- **Philosophy** of teaching and current issues in the discipline. What do you feel are the three most important issues facing educators, physical educators today? Scenario to respond.
- **Student success**: how will you work with the students to assure a positive educational experience?
- What are your **strengths** as a teacher, what areas are you working on to **improve** that are still emerging and what are you doing to improve?
- **PE subject matter competencies** examples of activities you can teach.
- **Curriculum planning** -curriculum mapping, unit and lesson plans.
- How do address & incorporate the **CA Content standards**, Behavioral objectives into lessons.
- Discuss your general **teaching style**.
- **Grading** practices/policies, can you justify your grading to administrators, & parents.
- **Assessment practices**: student growth, tracking student improvement through assessment.
- Incorporating **fitness testing** & teaching into the program - FITNESSGRAM
- **Behavior management issues**: behavior management plan including rules routines, consequences, dressing for class & locker room procedures. How do you motivate students? How do you handle inappropriate behavior? They may give you a scenario & ask you to respond.
- **Technology**: incorporate into your teaching and use effectively with paperwork. How do document progress
- **Collaboration**: how will you work effectively with other GPE teachers in your school, administrators, teachers, staff & parents.
- **Interdisciplinary** teaching with other subject matter teachers. Provide an example.
• Knowledge of the cultural heritages of different ethnic groups including ESL, inclusion & teaching students with disabilities, asthma.
• Professional involvement in organizations such as CAHPERD.

Adapted Physical Education

Beside many of the question cited above under GPE, the following are specific to APE:

• Legislation understanding of federal, state mandates. What are your legal obligations as an APE teacher? Knowledge of the “APE Guidelines in CA Schools” manual.
• Philosophy definition, roles & responsibilities as an APE Teacher.
• Qualification/placement: How do you determine if a student qualifies for APE services? How will develop a schedule, handle your caseload & multiple school sites?
• Assessment: What type of assessment instruments (standardized and informal) have you experience administering to students? Discuss your assessment report writing skills and collecting data.
• IEP: How do you determine goals & benchmarks for your students & give an example of one. Discuss your strategies for tracking goals/benchmarks use of technology). Discuss how you conduct yourself during an IEP meeting.
• Describe a lesson you would teach to elementary, middle, HS level students with disabilities. How do address & incorporate the CA Content standards, behavioral objectives into lessons.
• What grade level(s), disability do you prefer to teach? Why? Are there any age groups or disabilities that you feel stronger teaching then others?
• Technology: incorporate into your teaching and use effectively with paperwork. For example how do document progress using a tablet.
• Advocate: how will you advocate for students with disabilities & their parents.
• Collaboration and consultation skills with other professionals such as PT, OT, paraprofessional.
• Inclusion, early intervention, & transition philosophy/ability to teach.

It is acceptable for you to ask questions regarding information not covered during the interview

• If you do not know the answer to a question, do not fake it, but rather be truthful & share that you are willing to research the topic to get a better understanding.
• Tell them anything about yourself that you feel was not get covered during the interview Here is an opportunity to show them your work (i.e., portfolio) if it did not come up earlier.
• Benefits package & pay scale with step increases. Personnel can help you with this information
• Value of PE in the District and the support of administrators and other teachers.
• Professional development opportunities.
• BTSA: Beginning Teacher Support & Assessment can be different among districts.
• District Policy handbook -specific in PE & APE.
• Can I observe a class, talk to other teachers, GPE & APE teachers in the district/school
• Facilities/Equipment availability

Summary: think 3Ps Prepare, Professional & Portfolio:
Parts of this information taken from:
Securing an APE position: What you need to know, NAPEC 2016 Lavay, McClanahan, Munn, & Paradise
What Now? Everything You Need to Know about Job Searching & Interviews B. Lavay, C. Corliss, & B. Kelly - CAHPERD Conference, March 8, 2008- Professional Interview: Prepare, Professional & Portfolio by B. Lavay CSU, Long BeachThanks to Sara Cox and Susan Alexander APE teachers for their input on certain interview questions.