

Primary PGCE Written Task Information

For your individual interview, we'd like you to choose **one** scenario from the list below. Read it carefully and spend a little time thinking about it. Reflect on what it makes you think and feel about teaching. You will then need to **handwrite no more than 200 words** in response to your chosen scenario. Send a clear photo or scan of your work to your tutor before the interview.

Please also note that your interviewer might want to ask you a bit more about your writing during the individual interview.

Scenarios

Scenario 1 – EYFS (Story time)

It is story time in Reception. Most children are sitting on the carpet, listening, but one child keeps wandering off to the role-play area. Another child talks loudly to their neighbour while you are reading. You want everyone to enjoy the story, but you also don't want to spend the whole time telling children off.

Reflection prompts:

- What does this scenario show you about the everyday life of a teacher in the early years?
- How might a teacher encourage children to listen without spoiling the flow of story time?
- What do you find interesting or challenging about managing this situation?
- Can you connect it to anything you have seen, read, or experienced yourself?

Scenario 2 – Key Stage 1 (Maths lesson)

In a Year 1 maths lesson, pupils are using counters to solve addition problems. Some children finish quickly and ask what to do next. A few others are still unsure how to set out the work and keep asking for help. You need to decide how to keep the confident pupils busy, while also supporting those who need more guidance.

Reflection prompts:

- What does this scenario suggest about the challenges of teaching maths in KS1?
- How might a teacher respond in the moment to meet different children's needs?
- What do you find interesting or tricky about this?
- Can you connect it to anything you have read, seen, or experienced?

Scenario 3 – Key Stage 2 (Writing lesson)

You are teaching a Year 4 writing lesson. One pupil proudly shares their paragraph, but it is full of spelling mistakes. Another pupil refuses to share at all because they are embarrassed about their handwriting. The rest of the class are waiting. You need to think about how to respond in a way that encourages both children and keeps the lesson moving.

Reflection prompts:

- What does this tell you about the balance between confidence and accuracy in learning?
- How might a teacher give feedback that builds children's confidence while still helping them improve?
- What do you find thought-provoking or challenging here?
- Can you link this to anything you have read, seen, or experienced yourself?

Further Guidance

Please note that we are **not expecting a perfect script**. The aim of this task is to see how you think about the everyday work of teachers and how you begin to make connections with your own experiences. Your reflection does not need to have all the “right” answers. Instead, we are interested in what you notice, what you find interesting or challenging, and how you express your ideas in writing.

Please remember to **handwrite your response clearly and legibly**. It doesn't need to be neat like a display piece, but it should be easy to read so that your tutor can follow your thinking. Writing around 200 words will give us a good sense of your ideas — this is about sharing your thinking, not producing a polished essay.

Written Task Sample

Sample Scenario – KS1 (Playground duty)

You are on playground duty with a Year 2 class. Two children run up to you: one is upset because their friend won't let them join a game of football, and the other is frustrated because they think the first child never follows the rules. At the same time, another child falls over and starts crying, while a group of children ask you to tie their shoelaces.

Reflection prompts:

- What does this situation show you about the wider responsibilities of a teacher beyond the classroom?
- How might a teacher decide what to deal with first?
- What do you find interesting or challenging about managing children's relationships and needs in the playground?
- Can you link this to anything you have observed, read, or experienced?

Sample Candidate Response

This scenario makes me think about how much of a teacher's role happens outside of the classroom. It shows that teachers are constantly juggling different priorities and that sometimes decisions have to be made quickly. What strikes me is the need to stay calm and fair, even when lots of children want your attention at the same time.

In this situation, I would probably check on the child who fell over first, because their need seems the most urgent, and then come back to the friendship issue once they were settled. I know that relationship issues are just as important as learning, so helping children solve disagreements is part of being a teacher too.

This scenario is challenging because it makes me realise how important organisation and awareness are. I have seen teachers model fairness by listening to both sides before making a decision. It also reminds me to ~~listen~~ use positive language and encourage children to find solutions. It shows me that being a teacher is about being responsible for children's wellbeing as well as their learning.