



## School Interviews Questions

Below I outline example questions which may arise in an independent school entrance interview at 11+ or 13+ entry level.

In the lead up to the interview it is a useful exercise to have a discussion with your child to consider how they may answer these questions should they arise; however, it is important that your child is authentic and natural, they must not appear scripted or over-rehearsed.

In the interviews masterclass I discuss example responses to some of the below questions.

I have highlighted in grey the most commonly occurring/popular questions which are likely to arise.

### Questions about you

1. What is your favourite subject and why?
2. What is your least favourite subject and why?
3. How was your weekend? What did you do over the weekend?
4. What did you do over the summer/christmas holidays?
5. What are your three best qualities?
6. What is your greatest achievement at school?
7. How would your best friend describe you?
8. How would you form tutor/teachers describe you?
9. What is your worst trait?
10. How would you rate your behaviour at school?
11. Do you speak any other languages?
12. If you had a day to yourself, no school, no parents telling you what to do, what would you do?  
/How would you spend the day? (or two hours to yourself)
13. Do you like watching TV?
14. Do you enjoy movies? What is the last movie you watched or your favourite movie?
15. Tell me about your favourite holiday destination.
16. What do you want to be when you are older?
17. What would you like to achieve in the future?
18. What new things would you like to try?

19. Of all the places you've visited, which would you most like to return to? Why?
20. Do you have a best friend? What is he/she like?
21. Would you describe yourself as an active person?
22. In ten years, what do you think you will be doing?
23. What are your ambitions?
24. What do you want to do when you leave school/ when you are older?
25. Do you enjoy performing in front of an audience? What experience do you have with performing? E.g., dance, drama, music, singing or public speaking
26. Are you religious?
27. Do you prefer working in small groups or working on your own?
28. Do you have any idea yet what career you might be interested in when you are older?
29. Is there anything about you that you have not had a chance to tell me yet?
30. Have you experienced any moments of disappointment?
31. What is your favourite animal? Why?
32. If you could go on holiday tomorrow, which country would you like to visit and why?
33. What would you like to achieve in the future and what new things would you like to try?
34. Describe a situation you have found difficult and how did you resolve it and find a solution?
35. What is your biggest dream?
36. What are you proudest of in your life?
37. If you could have lunch with anyone in the world, who would you choose?
38. Have you enjoyed this interview?

## Questions about your family

39. Tell me about your family.
40. Do you have any brothers or sisters?
41. Do you get along with your brother/sister?
42. Tell me about your sibling/s
43. What activities do you do as a family?
44. Are you close to your family?
45. Do your family have strengths, achievements, contributions to make to the school community?
46. What qualities do you think make a good friend?

## Questions about your current school, extra activities & hobbies

47. Tell me about your hobbies and interests
48. Are you involved in sport, music, drama, art, design & technology ...what have you achieved in these areas?
49. Do you like your current school?
50. Do you like to play sports?
51. What after school activities do you do?
52. What have you been doing in class recently that particularly interests you?
53. Have you been involved in house competitions and volunteered to do something which is not particularly your strength, for the benefit of the House?
54. Tell me about a lesson at your current school, in any subject, which was really memorable.
55. Tell me about the last science experiment you did at school?
56. Tell me about a topic you have learned in history.
57. What do you use computers for at school?

58. Have you ever made a PowerPoint presentation- and what about?
59. Tell me about one of the teachers at your school
60. Think of a teacher who has really inspired you. What was it that they did to inspire you?
61. Do you have anyone at home who helps you with your work?
62. Have you had a tutor help you with your work/exams?
63. Are you in a team or a club?
64. Do you have any responsibilities at school and what have you learned from these roles?
65. Have you ever had a detention at school or got into trouble at school?
66. Do you play a musical instrument?
67. What was the last museum you visited and what did you see?
68. When did you last go to the theatre and what did you see?
69. Have you acted in any plays or performed in any concerts recently?
70. Are you involved in any charity work? Have you raised any money for charity?
71. If you could only do one subject for the rest of your school days, which would it be and why?
72. Can you tell me about a situation you found difficult and how did you deal with it?
73. Tell me about a time you worked together with others.
74. Have you ever had an argument with someone at school or home? What happened in the end?
75. Why do you think its important to study history, after all it's the past?
76. Is there anything you would change about your school?
77. If you could scrap one subject from the curriculum, which one would it be?
78. How did you find online learning during the pandemic? Do you think your school conducted online learning well?
79. Do you do hobbies to win and be the best or to enjoy yourself? Why do you do the hobbies you do?
80. If a friend was saying something mean about someone else at school, but you don't agree with them, what would you do or say?
81. Have you been to the Olympics or another big sporting event?

## Questions about the prospective school

82. Why do you want to come to this school?
83. What is it about this school that particularly appeals to you?
84. What did you like on the open day?
85. Is there anything about this school which you think may be challenging for you?
86. What are you looking forward to if you come here?
87. What activities would you like to try if you come to this school?
88. Why do you think this school will suit you?
89. What would be the advantage of going to this school as opposed to another one?
90. What is the difference between your school and this one? Do you think they are quite different?
91. Do you think you might have any difficulties at this school?
92. Do you know anyone at this school?
93. What type of friends would you most like to make at this school?
94. Do you think you will enjoy being at this school?
95. If you were taught well by our teachers, would you work hard?
96. If you were a pupil at this school, how would you contribute to school life?
97. Are you applying to any other schools?
98. Do you think out school has any room for improvement?
99. What would you do if you saw someone being bullied at school?

100. What would you do if someone wasn't participating in teamwork?
101. What would you do if you missed the bus home?
102. Why do you think you are suited to attending an all-girls or all boys school compared with your single sex prep school?
103. What do you think will be different in a co-ed school compared to a single sex school?
104. Have you got any questions to ask me about this school?

## Philosophical Questions

105. What makes a good education in your opinion?
106. Imagine you are doing a project with your classmates and one of your team members is not contributing much. How would you encourage them to get more involved?
107. If you could go back in history which time would you go back to and why?
108. Who is your hero and why?
109. Have you taught yourself anything?
110. Do you think it's a good thing to make mistakes?
111. If you were given a million pounds, what would you do with it?
112. Think of as many things as possible you could do with a plastic cup/paper plate/ paper clip/ your shoelace.
113. Can you talk about two subjects in which there are overlaps?
114. What inventions do you think may happen in the next fifty years?
115. How many people do you think are in this building right now?
116. Is winning always important?
117. What is better- a book, a play or a film?
118. Could we replace teachers with computers?
119. Do you think mobile phones should be allowed at school?
120. If you were prime minister, what legislation would you change?
121. If you could hold a dinner party and invite any two guests – alive or dead- who would you ask?
122. If you could be anyone for a day, who would you be?
123. Do you have anyone who is an inspiration to you?
124. If you were given £100, what would you do with it?
125. If I gave you £1000 for charity, which charity would you give it to?
126. What charities are you interested in and why?
127. If you could have one wish, what would it be?
128. If you could invent a new religion, what would be its main principle?
129. Describe something you think may be a good invention- why would it be good?
130. Do you think it's important to be nice to people? Why?
131. What do you think is the purpose of reading?
132. What do you think about global warming?
133. What are some advantages and disadvantages of mobile phones and tablets?
134. If you found £10 on the floor, what would you do with it?
135. How old will you be in 20 years? What do you think will be different in the world in 20 years?
136. If you could wake up tomorrow with a superpower, what superpower would you want to have?
137. If you could have any three wishes granted, what would they be?
138. If all your clothes were one colour, what colour would you choose?
139. What's your idea of a perfect day?
140. Who would you put on a British bank note and why?

## Boarding School Questions

141. Why would you like to come to boarding school?
142. What qualities do you have which will make you a good 'boarder'?
143. Do you know how to change your bedsheets and put on a clean duvet cover?

## Questions about books/reading

144. What book are you reading at the moment?
145. What is your favourite book?
146. What is your favourite genre of books?
147. Would you change the ending to (your favourite book) and how?
148. Who is your favourite character in a book or film?
149. If you could write a book, what would you write about?
150. If you could be any character in a book, who would you choose to be and why?
151. Who is the nastiest character in a book and why do you think this?
152. Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction books?
153. Do you subscribe to or read any magazines?

## Topical Questions

154. My relative is visiting London (or the area you live in). Where should I take them?
155. Are you concerned about climate change?
156. What do you know about COVID?
157. Given the COVID situation currently, do you think wearing face masks should be compulsory?
158. DO you read the news?
159. Can you tell me anything significant that is happening now- globally or nationally?
160. Take me on a trip around the world and tell me what has been happening lately.
161. What do you think of social media?
162. What do you think of gaming? Do you think it's addictive?
163. What do you think about same sex education?
164. Do you know what Brexit is?
165. Should Presidents be on Twitter?
166. Do you know who is the UK prime minister?
167. Do you know who is the US president?
168. Who is the Queen and what do you think she does all day?
169. If you had the opportunity to meet anyone in the world, who would it be and why?
170. What issue do you think is a top priority government should deal with?
171. Do you have any jokes to tell me?