

What is your favorite subject, and why do you like it? What is your least favorite subject, and why do you not like it?

It may be easier to start with the subject you like the best, and there is no right answer for this question. Just be authentic. If you don't like math and adore art, your transcript and extracurricular interests probably reflect this interest, so be sure to speak genuinely about the subjects you like, and try to explain why you like them. For example, you can say something along the lines of, "Art gives me the opportunity to build things with my hands, which I enjoy," or "I like solving problems in math" or "I have always been interested in American history since I grew up in an historic town." In answering the question about what you like least, you can be honest, but avoid being overly negative. For example, don't mention specific teachers you don't like, as it's the job of a student to learn from all teachers. In addition, avoid statements that express your dislike of work. Instead, you can say something along the lines of, "I have struggled with math in the past, but I'm now meeting with my teacher and trying to work on it." In other words, show that you are working hard in all your subject areas, even if they don't come naturally to you (and follow up on what you say in the interview!).

Who are the people you most admire? This question is asking you about your interests and values, and, again, there is no one right answer. It's worthwhile to think about this question a bit in advance. Your answer should be consistent with your interests. For example, if you love English, you can speak about writers you admire. You can also speak about teachers or members of your family you admire, and you want to think about why you admire these people. For example, you can say something along the lines of, "I admire my grandfather, who came from Hong Kong and ran his own business in a new country." [Teachers](#) are an important part of private school life, and generally, students in private schools get to know their teachers really well, so you may want to speak about what you admire in some of your current or previous teachers and reflect a bit about what you think makes a good teacher. That kind of thinking reflects maturity in a potential student.

What questions do you have about our school? The interviewer may conclude the interview with an opportunity for you to ask questions, and it's important to think about some potential questions in advance. Try to avoid generic questions such as, "What extra-curricular activities do you have?" Instead, ask questions that show you know the school well and have done your research and really think about what you can add to the school community and how the school can advance and develop your interests. For example, if you are interested in community service, you can ask about the school's opportunities in this area. The best school for any student is [the school that's the best fit](#), so while you are researching the school, you can determine whether the school is a place where you will grow. The interview is another opportunity for you to find out more about the school—and for them to find out who you are. That's why it's best to be genuine and honest, so you can wind up with a school that's right for you.

Tell me a bit about your family:

Your child should describe the members of the family and their interests but should stay away from negative or overly personal stories.

Tell me about your interests:

The child should not fabricate interests but should speak about his true talents and inspirations in a thoughtful and natural way.

What do you think about recent political events:

Older children should read the newspaper for several weeks before the interview and learn how to speak about recent current events.

Tell me about the last book you read:

The child should think ahead of time about some books he has read lately and what he liked or didn't like about them. He should avoid statements such as, "I didn't like this book because it was too hard" and speak about the content of the book

What has happened recently in current events that interests you?

Older students are expected to follow [current events](#) and know what's going on. During an election year, students may be asked about the issues involved in the election. To answer this question in a thoughtful way, students should read their local newspaper, as well as an international or national paper such as *The New York Times* (which owns this site), or the *Economist*. In addition, students can use [this site to brush up on world news](#). Students should think through their views and speak knowledgeably about events happening in the U.S. and abroad. Many private school history classes require students to read the newspaper regularly, so it's beneficial for students to start [reading the newspaper](#) even before entering private school.

What do you read outside of school?

In today's world of engaging [video games](#) and the Internet, [many students](#) don't read [that many books](#). However, they should develop the habit of reading and have read three or so age-appropriate books that they can speak about thoughtfully in the interview. While it's acceptable to speak about books students have read in school, they should also have read some books outside of class. While many students devour a steady diet of fantasy, the admissions committees often prefer students to speak about classic fiction, high-grade novels, and difficult non-fiction books. [Here is a list of books to inspire you](#). Students should develop an idea of why these books interest them. For example, are they about a compelling topic? Do they have an interesting protagonist? Do they explain more about a fascinating event in history? Are they written in an engaging and suspenseful way? Applicants can think about how they might answer this question in advance.

Tell me a bit about your family.

This is a common interview question, and one that is unfortunately filled with minefields. Applicants can talk about who's in their immediate and extended family, but they should steer away from difficult or potentially embarrassing subjects. It's fine to state that the child's parents

are divorced, as this fact will be obvious to [the admissions committee](#), but the applicant shouldn't speak about topics that are too personal or revelatory.

Why are you interested in our school?

Admissions committees like this question so that they can assess how motivated the student is to attend their school. The applicant should know something about the school and which [academic classes](#), sports, or [extracurricular activities](#) he or she might participate in at the school. It's compelling if the student has visited classes at the school or spoken to coaches or teachers to speak in a first-hand, vivid way about why he or she wants to attend the school. Canned, clichéd answers such as, "Your school has a great reputation" or cynical answers like, "My dad said I would get into a really good college if I went here" don't hold much water with admissions committees.

Tell us more about what you do outside of school.

This one is a no-brainer. Students should be prepared to speak eloquently about their area of interest, whether it's music, drama, sports, or another area. They might also explain how they will continue this interest while at the school, as admissions committees are always looking for well-rounded applicants.

Interview Questions.

Below are a list of common questions that students may be asked at an interview.

Tell me about yourself.

You mentioned "blah blah" in your application. What did you mean by this?

What do you like to do in your free time?

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?

What is your least favorite subject in school? Why?

Why do you want to come to this school?

What would you change about your current school?

What other schools are you applying to?

If you could have dinner with any three people (dead or alive), who would they be and what would you ask them?

Who are your heroes?

What does it mean to be a friend?

What activities do you think you will want to do here at our school?

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

What would you do if you did not make a team you really wanted to play for?

What would you bring to this school?

Did you ever have trouble communicating with a teacher or coach? If so, what did you do?

Have you ever gotten a grade you did not think you deserved, and what did you do?

What are you most proud of?

Who was your best teacher ever and why?

Have you ever done something you regretted?

Do you have any questions about this school?

What do you value most in life?

Adapted from: website: Abouteducation.com

More content:

<http://privateschool.about.com/od/applicationsprocess/a/Five-Common-Private-School-Interview-Questions.htm>