

If you were a **TEACHER!**



What would you do?

TEACHING IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS A NOBLE PROFESSION, BUT ONE THING IS FOR SURE – IT'S NOT FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED.

HOW WOULD YOU COPE WITH BEING A TEACHER?

To find out, put yourself to the test – how would you deal with the following situations?

Tick the most appropriate answers.

1 The same learner is late for your class almost every day, with no excuse. What would you do?

- A Report the learner to the principal.
- B Chill – does it really matter that the class has a minor disruption almost every day?
- C Lock the door so that he/she can't get in.

2 What would you do if you suspect a learner is cheating during a final exam?

- A Publicly check him/her for hidden cheat notes and information 'tattoos' drawn on his/her arms and legs.
- B Wait for the results. If the learner, who usually fails, manages to score an 'A', you may have to report him/her to the school principal as a suspected cheat.
- C Stick close to the learner and watch him/her like a hawk during the exam.

3 A boy in your class threatens to report you for abuse because you tapped him on the head with an exercise book. How would you handle this?

- A Apologise – teachers must not touch learners.
- B Whack him even harder the next time.
- C Tell him to stop being ridiculous.

4 You catch a boy and a girl kissing in your classroom during the tea break. What would you do?

- A Warn them that if it happens again you will contact their parents.
- B Embarrass them by constantly referring to it during the next few lessons.
- C Chase them out and laugh it off.

5 A girl shows great potential in the subject you teach, but NEVER hands in her assignments. She is failing instead of getting an 'A'. How would you handle this situation?

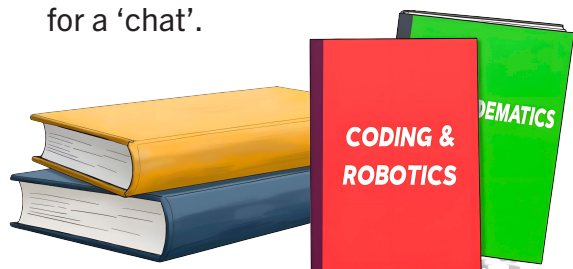
- A Fail her! She must learn that 'no work' means 'no mark'!
- B Walk away – some kids just don't care.
- C Suspect that there is a problem at home and send her to the school councillor.

6 You overhear a boy using filthy language in the classroom around his girl classmates showing them no respect at all. What action would you take?

- A Ignore it – teachers shouldn't meddle in learner relationships.
- B Report his disgusting behaviour to the principal.
- C Have a class discussion on dignity and showing respect for one another.

7 A girl in your class threatens to report you for victimisation. What would you do?

- A Agree that she is your pet victim, but for a VERY good reason – and then list all the disorderly, disrespectful and disobedient things she has done in the past month.
- B Suggest to the learner that she goes ahead and reports you.
- C Ask her to remain behind after the lesson for a 'chat'.



In the quiz on the left, there are few, if any, totally correct answers – but if you put more ticks next to the C answers than any other, then it could indicate that you are on track to having the necessary skills to become a competent teacher.

How did **YOU** score?

There are hard and fast constitutional laws regarding acceptable behaviour in our society, including those for both teachers and learners!

For example ...

A teacher may not hit a child and shouldn't victimise or ridicule a learner, and of course it goes without saying that ...

... a learner should respect those around them, especially their teachers and their classmates, and they shouldn't be a disruptive element in the classroom.

AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE LEARNING CAN TAKE PLACE

It must always be remembered that a teacher's primary task is to create an environment where learning can take place, so many of the situations encountered by a teacher need to be treated on their own merit.

For example:

When faced with a couple kissing in the classroom, how should a teacher react?

It depends on many factors:

- How old are the learners?
- Is it an innocent kiss?
- Has it happened before?
- Are they pupils with a 'reputation'?

ENCOURAGEMENT RATHER THAN PUNISHMENT

A+

And what about the learner who is clever, but never hands in her assignments?

- She may respond to tough handling but on the other hand she could need a confidence boost and encouragement rather than punishment.

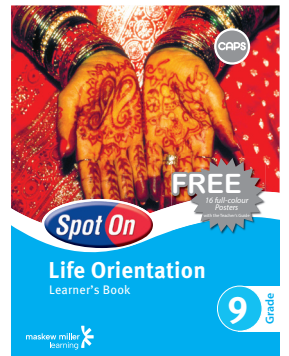
Amongst the many other qualities required by an effective teacher is the need to be flexible and to have a good understanding of people – when a situation arises a teacher must be able to assess, evaluate and act accordingly.

Be the **TEACHER**

GRAB YOUR **RED** PEN.

BE THE TEACHER AND CORRECT THIS PARAGRAPH. ✱ (It has commas missing, capital letters missing and many spelling mistakes.)

one day durring a particulaly boring math class my freind and I were passing notes to each other about our week end plans I decided to write a funny message about our math teacher mr Johnson who had a habbit of wearing mismatched socks I wrote out a sarkastic coment Mr Js socks look like he got dressed in the dark again LOL! I past the note to my friend sudenly mr J looked up and said hand it over panicking I tried to think of an excuse, but there was no saving myself I had to give it to him he red it allowed looked up from his desk and said with a raised eyebrow its fascinating but maybe you should focus more on the lesson and less on my fashion choices the class burst out laughing and I sank into my seat wanting to dissappear. Thats the last note ILL write in class



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